



KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2019

LEGISLATIVE SESSION PRIORITIES

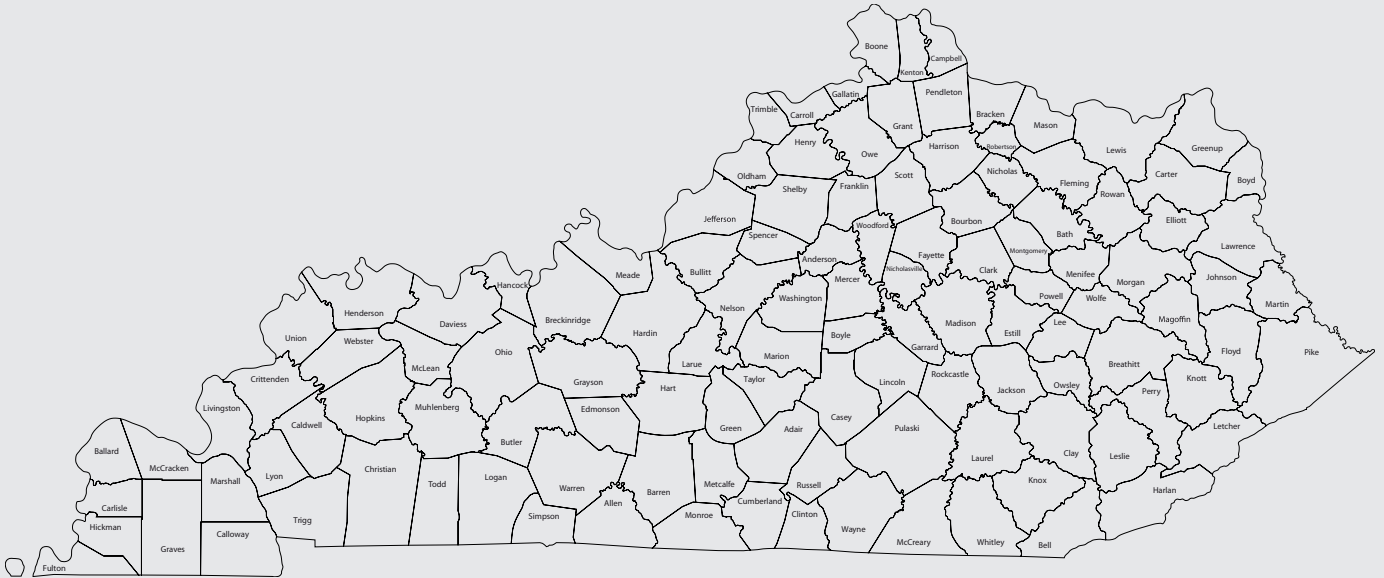


CHURCHILL DOWNS

GATE 11

BARBARO

65' 2" x 200' x 100' - 29' 200'



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Frankfort, KY 40601
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www.kaco.org
Facebook and Twitter: @KACo

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow KACo Members:

I am so grateful to have been named the chairman of the 2019 Legislative Committee and President of the Kentucky Association of Counties. My predecessor, David Nicholson, left big shoes to fill, but I hope to continue his legacy as an effective leader for you and all of KACo.

Despite the challenging and fast-paced nature of the 2018 legislative session, your hard work led to our success in making sure the interests of counties were well represented. Thank you for your consistent presence in Frankfort and communication with your legislators, which allowed counties' voices to be heard. As we prepare for the upcoming session, I have no doubt that with your continued effort and collaboration, we will continue to be a strong voice for county government and all Kentuckians.

Looking ahead to the 2019 legislative

session, there's a lot of work to do. From taking a closer look at how counties raise revenue, to making sure we have the funding needed for transportation infrastructure, both are critical to the economic well-being of our Commonwealth. As the "piece of the pie" in Frankfort continues to not only shrink but be split more and more ways each year, we must remain resilient advocates for our communities.

The next session is quickly approaching, and it is imperative that we are prepared. Again we will approach this session as a united voice for county government. I have no doubt that with your participation and that of our fellow KACo members and the KACo team, we will accomplish our goals and emerge in a stronger, healthier position.

I'm looking forward to serving you this year. Thank you in advance for your commitment to KACo and for the opportunity to lead our efforts in Frankfort.

Respectfully,

Elbert Bennett
KACo President

WHAT IS KACo?

The Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo), established in 1974, is a non-profit, non-partisan, member-owned association of elected county officials in all 120 counties. Located in Frankfort, KACo provides services to support, advocate and educate county leaders.

WHO IS KACo?

You are! KACo is owned and governed by its members, which makes it the go-to organization for essential county services including finance services, training and legislative advocacy.

GUIDING LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

ENFORCING LOCAL CONTROL

The right of the people to determine and implement public policy at the grassroots level is called “home rule.” This means counties should have local control to determine what services, regulations and funding sources best meet the needs of their own residents.

FIGHTING UNFUNDED MANDATES

State and federal laws and regulations increasingly mandate duties for counties but don’t provide the funding needed to implement and maintain those responsibilities. Unfunded mandates shift costs to local taxpayers and financially drain county governments.



2019 KACo TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Each year, our members and affiliate associations identify our top legislative priorities. While counties face many pressing issues, transportation infrastructure funding and local tax reform top the list for 2019.

★ TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Provide counties necessary funding to help build and maintain transportation infrastructure for a safe and prosperous Commonwealth



Safe, reliable, efficient transportation is a basic need



Transportation is essential to Kentucky's economy



We must invest more in infrastructure to grow a 21st Century economy and create jobs



Funding solutions must be dynamic and meet evolving needs of a changing economy



Solutions should include improvements in efficiency and delivery from both public and private sectors



Delay will drive up costs and put us further behind our competitors



KACo MEMBERS

- Circuit Court Clerks
- County Attorneys
- Sheriffs
- Property Valuation Administrators
- Coroners
- Jailers
- County Clerks
- Judge/Executives
- Magistrates and Commissioners
- Commonwealth's Attorneys

★ LOCAL TAX REFORM

Ensure adequate funding for services that counties are mandated to provide.

Remove arbitrary and harmful limits on county revenue-raising options.

Encourage a more equitable distribution of financial responsibility for essential services provided by local governments.

COUNTIES WORK

Counties provide an array of essential services for residents, from fixing potholes to operating jails. To provide these services, counties need adequate funding, including the flexibility to raise additional revenue when needed. Some of the services that KACo members provide include:



Animal Control



Coroner Investigations



Criminal Prosecution



Driver's Licenses



Elections



Jails



Judicial Administrative Services



Law Enforcement



Marriage Licenses



Planning and Zoning



Property Valuation



Public Health



Real Property Records



Recreation and Parks



Tax and Fee Collection



Transportation Infrastructure



Water and Sewer

AFFILIATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Kentucky PVA Association

Joyce Garland Parker, Laurel County PVA

President

Mack Bushart

Executive Director

- Support legislation that contributes to fair and equitable taxation of documented boats.
- Support legislation disallowing assessment based on dark store tax theory.



Kentucky Coroners Association

Jimmy Cornelison, Madison County Coroner

President

- Introduce legislation that will regulate the proper removal, storage and disposal of prescription drugs.



Kentucky Jailers Association

Brad Boyd, Christian County Jailer

President

Renee Craddock

Executive Director

- Support legislation allowing the use of pods/supplemental dorms for all inmates.
- Support per diem increase.
- Oppose the outsourcing of detaining inmates.



Kentucky County Clerks Association

Gabrielle Summe, Kenton County Clerk

President

Bill May

Executive Director

- Support e-recording
- Support transportation infrastructure funding
- Support election bills



Kentucky Association of Circuit Court Clerks

Greg Helton, Knox County Circuit Court Clerk

President

- Introduce legislation to modify existing driver's license laws permitting a re-print of a license or ID card for those medically unable to be present in the clerk's office.
- Introduce legislation to modify existing driver's license laws permitting a re-print of a license or ID card for those who are out of town and have lost their license or ID card.
- Support a mechanism to reinstate renewal notices of expired driver's licenses by the Transportation Cabinet.



Kentucky County Attorneys Association

Martin Hatfield, Pulaski County Attorney

President-Elect

Bill Patrick

Executive Director

- Monitor any criminal justice reform legislation.
- Track and advise on any public pension reform legislation.
- Support local control regarding the collection of child support.



Kentucky Sheriffs Association

Patrick Boggs, Mason County Sheriff

President

Jerry Wagner

Executive Director

- Support changes to the current fee structure to align and make comparable with other states to assure adequate revenue.
- Align state auditing methods with federal methods.
- Support legislation that streamlines and expedites KRS pre-approval of rehires.



Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association

Alex Barnett, Harrison County Judge/Executive
President

Vince Lang
Executive Director

- Support increase in funding for transportation infrastructure needs.
- Support the separation of the County Employee Retirement System from the Kentucky Retirement System.
- Support criminal justice reform efforts, including no money bail.
- Support KACo-led tax reform, including the return of a higher percentage of coal and mineral funding to counties.



Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners Association

Gary Gardner, Hart County Magistrate
Acting President

JC Young
Executive Director

- Propose legislation that removes the occupational license tax offset for counties with population of 30,000+ and/or support legislation addressing the erosion of the county tax base.
- Health Departments and other subsidiaries of county governments are members of KERS. Support pension contribution phase-in for Kentucky Health Departments.
- 911 is an essential service that Kentuckians expect and deserve. Legislation has been passed recently to help curb climbing expenses. Support 911 funding relief to support increased technology costs.
- Support Kentucky Infrastructure Coalition proposed legislation for transportation infrastructure funding.
- County jails/corrections are the most costly endeavor for county governments. Support criminal justice reform that reduces the burden on Fiscal Courts.
- Oppose any unfunded mandates on counties.



Kentucky Commonwealth's Attorneys Association

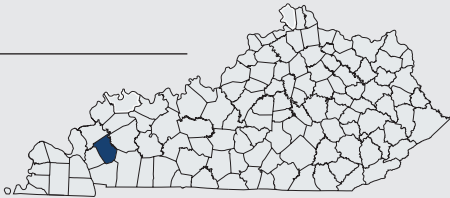
Shane Young, 9th Judicial Circuit
President

- Oppose any medical cannabis bill which endangers the public, impairs law enforcement's ability to combat marijuana trafficking, allows significant risk of diversion of marijuana to the black market, or serves as a gateway to legalization of recreational marijuana.
- Passage of a felony strangulation bill to combat domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Monitor any criminal justice reform bills.

KACo EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

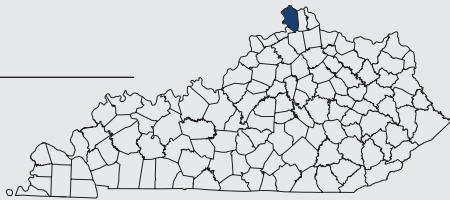
PRESIDENT

Elbert Bennett
Caldwell County Magistrate



PRESIDENT-ELECT

Gary W. Moore
Boone County Judge/Executive



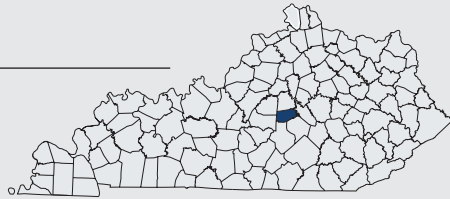
1st VICE-PRESIDENT

Reagan Taylor
Madison County Judge/Executive



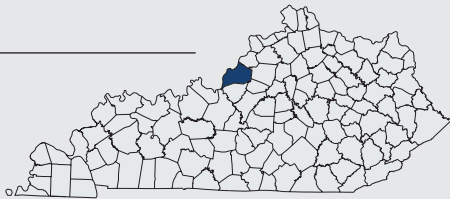
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

Phil Sammons
Boyle County Magistrate



PAST PRESIDENT

David L. Nicholson
Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk



SECRETARY-TREASURER

Brian S. Roy
Executive Director/CEO

KACo BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Cooper

Ballard County Judge/Executive

Gary Moore

Boone County Judge/Executive

Carl Tolliver

Boyd County Commissioner

Phil Sammons

Boyle County Magistrate

Elbert Bennett

Caldwell County Magistrate

Brad Boyd

Christian County Jailer

Steve Tribble

Christian County Judge/Executive

Shane Young

Commonwealth Attorney

Vincent Riggs

Fayette County Circuit Court Clerk

Larry Foxworthy

Fleming County Judge/Executive

Jeff Hancock

Franklin County Clerk

Alex Barnett

Harrison County Judge/Executive

Steve Gold

Henderson County Attorney

Jimmy Pollard

Henry County Coroner

David Nicholson

Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk

Kevin Corman

Jessamine County Sheriff

Tommy Turner

LaRue County Judge/Executive

Jodi L. Albright

Laurel County Attorney

Jim Ward

Letcher County Judge/Executive

Terry Stringer

Livingston County Magistrate

Logan Chick

Logan County Judge/Executive

Kenny Barger

Madison County Clerk

Reagan Taylor

Madison County Judge/Executive

Victor Slone

Martin County Magistrate

Rick Stiltner

Menifee County Judge/Executive

Mike Welsh

Metcalfe County PVA

David Voegelé

Oldham County Judge/Executive

Michael Logsdon

Oldham County Magistrate

Casey Ellis

Owen County Judge/Executive

David Fields

Pendleton County Judge/Executive

Sue Carole Perry

Shelby County Clerk

Eddie Rogers

Taylor County Judge/Executive

Amy Milliken

Warren County Attorney

Steve Henry

Webster County Judge/Executive

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kentucky Association of Circuit Court Clerks

Vincent Riggs, Fayette County Circuit Court Clerk
Legislative Committee Delegate

Kentucky Commonwealth's Attorneys Association

Chris Cochran, 8th Judicial Circuit

Rob Sanders, 16th Judicial Circuit
Legislative Co-Chairs

Kentucky Coroners Association

Jimmy Pollard, Henry County Coroner
Legislative Chair

Kentucky County Attorneys Association

Jenny Oldham, Hardin County Attorney
Legislative Chair

Kentucky County Clerks Association

Bill May
Executive Director

Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association

Vince Lang
Executive Director

Kentucky Jailers Association

Renee Craddock
Executive Director

Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners Association

J.C. Young
Executive Director

Kentucky PVA Association

Mack Bushart
Executive Director

Kentucky Sheriffs Association

Jerry Wagner
Executive Director



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TEAM

KACo serves as the voice of Kentucky's county governments from Frankfort to Washington, D.C., and legislative and executive branch advocacy remains our key focus. The KACo advocacy team works in tandem with affiliate association members to monitor any state or federal issues that have the potential to impact counties. During legislative sessions, team members facilitate regularly scheduled KACo legislative committee meetings, working to develop policies and positions that advance the interests of Kentucky's 120 counties.



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Ellen Williams

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I KACo MISSION

To responsibly provide resources and solutions to Kentucky counties.

I OUR CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY

STEWARDSHIP

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

QUALITY TEAMWORK

I OUR VISION

Be the most utilized source for information, service, support and leadership for Kentucky counties.

