



# JASON NEMES

POLITICAL PARTY: REPUBLICAN

POLITICAL RACE: KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WEBSITE: [WWW.JASONNEMES.COM](http://WWW.JASONNEMES.COM)

## What is your position on establishing liability protections for employers from frivolous lawsuits related to COVID-19?

I support them as a way to encourage the opening of businesses to get our economy back on its feet.

## What are your top budget priorities for the 2021 session?

Helping businesses get back up and running, no tax increases, increased resources for infrastructure

## What criminal justice reforms would you support and/or oppose in the 2021 session?

I have a record of supporting felony re-enfranchisement. I also support reducing drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor and transitioning toward more treatment for addicts. Bail reform would also help most counties, including Jefferson and Oldham, both of which I represent. I also would like a conversation about how to better address lawlessness during protests that have gotten out of control. Louisville's economy has been harmed by COVID and the non-peaceful portions of the protests of 2020.

## What are your transportation and infrastructure priorities for 2021?

We need to revise the Formula of Fifths that keeps our area from getting our fair share of Road Fund dollars. I also believe we need to have more resources for infrastructure.

## What steps do you think the General Assembly should take to lower the unemployment rate and get Kentuckians back to work?

One is liability protections for businesses, which will incentivize businesses to re-open. We should also ramp down the federal unemployment subsidy. I don't think we should go to zero overnight, but we should start going down in a measured and planned way. This may also be a good time to state that we need to protect our businesses from an exorbitant unemployment insurance rate and increased taxes, which some are already calling for. Nothing could be worse for businesses right now than increased costs and/or taxes.



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## How can the General Assembly most effectively support K-12 schools and higher education institutions in the 2021 session?

The same way we have been for the past four years: increase the SEEK funding and fund the pension systems (as painful as that is to the budget). Louisville legislators should also fight against any effort to revise the SEEK formula, because that is a Trojan Horse for taking more money from Louisville and giving it to other areas. Those other areas need help, to be sure, but it cannot come at the expense of Jefferson County Public Schools, Oldham County Public Schools, or The Anchorage School.

## What changes to Kentucky's tax code would you support to improve Kentucky's business competitiveness?

Over time we should continue the movement from production taxes to consumption taxes. But in Louisville perhaps the best thing we could do is to pass a bill that would enable Louisville to have more options in its toolbox to raise revenues. Right now the city must rely too heavily on occupational taxes and property taxes, which are both bad for business without other tax revenues coming in. But please note that I do not support adding other options without a cap on the total amount of taxes that are allowed to be brought in. I am not interested in allowing just more taxes; I am interested in allowing additional options so as to not put too much of a burden on any one.

## What measures would you support in the 2021 session to support Kentucky's economic recovery?

My answer to this question is very similar to my answer to Question #12. We need to get our businesses back open and our people back to work. In addition to the items mentioned above, I support efforts to increase the workforce participation rate in Kentucky, which has been deplorably low for many years. We were on the right track and our economy was booming prior to COVID hitting Kentucky. We just need to get back on track and then make adjustments to various systems, like the unemployment system, which allows people to receive benefits for far longer than nearly every other state. And we need more programs designed to get people ready for work, such as the apprenticeship programs that have worked so well over the past few years.