

Scott County KFTC Voter Guide Primary Election – Tuesday, May 22nd



The May 22nd Primary Election is coming up soon, and the Scott County chapter of Kentuckians For The Commonwealth has compiled this non-partisan voter guide to provide information to voters about candidates in their own words.



Statement of Purpose of this Voter Guide - to educate and inform voters about candidates and their stances on issues so people can cast more informed votes on Election Day.

Since it is often difficult to discern where candidates stand on issues, Kentuckians For The Commonwealth sent surveys to candidates around the state asking for their positions on a variety of topics important to Kentucky voters. We followed up vigorously and printed the answers here. We hope that this will help provide more distinction between the candidates, create a public dialog on issues, and ultimately also encourage more voters to vote on Election Day. Democracy works best when more people are informed and involved.

If you have questions about your voter registration or voting location, you can contact the Scott County Clerk's office at (502) 863-7875 or call Dave Newton with Kentuckians For The Commonwealth at (859) 420-8919 or Dave@kftc.org.

The Scott County Chapter of Kentuckians For The Commonwealth meets on the 1st Thursday of every month at the Scott County Public Library, 104 S. Bradford Lane, Georgetown. New people are always welcome. www.KFTC.org

For more information about candidates closer to the election, visit our site at www.KetuckyElection.org

Georgetown City Council

There are 8 seats on the Georgetown city council and 19 candidates running for those seats. Any registered voter in the city of Georgetown, no matter their party registration, may vote for as many as 8 candidates in the May 22nd Primary Election. The 16 candidates that receive the most votes will proceed to the November 6th General Election where the 8 candidates with the most vote in that election will become our new city council.

Candidates running for this office are (in the order that they will appear on the ballot): James Fitzgerald III, Mark Singer, Connie K. Tackett, Mark Showalter, Paul J. Kleinhenz, Renie Cooney, Jaime Kumar, Charles Bradley, Kelly McEuen, Bruce Owens, George H. Lockard, Micah L. Ingram, Marlene Rutherford, David J. Lusby, Marvin V. Thompson, Harold Dean Jessie, Brad Penn, Karen Tingle Sames, and Stephen D. Price.

1. The city of Georgetown is struggling financially to keep many much-needed public services running for our citizens. Some people would say that our city budget says a lot about what our values are as a community. What services and programs do you think are especially important for Georgetown and what are your plans about how to pay for them?

Fitzgerald - The two most important services that the city provides is the police force and the fire fighters, which should never be cut in the budget. Any service that encourages community involvement or bringing the community together should be included. Examples are the pavilion and the water park. My main plan is to bring more businesses into Georgetown, which will bring in more revenue into the city, which will help pay for needed services.

Tackett - Georgetown is such a wonderful community with a lot to offer. I think emergency services are important to any community and we share the cost of ours with the County. I think it's most important to continue this shared relationship as we look for ways to improve on what we have and make it more efficient with cost and service.

Kleinhenz - Georgetown needs to stick to the basics, offering only public services essential to a safe, healthy life style. Focusing on Fire, Police, Sanitation and etc., anything other should be provided by the private sector.

Cooney - All services and programs are important to this community but, how much money do we have to work with and how many employees does it take to operate this city safely without sacrificing operations. I would look at cities the size of Georgetown. I know it can be done but it takes everyone working together without being critical about the system.

Kumar - Certainly the city budget reflects the values that city council places on services and facilities provided to Georgetown. While nobody relishes the idea of raising taxes, at some point elected officials must take action to ensure the safety and quality of life of our community is protected. The current city council has not only failed to do this, it has actually reduced available revenues by lowering the insurance premium tax. The attitude thus far has been to ignore personnel and equipment needs, resulting in the police department being severely understaffed, equipment and capital needs of all agencies being unaddressed, and our city maintained parks deferring maintenance and capital improvements to youth programs. This is completely unacceptable, and I will vote to increase city revenues to reverse this decline in our community's safety and quality of life.

Specifically, I strongly support the implementation of a restaurant tax that would improve facilities to increase tourism, and I would support a ½% increase in the occupational license fee to meet the personnel and capital

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needs of city agencies. Leadership sometimes requires making difficult, but necessary choices.

Bradley - Studying the city's budget shows the biggest area of revenue loss is in the Net Profits tax on business. It has dropped from around 6 Million a year to only around 750,000. Considering the city's entire budget is 16 Million that's a huge part of the revenues we depended on. I want to find out if some of this decline is due to large corporations diverting income to other states with a more friendly tax structure and if this is the case audit them based on the corporations total profits in relation to the production or sales in Georgetown. I want to explore privatizing some city services such as electrical inspection that could be self funded. I want to renegotiate inter-local agreements with the county since I don't believe the county is funding their fair share based on their tax base in proportion to the city. They tax the people of the city and should share proportionately in city services. The most important city services that must be maintained are the Emergency Services.

McEuen - In less than a decade the City's budget has been cut by a third. This certainly shows, in part, how economic challenges have affected government even at the local level. Community non-profit and quality of life program funding has been cut completely in most cases. Capital improvements are not even funded in the current budget. So, without a combination of additional streamlining of the basic necessity departments and additional revenue streams, we cannot continue successfully at this rate. I do not feel that our emergency services should be cut. I would like to see our quality of life programs continue in our City's budget but at a lower subsidy rate because of better business practices among those entities.

Owens - Education and safety should be priority even during difficult economic times. I am in favor of ending prohibition restrictions which will promote growth, meaning new business and jobs as well as increased revenues. I am in favor of a temporary local tax amnesty initiative. Citizens could resolve old debt and the city would benefit from any potential increase in revenues generated. I would like to find ways to reduce spending without compromising our quality of life. One example would be to reduce jail population by giving more community service to non-violent offenders instead of prolonged incarceration.

Ingram - I believe that all of our current services and programs are important for Georgetown and it is my believe that the best way to pay for those services is through "Wasteful Spending Reduction". We would all like to believe that our taxes dollars are well spent. However, the truth is, there are areas where we can reduce wasteful spending, choose a better cheaper office products supplier, research all the bills to see if there are unused phone lines that can be disconnected, etc...

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our website at
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Rutherford - Georgetown needs a "rainy day" fund, initially 10% of operating expenditures with a goal of 25%, this will not be easy but it can be done; current debt service, costs of basic services like fire, police, emergency services, sanitation, streets, and infrastructure maintenance, should be paid out of current revenues; utilize technology and current legal authority to share these costs, with cooperation, for greater efficiency; a city-wide, curb-side recycling program...see response to Question 4; parks and recreation are vital to the quality of life in a community, current law grants the same authority to that board as is granted to cities to issue revenue bonds for appropriate purposes which would be payable solely from the revenue derived from such a public project; the arts are a major draw for a community to attract locals and visitors and would increase revenue; we need to re-visit current taxes and rates, citizens understand the need to pay taxes for necessary governmental services and citizens have a right to know how monies are going to be spent if the increases are beyond the costs to provide the service or what the imposition of a tax would go towards to benefit the whole community.

Lusby - Georgetown and Scott County are fortunate to have many wonderful services and currently share in the operation and the finances of those services. The emergency services are paramount to any community. I think

it is imperative to keep the joint funding and consolidation of these services in place. Many community leaders and organizations encourage the continued support and funding we have in place while looking for ways to reduce cost and maximize efficiencies.

Penn - I believe our budget most certainly serves as an indicator of our priorities. Unfortunately, those priorities have become skewed for many years. From the beginning of all civilized governments, the focus has always concentrated on 3 things; protecting our citizens, maintaining order of our citizens and providing a basic infrastructure. In today's terms, that translates into police, fire, environmental services including public works and sanitation, as well as a small priority on general government to administer all the aforementioned.

I believe in zero based budgeting. Following this model, we determine the extent of services we believe the citizens want and/or need and provide the revenues necessary to cover those expenditures. If council were to extend into services or projects outside the 3 main focuses of government, they should be paid for in cash or a reasonable financing term. I do NOT believe that we should take on projects outside our primary focus with recurring yearly expenses.

We have ignored our police, fire, and storm water capitol needs for almost 6 years. We have vehicles in our departments that we rely on for life saving services that are well beyond their rated life. We are in the third year of a 5 year citation from the state government for storm water violations. In the end, we the city, have needs that MUST be met to maintain the level of service our citizens and workers deserve.

Tingle-Sames - The services that take priority for the city are always public safety. Keeping crime low and the citizens safe has to be the top priority for the city council, followed closely by growth in our business community. City income has been on the uptick as the economy is improving. The city needs to follow a steady path of conservative spending, instead of wasteful spending as seen by the current administration, in order to put its financial house in order. My solution to the problem: cut wasteful spending, continue to encourage business growth, prioritize needs before wants.



Scott County KFTC meeting from earlier this year at the public library.

Price - Regarding Georgetown's public services, people are easily habituated to, and thus become dependent on government-provided services. Dependency causes carelessness. By gradually reducing some public services, I hope to make Georgetonians more careful of their personal resources and abilities and more self-reliant/self-sufficient. I have for years urged town to end collection of autumn leaves. Georgetonians should be encouraged to collect leaves of site, compost them into fertilizer, and use resulting product under home and/or neighborhood horticulture crops. Similarly, by reducing solid waste collection, town would encourage Georgetonians to at least consider separating and reusing solid waste at their home and/or worksites, or selling or bartering same; and to reform commercial habits to acquire less solid waste. By encouraging water capture GMWSS could and should reduce water sales. By encouraging home composting of septic waste, GMWSS should reduce sewer service.

Homesteading/home occupations and residents' neighborhood watch can displace public police, fire service. As homesteader striving for self-sufficiency and as advocate of Jefferson's "every citizen farmer", I see some current public services in Georgetown as redundant (water sales e.g.) and/or dis-economic. Reduced public services reduce urgency for ever-expanding revenue, taxation, fees.

Singer, Showalter, Lockard, Jessie, and Thompson – No response

2. What are some of the things you most want to accomplish in office if elected?

Fitzgerald - Make Georgetown a destination of people in surrounding communities. Bringing in businesses that most people go to Lexington for which are not available here in Georgetown. My goal is to create a "Hamburg North" which will bring in more revenue for the community, while keeping the small town feel. Georgetown is one of the fastest growing cities in the commonwealth and bringing in revenue from all over the state and neighboring states would help in that growth. Building an arena or outdoor arena would help in accomplishing this goal., buy bringing in smaller musical acts or possibly rodeos and horse shows.

Tackett - There are so many things that I would love to see take place for our community, but unfortunately we are limited with our finances. I think it's important to continue to be conservative as our economy is making strides moving forward. I would strongly like to see the city employees receive a cost of living raise and look at implementing a wellness program utilizing the pavilion that could possibly bring revenue to the pavilion and maybe help reduce the cost of health benefits.

Kleinhenz - Cut waste and duplication in city government. Balance the budget and keep it there. Shrink the size and complexity of city government.

Cooney - TRANSPARENCY

Many issues are cloudy at best to most of the community.

Kumar - I am extremely concerned about the failure of our current and past city councils to provide necessary funding for public safety. Our fire department has 2 vehicles that need to be replaced immediately and virtually all city agencies have capital needs that have been ignored for 5 years. Our police department is 24 officers understaffed based on recommended FBI staffing levels, and our city council just had a tie vote on whether to pay for a much needed ambulance for our EMS department. Additionally, the city is under a federal mandate to improve its storm water system, and not a single dollar has been budgeted for this need. In fact, the city actually rejected a grant for this because it required matching funds.

I am also extremely disappointed in the continuing policy of the city council to reduce support for the Parks Department, as well as other programs that enhance our quality of life. Within the past year our youth softball and baseball programs, which receive only \$500 in public funds, have actually had to build public restrooms in city maintained parks simply because the city council chose to ignore these needs. The city's failure to meet these needs is horrible public policy, and our community deserves better.

Bradley - The city is currently operating at a deficit and has used up almost all of its reserves to make up those deficits. I want to balance the city budget without raising taxes on the people. The city has an aging Emergency Services fleet. It has debt service of almost 1 million a year due to poor management decisions and overspending in the past. One idea I have to get us out of debt, fund current needs and provide an income flow in the future is to explore selling the water company. The objective to having a water company is to provide water service to the people. If sold that objective will still be met while quality and cost will still be regulated by the state. Its really a win/win scenario and would provide a bright future for Georgetown.

McEuen - Many City employees have been let go and those who've stayed haven't had a raise in five years. During the same period, employees went from having a full family health insurance plan covered by the City to an employee only plan. This is the norm in companies today but this means that our employees haven't had a cost of living raise and those with families have taken a pay cut do to our change in insurance premiums policies. In some departments we don't even offer competitive starting salary and benefit packages for our employees. How can we maintain the finest in emergency services, qualified personnel, and quality of life programs without improving the way we care for our own employees.

Vote!

The Primary
Election is on
Tuesday, May 22nd
and polls are open
from 6am to 6pm.

Owens - I favor policies that improve the quality of life for the citizens of Georgetown. I support policies that empower citizens to improve upon themselves. Give our community the tools to be successful. I would like to work toward improving our high school facilities as well as our adult education resources. I want to make sure that our community doesn't have to worry about who's responsibility it is to put a fire out or respond to an accident. I am concerned that could be a possibility if our emergency personnel (EMS) concerns are not handled appropriately. I want to end prohibition altogether in Georgetown. Our community would benefit tremendously from the new business, job growth, and revenue it would generate. I do not believe our safety would be sacrificed but actually improved. It would help pay for the services Georgetown needs to meet the challenges ahead.

Ingram - Reducing wasteful spending, encouraging all elected officials to be better stewards of the tax dollars, and bringing new industry, business, and jobs to this area.

Rutherford - To establish a "rainy day fund;" to establish wards so there is equal representation on the council for all areas of the city and council members are more accountable to those they represent; to appropriately reclassify the city; to increase the compensation for council members to a reasonable amount and not fund or abolish benefits for part-time public service; to impose term limits for council members, mayors of first and second class cities may not serve more than three successive terms...it seems reasonable that a council member who serves a two-year term would not be eligible to serve more than three successive terms or six years; and implementation of a curb-side recycling program.

Lusby - There are many things we would like to be able to do but because of the financial limitation we are experiencing I feel we need to stay financial conservative and responsible. With that being said however, I believe a cost of living adjustment for our city employees is warranted.

Penn - I believe that we must continue to seek ways to operate our government more efficiently. This could include privatization of certain services and cross training our employees. We also have a serious deficiency in the pay scale for our police department resulting in constant turnover and recurring training costs. This must be addressed. Every time we lose an officer the city pays \$45,000 to train an officer and waits almost a year for him/her to be placed on the street. We have lost 41 officers in the last 5 years.

Tingle-Sames -What I would most like to accomplish while as a city council member is to:

1. Balance the budget without raising taxes;
2. Open the discussion once again about districting for city council positions;
3. Establish a curbside recycling program;
4. Work toward a more open and accountable city government, especially with taxpayer's money;
5. Combine the Building Inspection and Electrical Inspection offices; and
6. Foster a friendly atmosphere for business growth in the city.

Price - Economic self-sufficiency for every citizen is a stated goal of the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. In 2002 I co-founded Georgetown's community gardens with same intent – to popularize horticulture/botany and thus gradually displace transport-based consumerism in Georgetown with homesteading, and with home- and neighborhood-based "producerism".

As councilman my goals would be:

- Application of Georgetown Ordinance 06-027 which allows/encourages botanic landscapes and less lawn-mowing; and KRS 198B.050, 413.072, and 100.203(4) which allow/encourage urban commercial horticulture and homesteading.
- Application of said ordinance and of other local and state laws that discourage and/or prohibit noxious noises, especially from machinery, including motor vehicles. Throttles and working mufflers on all motor equipment and motor vehicles. Permits for chain-saw work.

- Promote pedestrianism/bicyclism. Reduce motor transport.
- Promote home workplace/cottage industries over restrictive zoning.
- Preserve rather than demolish structures.
- Promote barter, including for payment of taxes, fees.
- More public comment in council meetings.
- Displace heavy equipment with handlaborers, more jobs, less noise, less petrofuel.
- Consider more home schooling, per-child school taxation.
- Council meetings and public employees standing rather than sitting.
- No pay, benefits for elected offices.
- Horticulture for incarcerated and welfare recipients.
- Greenspace preservation

If you would like to volunteer to give rides to the polls, pass out voter guides or make voter turnout calls with our local KFTC chapter, please contact Dave Newton at 859-420-8919 or Dave@kftc.org.

Singer, Showalter, Lockard, Jessie, and Thompson – No response

3. Many municipalities around Georgetown offer curbside recycling services to residents, which both prevent waste from ending up in costly landfills and can make money for cities when they operate at scale. The Georgetown City Council has considered expanding recycling to include curbside recycling, but a downside might be increased up-front costs. What are your thoughts on the possibility of offering curbside recycling services in Georgetown?

Fitzgerald - Recycling has become a very important part of our lives and should be implemented here in Georgetown. Recycling reduces the carbon foot print of Georgetown. Creating a task force to research the long term costs and benefits of curbside recycling is a high priority. It shouldn't be a burden on the tax payer.

Tackett - Recycling is important and I support it. Right now I think it would be an expense the city can't afford at this time. There was a pilot program implemented a couple of years ago that didn't get a lot of support. Educating the community and getting their support I think could help move this forward.

Kleinhenz - Curbside recycling would be great. I'm sure there are private recyclers who would pay the city a percentage for the opportunity to do curbside recycling in the city, at no cost to tax payers. Maybe the city can make some money on it.

Cooney - Absolutely. Landfills are one of the highest expenses that the city has to this day. This would increase expenses to the resident but would save the city thousands of dollars that could be spent on other areas of importance, such as, police, fire, and recreation.

Kumar - I certainly support the implementation of a curbside recycling program, but I cannot say that it would be a higher funding priority than providing adequate staffing and equipment needs for all city departments. The city currently has a recycling center which is utilized by a lot of Georgetown residents, so it is fair to say recycling has not been ignored. However, I think the current financial situation facing Georgetown requires a reasoned approach to meeting all needs, including curbside recycling. In all honesty, until the revenues available to the city are improved, I could not make this a higher funding priority than increasing the number of police officers, or providing needed capital improvements. Having said that, when the city is more stable financially, I would support implementing a curbside recycling program.

Bradley - I am all for a recycling program if it makes economic sense. The value of the materials collected will need to be worth more than the cost of collecting and processing them. We measure an amount of resources and materials by the value of money associated to it. If the value of the materials collected is less than the cost in

energy and resources to collect and process then are we really gaining anything if our main goal is to conserve resources and energy, and minimize associated pollution? I will explore the economic feasibility of recycling and will support it if results are favorable.

McEuen - First, a previous City Council set forth a plan to improve garbage collection (long before my first term began) by buying every resident and business a “herbie” to use with a more automated truck system. That plan has still not been fully implemented more than 5 years later nor does the City have an automated loader truck in its fleet. Next, if the City is going to stay in the Sanitation business, I believe that recycling is the responsibility of the City government and the citizens in cooperation. I’m willing to support the upfront cost to implement these initiatives but there is more preparation needed. Without an educational plan for citizens to understand their part in the process of both regular garbage collection and recycling if implemented, these systems will never work. I could support curbside recycling but I would need more information. I have lived abroad where recycling was taken to the greatest detail and citizens fully participated. I believe our people and our employees must realize the greater responsibility in recycling for economic and holistic reasons.

Owens - I like the idea of curbside recycling but understand there are upfront costs associated with the service. I think the current system is good but could benefit the community more by having additional drop off locations perhaps. If curbside recycling is authorized then the containers should be of a reasonable size. Frankfort has recently began using curbside recycling and it has a few flaws, which they have been working through. I think Georgetown should consider implementing as well as improving upon similar examples currently available in other communities.

Ingram - There may be upfront costs but if Georgetown operated their recycling program like Lexington ’s, using an inmate work program, I believe the cost could be substantially reduced overall. Using a Scott County Detention Center Inmate work program would allow low risk inmates, with good behavior, an opportunity to be out of the Detention center for a few hours a day.

Rutherford - As stated in my response to Question 1, I support a city-wide, curb-side recycling program. When the city increased the water and sewer rates a few years ago, that increase was more than the costs to provide the service. The excess could have been used to start such a program. The “sell” for the increase in rates was to eventually purchase a truck that would eliminate manpower and automate the pickup of the new, larger garbage containers. No one has been able to explain where or what those excess fees were used for, we have neither an automated truck nor a curb-side recycling program. The excess that has been collected for the last few years should be determined and that amount appropriated or applied to the start-up of a recycling program.

Lusby - Recycling is a wonderful thing I support but curbside recycling would be an expense the City of Georgetown could not afford at this time. We have tried pilot programs in recent years and they did not work as anticipated.

Penn - I currently sit on the recycling committee for the city of Georgetown. I am convinced that the city must implement a full scale curbside recycling program. It will not only serve the environment, but also offer offsetting revenues to subsidize the operations of our current recycling center. To curb the initial costs associated with this program, I have suggested partnering with a current curbside provider and perhaps they could provide the bins or larger containers in lieu of a portion of the revenue generated for the recyclables. This week the recycling committee will be reviewing 2 different RFP’s to determine the best route to take to achieve a curbside recycling program.

Tingle-Sames - Curbside recycling can be accomplished in the city of Georgetown. Sanitation is a fee based fund and is the one line item in the city budget that has a surplus at the end of the year. The city can start out

with a volunteer base participation. If a citizen wants to participate they can purchase the container (that is the largest upfront cost). The city already has the manpower, and equipment to make this program work. If we start with a two week pickup as more people participate, it could change to weekly pickups. As even more people participate, the cost savings to the city would be in the tipping fees paid to the landfill.

Price - See item 1 above. I discontinued curbside pickup of my solid waste by Georgetown public works in early 1990s. Since then I have slowly learned to buy fewer packaged products, to preserve horticulture produce in reusable jars, to reuse tin cans as starter pots for horticulture plants, to home compost all perishable waste, to handshred newspaper and junkmail for composting and to take used plastic bags to Kroger for recycling. All my waste is thus recycled without public service.

Rather than initiate so-called curbside recycling, town should make its solid waste pickup optional, rather than mandatory, and thus encourage home recycling of all solid waste. So long as they are required to pay \$15 monthly for pickup, most people will not even consider recycling. Why would they?

Curbside recycling reinforces discard of any material or item not immediately needed, which habit, along with our "throw away society" is created by public collection of solid waste. "Waste no, want not," currently precluded in Georgetown by mandatory solid waste pickup, would be further precluded by so-called curbside recycling.

Singer, Showalter, Lockard, Jessie, and Thompson – No response

4. Georgetown isn't a very friendly place for bicycles right now and there are few bike lanes or other spaces to make cycling safer. Do you have thoughts about bike lanes or projects like extending the Legacy Trail into Georgetown?



Scott County KFTC Meeting at the Ed Davis Learning Center

Fitzgerald - Creating bike lanes would give residents a safer way to exercise without the fear of being hit by vehicles. Bike lanes would encourage workers to commute to work on a bicycle, which would save the worker money due to rising gas prices. We could also add bike racks to local businesses and buildings for people to have a safe place to park the bikes while either at work or shopping. It would also be beneficial to Georgetown to work with the city of Lexington and the horse park to extend the Legacy Trail to Georgetown, which would showcase the beauty of Georgetown and all that it has to offer to people from Lexington.

Tackett - Although I'm not a cyclist, I do support it. I know there is a plan on the table at the state level to bring bike lanes to our community if the funding doesn't get cut.

Kleinhenz - Bike riding in city of Georgetown should be encouraged; extending the Legacy Trail into Georgetown is already in its planning stages. However, we do not need to obstruct Georgetown's vehicular traffic to accomplish this. Any bike paths, etc, need to be paid for with private donations and not payer funds.

Cooney - Yes, bike paths are important, I ride daily and am always concerned about motorists. I know that Cindy King writes grants for the legacy trails. I would ask her to set up a study on the advantages of cycling and I would participate in this program. Keeping the community healthy is important and bike riding is good for everyone. European countries use bikes as their main transportation. The savings would be enormous - less

money at the gas pump, less money at the doctor, less money at the gym, less money on diet foods, this could go on and on. You get the idea.

Kumar - Although the city annually hosts a bicycling event which brings hundreds of bikers to Georgetown, there are no currently existing dedicated bicycling trails in our community. Last month the Parks and Recreation Department submitted an application to the Tourism Commission to do a feasibility study on extending the Legacy Trail into Scott County from Lexington. However, the express purpose of this grant is to determine the “feasibility” of extending the Legacy Trail under current revenue structures. To me, this is a perfect example of a project which could be undertaken with revenues generated from a restaurant tax that could bring hundreds of people into Scott County and downtown Georgetown daily.

I have been a strong proponent of enacting a restaurant tax, and I currently serve on a task force which is investigating this issue. To me, a revenue source such as this, which gets a significant portion of its revenues from visitors to our community who eat in our restaurants, is a “no brainer.” Communities such as Elizabethtown have made dramatic investments in parks and other facilities with revenues generated such a program, while Georgetown continues to struggle. If elected I will immediately propose the enactment of this program.

Bradley - Our roads in Kentucky and Georgetown are unsafe for pedestrian and cycle traffic. I would favor incorporating bike lanes and sidewalks into new development and reconstruction where possible. If i was running for a county or state office road safety would be a key issue for me. We loose too many of our people, mostly younger people, due to unsafe roads. City council does not have much to do with the road issue. Unfortunately the financial situation we are in will push projects like this to the back until its fixed. I would favor projects such as the legacy trail if we can get the finances headed in the right direction and if it would benefit the majority of taxpayers who are willing to pay for such a project. I firmly believe in being a representative of the people not one who claims to know whats best for the people. I do not believe in forcing on the majority the desires and costs of a few. Ultimately it is up to the people of Georgetown and its my duty to implement their will.

McEuen - Having run and biked the Legacy Trail regularly since it opened in Lexington, I would support its extension and development in Scott County. Because of its proximity to Georgetown, it seems like such a possible project for the future. Funding and Community Usage are my biggest concerns. If the citizens in Georgetown/Scott County are not willing to utilize such a project and support the potential community exposure, it would be difficult for me to justify use of public funds alone. Lexington was able to complete their portion during a near perfect situation with money available (public and private) and an international event happening as absolute deadline to complete it. Can we accomplish the same without the same sense of urgency and financial support? This needs broad based attention and a strategic plan with Parks & Recreation in agreement with citizen supporters and other entities.

Owens - I am in favor of bike lanes for a couple of reasons. We need more efficient modes or transportation in Georgetown. Many people in town could ride a bike or walk to work if they preferred which could reduce traffic. I also favor other biking and walking trail options for those who prefer to avoid traffic concerns, like myself.

Ingram - I would be the first to champion any fund raising events for adding bike lanes or projects like extending the Legacy Trail into Georgetown . However, I feel that the best way to pay for those projects would be through fund raising and not tax dollars. I believe there are many businesses in Georgetown that would be charitable toward this cause.

Rutherford - To my knowledge the Legacy Trail was developed primarily with federal stimulus monies along with some state and local matching funds when the World Games were announced for central Kentucky. Much

work would need to be done for continuing the trail into Scott County. Locally students do not ride bikes to school and we are not urban in nature with many residents using or commuting on bikes as a mode of transportation...we are a rural, farming community. The downtown main corridors are currently wide enough to have a designated bike lane, it would depend on whether the downtown area is willing to give up some of the road space for bikes.

Lusby - Being a bicyclist myself I would love to see the expansion of the Legacy Trail into Georgetown and support those efforts. I believe it could bring more tourism dollars to our community and provide exercise and health benefits.

Penn - As a recreational bike rider I can understand the need for bike lanes throughout our community. However I believe that this process needs to start in Planning and Zoning during the design phase for all new developments. I also believe that the Legacy Trail would be a great project for Georgetown and Scott County. However, I could not support city funding for this project until we have a plan and implementation in place for our critical needs departments. In my opinion, this is a great project for our Georgetown Scott County Tourism Commission as it would without question lend to an increase in tourism for our city and county.

Tingle-Sames - The legacy trail could be extended into Georgetown. Because the back section of the Horse Park is located in Scott County, that can be opened to allow a path to the back of the park onto Lyle road and then carry the route to the Scott County soccer field which is owned by the city. The soccer field is part of a plan to connect with the new elementary School on the bypass which would bring you into the city of Georgetown. It would be a great addition to the community for walkers and bikers at a minimal cost to the taxpayers. I have thought about this for some time, and while I do not ride a bike, I love to walk with my dog and see such a path as a great place to walk my dog!

Price - See item 2 above. I have often relied on bicycle and appreciate its noiseless service demanding no fuel. I advocate practical, functional bicycling, and as councilman, could promote same.

As a practical route between Georgetown and Lexington for bicyclists, I would, as councilman, promote the Legacy Trail, as I would promote bike lanes and traffic laws that favor and protect bicyclism.

But bicycling, like motor transport, offers temptation to "joy ride", and I advocate bicycling not for its own sake, but rather and only as healthy, practical transport. Productive homesteading and home occupations I advocate, requires, first of all, staying home. Walking keeps one nearer home than bicycling, while allowing closer acquaintances and access to useful, valuable wayside flora.

Singer, Showalter, Lockard, Jessie, and Thompson – No response



Scott County KFTC member Rosanne Fitts Klarer registers voters in the rain at the 2012 Kite Festival.

If you would like to volunteer to give rides to the polls, pass out voter guides or make voter turnout calls with our local KFTC chapter, please contact Dave Newton at 859-420-8919 or Dave@kftc.org.

Candidates that did not respond to our survey are still very much invited to send in their answers. We will add them to later printings of this guide if possible and will post them online at www.KentuckyElection.org.

Senate District 17 Republican Primary

Registered Republicans in Scott, Grant, Owen, and Southern Kenton Counties may vote in this primary. The winner will then run against Democrat David Holcomb in the November 6th General Election. The two candidates for this Primary are Damon Thayer and Rick Hostetler.

Rick Hostetler - www.rickyforsenate.com

Damon Thayer - www.thayerforsenate.com

1. Over the past few years, mountaintop removal coal mining and the related valley fills has become a widely debated public issue. What is your position on removing the tops of ridge-lines and mountains, then filling valleys with rock and dirt from coal mining?

Hostetler - I think that with proper oversight this type of mining can be a win-win situation for everyone involved. It creates local jobs that help the local and state economies. It provides a cheaper course of coal for Kentucky Power Plants. When the project is reclaimed, area wildlife thrives. Ponds are stocked with fish. Walking trails are provided. These areas can continue to be used for recreational purpose which is a win for everyone.

Thayer – While at this time coal is a very integral part of the Commonwealth, as a fiscal conservative I support any and all initiatives that aid in reducing costs of this kind which include but not exclude new and inventive ways of renewable energy.

2. Currently, over 92% of Kentucky’s electricity comes from burning coal. Kentucky’s electricity rates have also risen 41% over the last five years. What is your vision for Kentucky’s energy future? What energy policies would you support or propose?

Hostetler - Much of the cost increase is brought on by purposeful over regulation by the Obama Administration's EPA. We need to stand against the EPA because of our 10th amendment rights. We are a sovereign state. We are fully capable of regulating our own coal industry. There is also an abundant supply of natural gas in Kentucky that can be harvested to enhance our energy sources.

Thayer – Cost savings to the citizens of the Commonwealth have and always will be a focus and priority of mine. Any fiscally sound proposal that would aid in cutting down electricity costs to the citizens of the Commonwealth would find me as a proponent.

3. In 2005 the legislature made many changes to Kentucky’s tax code, including a provision that exempted people living below the federal poverty line from paying state income taxes. But on average, Kentucky’s state taxes still disproportionately impact lower- and moderate-income families. According to the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy, the lowest earning 60% of tax filers pay, on average, between 9.5% and 11% of their incomes to state and local taxes, while the wealthiest 1% pay around 6%. Do you believe Kentucky should bring more balance to our state tax structure? What policies would you support or propose related to taxes paid by low-wage workers?

Hostetler - I think the Kentucky state income tax should be repealed. We should go to a fair tax which is consumption based. Everyone can choose how much tax they will pay according to the products and services they wish to purchase.

Thayer – If a flat and/or fair tax could be implemented in our Commonwealth it would eliminate any and all taxation practices that could and have been misguided and/or viewed as discriminatory toward certain social groups. This is why during my tenure in the state Senate I have consistently voted against raising taxes on any level. I have firmly stood against my party and voted NO against the alcohol and tobacco tax and also against the gas tax just to name a few of the many tax-raising bills of this nature.

4. The Kentucky General Assembly last year faced a budget shortfall of \$742 million. They chose to fill this gap by enacting the 11th round of budget cuts for the state since 2007. Most state agencies were cut by 8.4% and higher education was cut by 6.4%. Over the last four years, many state agencies have been cut anywhere from 20% to 38%. What is your position on these cuts and whether additional tax dollars are needed to fund education and other public services?

Hostetler - Times are tough for everyone in the state. I'm confident in the leadership in our universities and state agencies to make the cuts and still maintain the level of services that we need. What I would like to see is that when we get through these tough times and our economy rebounds, we do not go back to our old spending ways.

Thayer – Education is a priority of mine and I never want to see funds being cut in any of those areas whether it be to higher education or not. As a legislator I do not like cutting education but Kentucky has had to learn to live within its means, just like families and businesses have to do. These funds are absolutely needed and it burdens me when such funds are cut in these areas during times of economic crisis that are seen and felt in our state and our country.



KFTC members registering voters and passing out an earlier copy of this Voter Guide at Georgetown College.

5. Kentucky is one of the four most difficult states for former felons to apply and receive their voting rights back. Over 186,000 Kentuckians have lost their right to vote because of our disenfranchisement laws. What is your position on the issue of restoring voting rights for former felons?

Hostetler - When convicted felons have served their sentences completely and are released to move about freely in our society, then their voting rights should be returned as well.

Thayer – The system in place currently in KY is mainly to prevent violent criminal felons from voting. In my opinion if you choose to violate other's rights then you should in turn lose your rights as well. However, there are many non-violent felonies on the books in Kentucky and those that are labeled "felons" under the current jurisdiction who have paid their debt to society should have a more streamlined process in which to go through to get their voting rights restored.

Record Check - In recent years, Senator Damon Thayer has blocked a vote in his committee on HB 70, a bill to restore voting rights to most former felons once they've completed their sentences. That bill has passed the House each year since 2007, but has not been granted a hearing in the Senate.

6. Undocumented immigrants are a growing part of Kentucky. Some Kentuckians claim that undocumented workers are problematic because they take jobs and government services needed by citizens. Other Kentuckians say that immigrant communities make substantial positive contributions to our state and that their needs are just as important as citizens' needs – and furthermore our economy couldn't function without them. What is your stance on immigration and undocumented workers?

Hostetler - I'm a proponent of legal immigration. After all, we are a nation founded by immigrants from all parts of the world. Illegal immigration breaks our laws and is an issue that has to be dealt with. Our legal system is the path we need to use to deal with this issue.

Thayer – I believe and support all legal immigrants that want to come to our Commonwealth to make a better life for themselves while also providing for their families and contributing to the betterment of our society. I believe that the current system is flawed and law abiding immigrants should have a better and more reliable system in which to go through to become contributing members of our Commonwealth.

6th District Congressional Republican Primary

All registered Republicans in this district may vote for one candidate. The winner will go on to run against Ben Chandler in the November General Election. The 6th District now includes all of Scott County.

Garland "Andy" Barr - www.andybarrforcongress.com

Patrick J. Kelly - www.patrickkelly2012.com

Curtis Kenimer - www.kenimerforcongress.com

1. Over the past few years, mountaintop removal coal mining and the related valley fills has become a widely debated public issue. What is your position on removing the tops of ridge-lines and mountains, then filling valleys with rock and dirt from coal mining?

Kelly – As long as mountain top removal can be done safely without harm to other individuals or their property, it should be allowed. If it cannot be done safely, then the miners are to be held responsible for damages and can be legally prevented from continuing such action, as demonstrated with ruling in Georgia v, Tennessee Copper Company and Ducktown Sulphur (1907). In the majority of cases, this is a local and state issue for that region to decide, but ultimately I would fight to preserve the property rights of all individuals involved.

Kenimer – Unless we can come up with a relatively inexpensive alternative to coal, I do not have any good suggestions. People demand inexpensive energy and our economy desperately needs it. If President Obama succeeds in his goal of putting the coal companies out of business, then this question will be moot.

Barr – No Response

2. Currently, over 92% of Kentucky's electricity comes from burning coal. Kentucky's electricity rates have also risen 41% over the last five years. What is your vision for Kentucky's energy future? What energy policies would you support or propose?

Kelly – I will fight to keep restrictions off of coal mining. Coal is an important job provider to Kentucky and is extremely necessary to keep energy costs low. I will fight to ensure that the US government isn't responsible for one coal mining job lost due to things like higher taxation or increased regulation. Kentucky also has a supply

of thorium, which is an ample energy source for future generations of nuclear devices, such as Liquid Fluoride Thorium Reactors (LFTRs). This is an alternative mining resource that has the potential to provide energy as cheap as 1/5th of the cost of coal. I will work to reduce any current restrictions the Department of Energy and EPA has on this research and push relevant military funding in its direction.

Kenimer – Electricity rates have risen in part because of inflation but one of the big culprits is the EPA which puts regulations on things like the water that is released from coal mining operations which has to be purer than what we drink. I would be in favor of more nuclear plants but try getting a permit from the EPA! Why is it OK for Iran to have nuclear plants but we can't have them?

Barr – No Response

3. Tax cuts benefitting the wealthiest have played a major role in limiting our public investments in some of the most important functions of our federal government. Kentuckians are feeling the impact of budget cuts to job training programs and public sector jobs, WIC, Pell Grants, the EPA's ability to protect our water, and other key functions of our federal government. Meanwhile, the wealth gap continues to grow. There are initiatives in Congress to roll back the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy to protect public sector jobs that strengthen our communities. Where do you stand on these initiatives? What other ideas do you have about our budget priorities, and how to best support them?

Kelly – The problem in Washington is spending, not revenue. If you take the 2000 federal budget and adjust it for inflation and keep the Bush tax cuts in place, the budget is still balanced. Since 2000, we have grown government over 60%, yet this has not correlated to growth or prosperity. It instead has shown that the federal government is incapable of such a high concentration of resources. I will fight to return Kentucky's tax dollars back to Kentucky for it to decide what is best for its own. It is important that the federal government stays within its constitutional confines, and that any additional programs or services are left up to the states to provide.

The wealth gap is widening, and it is the result of government's interference into the market and high indirect taxation on the working class that is dragging it down. The federal government bears the responsibility for the crashes in 2000 and 2008 which disproportionately affected the low and middle classes. I will fight to ensure that the government keeps its hands out of the market and will not let the rich get bailed out while the poor suffer.

Kenimer – It is not the federal Government's job to provide job training programs, WIC, Pell Grants, and most of the EPA regulations. "Tax cuts for the wealthiest" is a bogus concept because any tax rate that favors one group of people over another is inherently immoral. We currently have over 45% of our population not paying any federal taxes. The so called wealth gap continues to grow in part because our economy has developed to the point where even the poorest people have a personal computer. Was Bill Gates supposed to not let them have one and therefore make less money? Public sector jobs are only a small part of strengthening our economy.

Barr – No Response

4. Kentucky is one of the four most difficult states for former felons to apply and receive their voting rights back. Over 186,000 Kentuckians have lost their right to vote because of our disenfranchisement laws. What is your position on the issue of restoring voting rights for former felons?

Kelly – I support restoring voting rights to former felons, though this is a state issue. However, I would lobby

for restoring those rights and speak on behalf of these individuals to restore their rights to vote. We have many unfair and unjust laws, and it is a shame to deny those who are victims of an overreaching government the right to vote.

Kenimer – I would not let a felon have the right to vote until he or she had completed their debt to society. At that point, I believe that they could have their voting rights restored on a case by case basis with preference to nonviolent offenders.

Barr – No Response

5. Undocumented immigrants are a growing part of Kentucky. Some Kentuckians claim that undocumented workers are problematic because they take jobs and government services needed by citizens. Other Kentuckians say that immigrant communities make substantial positive contributions to **our state and that their needs are just as important as citizens' needs** – and furthermore our economy couldn't function without them. **What is your stance on immigration and undocumented workers?**

Kelly – Our immigration policy is unfortunately a mess. Legal and proper immigration is both a good and necessary thing for the United States. The problem is that we make it very difficult for someone to enter this country legally, and thus we end up with such a large number of hard working and motivated people illegally entering this country. I support widening our visa program to allow any immigrant who can provide proof that they have a job waiting for them and are not a violent criminal to enter this country for longer extended periods of time. If we allow for easier legal immigration to those whom would be an asset to this country, it becomes much easier to keep criminals and those who would abuse our systems out.

Kenimer – The correct phrase is illegal aliens. I have read studies about the overall impact of their presence in our country and the fact is that it is hard to quantify. It is probably a wash with the exception of the burden on our health care services. My stance is on my website – www.kenimerforcongress.com which states that all people who are here illegals should leave and the rule of law reestablished.

Barr – No Response

Candidates that did not respond to our survey are still very much invited to send in their answers. We will add them to later printings of this guide if possible and will post them online at www.KentuckyElection.org.



Scott County KFTC and NAACP members making voter turnout calls in 2011