



# KEN FLEMING

POLITICAL PARTY: REPUBLICAN

POLITICAL RACE: KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

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

The pandemic has had a significant impact on businesses and I support liability protection for employers from frivolous lawsuits.

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

The 2021 session will need to scrutinize the remainder of the budget to complete the two-year cycle. We are facing difficult economic times, but essential obligations and services should be fulfilled such as funding pensions, changing the road allocation of formula of the fifths, no tax increases, and providing more flexibility for businesses to operate without excessive regulations and fees and provide businesses enhanced incentives.

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

Our bail system needs to be reformed for non-violent and non-sexual offenders. Being in the mental health field, we also need to have better drug treatment programs and reduce the charges for drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor. With the advent of recent events in Louisville, we need to work on solutions to address the lawlessness of the protests while maintaining peaceful protests.

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

As I mentioned earlier, we need to drive the change of the formula of the fifths so that these needed funds can be channeled to where the growth is based for economic development and population. I will continue to leverage my transportation experience to work on the I-71, I-265, US 22, and US 42 corridors to improve safety and reduce congestion.



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

As the pandemic put businesses on its back heels, we need to contain the unemployment insurance rates to not further hamper businesses. In helping businesses, we need to also help their employees with childcare assistance programs for working parents, push for parent-assisted learning initiatives, and protect businesses from frivolous lawsuits.

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

With this upcoming session focusing on completing the budget, a priority must be placed on having stronger funding for our schools through SEEK, providing better policies and funding for mental health, getting our future leaders back into school as quickly as possible, and being prepared to help those children who are on reduced lunch.

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

As an advocate for tax reform to strengthen our competitiveness, we must approach 2021 cautiously given the economic uncertainty. I am always looking for ideas to improve the tax climate, but 2021 may not be the year that any movement can be made toward this goal.

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

Having a reliable and balanced approach between the health and economic concerns is needed. Our businesses need to get back open and reemploy workers. We need to curtail regulations to allow more flexibility in hiring workers, assist employees with childcare, support remote working with better technology, and providing cross-training/retraining programs.