

VOTER GUIDE

2022 Lexington Mayoral Candidates

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LEXINGTON NONPROFIT COALITION

The Lexington Nonprofit Coalition is a local alliance of Kentucky Nonprofit Network members committed to a stronger, more unified, and collaborative nonprofit sector serving the Lexington community.





ABOUT THIS VOTER GUIDE & LEXINGTON NONPROFIT COALITION

Nonprofits are a major employer essential to providing the kind of quality of life that makes people want to live in and visit Lexington. There are over 2,000 registered tax-exempt nonprofits in Fayette County, creating over 23,000 jobs at charitable nonprofits in the Bluegrass region, with over \$4.7 billion in expenditures benefitting Kentucky's economy. *Learn more at www.kynonprofits.org/advocate/morethancharity.*

The Lexington Nonprofit Coalition is a local alliance of Kentucky Nonprofit Network (KNN) members that officially launched in late 2020. The Coalition includes organizations who are committed to a stronger, more unified, and collaborative nonprofit sector serving the Lexington community. KNN - the state's association of nonprofits - provides administrative and advocacy support to the Coalition. *Learn more about the Coalition at www.kynonprofits.org/join/lnc.*

Nonprofit organizations are nonpartisan and play a vital role in civic engagement. Registering people to vote, equipping them with information about what's on their ballot, and reminding them to vote benefits our communities far beyond the outcome of any particular election. Because nonprofits are nonpartisan, we don't endorse specific candidates or political parties. Nonprofits are important to helping people exercise their right to vote because we are committed to strengthening communities; we are actively present and engaged in our communities; and we are trusted to provide accurate information.

To help educate the Lexington community on issues of importance to nonprofits and ultimately, the people we serve, the Lexington Nonprofit Coalition invited both candidates running for Mayor to answer three questions. All unedited answers received by both candidates are included in this Guide. Information about district-level Urban County Council candidate forums held by the Coalition and voting is also included.



QUESTION 1

The nonprofit community is a big part of any solution to address violence and crime. Research confirms that stable housing, food security, access to after-school programs and social support, and many other services provided by nonprofits are all proven factors in violence prevention and intervention. **What role do you think the city and the council have in helping nonprofits provide these crucial services, both with new and existing nonprofit programs and services?**



Linda Gorton

I am a firm believer in the work our non-profits to provide critical services that are not filled by government or the private sector. I also believe government's responsibility in this area is to help build the capacity of the organizations on the front line. Not only has ESR funding increased dramatically in the last few years, under my administration we also proposed and gained approval to fund millions in additional capital grants, homelessness funding and addiction treatment funding to name a few. We've also created the first violence prevention grant program for providers doing essential work but are often left out of bigger funding options.



David Kloiber

As someone who has experience in the local nonprofit community, I believe the city needs to rethink how it views its relationship with nonprofits. Many of the social services listed, that our residents most need, are being tackled by organizations in the community and do not need to be replicated in-house by the local government. If we want to be effective and efficient in how we provide services to the community, we need to focus our resources on bolstering the work and creation of local nonprofits to address them, not trying to duplicate their work.



QUESTION 2

For a number of reasons, grants and partnerships with the city can be challenging for many nonprofits. These reasons often include onerous reporting; agreements that often require nonprofits to spend first and then wait for expenses to be reimbursed – meaning nonprofits must find a way to “front” the city money; and timing of agreements and grants that can impact a nonprofits’ ability to both respond to short-term issues and alternatively plan strategically for the future. **How would you advocate for streamlined agreements between the city and its nonprofit partners that ensures a true partnership – getting these vital funds to nonprofits to allow them to perform their services in the most flexible and efficient manner, while still maintaining accountability to taxpayers?**



Linda Gorton

These challenges are not easily resolved due to many layers of accountability in place. I would like to make City leadership available to meet with a small group on non-profits to listen to their ideas for changes and improvements in the process.



David Kloiber

The city currently has two general types of relationships with nonprofits. The first is through grants, which can be highly competitive and often have many of the issues outlined, and the second is through partnerships. The few partnerships that the city has entered into have taken more time and energy at the onset than most grant programs. This is due to the trust building and accountability that must be established before any talk of financial resources can begin, but once that process is completed, it is a much easier path to fund programs, projects, and even annual funding requests. There are obviously still high levels of reporting and accountability that go along with any funds distributed, and partnerships still need to be evaluated on a regular basis to see if they are still the best fit for the city’s needs, but I would like to see the city create more partnerships to address the services we hope to provide and streamline the process. A focus on establishing new and robust relationships with our nonprofits will allow the city to provide even more services at a reduced cost, and hopefully remove some of the barriers we are seeing to collaboration at the moment.



QUESTION 3

Nonprofits are essential to Lexington's quality of life, as well as to our economy. Prior to the pandemic, data show that nonprofits employ over 20,000 in the Bluegrass, generating over \$1 billion in annual wages, contributing significantly to the occupational license tax, and spending nearly \$5 billion annually. While these are impressive numbers, the fact is that some nonprofits are challenged to provide pay and benefits that ensure a living wage, provide access to affordable housing, and some have full-time employees with wages that still qualify them to receive public assistance. And unlike for-profit entities, nonprofits are typically not in a position to simply increase prices to address these issues – nonprofits aren't selling cheeseburgers or coffee. **Given that nonprofits are both vital to creating solutions to help address the city's challenges and critical to the city's economy, what would you do to help nonprofits address these workforce issues so that they can continue accomplishing their missions?**



Linda Gorton

I am proud to have championed workforce WorkLex, which had the first ever city sponsored expungement clinic/job fair which potential non-profits employees would be eligible to attend. Non-profits could hire people from these programs as well.



David Kloiber

It all comes down to funding at the end of the day. As I have stated many times before, the city should not be trying to recreate services that already exist in the community, we should be directing our resources towards supporting and lifting up those organizations. Expanding these relationships while still being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers will require us to regularly evaluate how effective our partnerships are, but at the moment the city has many areas where it tries to inefficiently recreate the services our nonprofits provide. Programs created in-house are more inefficient and come at a much higher cost than using those same resources on partnerships in the community, and the more we financially back community organizations, the more secure they will be in their staffing and operations.



COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUMS

All District Council seats, as well as Council-at-Large, will be on the ballot. The Lexington Nonprofit Coalition hosted a series of Council Candidate Forums in September and October 2022.

Visit kynonprofits.org/join/Incforums to view recordings of Council-at-Large and District-Level Council Candidate Forums.

Unsure which is your district? Visit www.lexingtonky.gov/departments/urban-county-council to enter your address and find your district.



MORE ELECTION INFORMATION

For additional local races, such as County Clerk and Coroner, visit resources from CivicLex: www.lex.vote. To view your full sample ballot before you vote, including a look at state legislative races, the sixth district Congressional race, polling places, and more, visit resources from the League of Women Voters: www.vote411.org/kentucky.

4 WAYS TO VOTE IN LEXINGTON

Mail-in Absentee Ballot

- The deadline to apply online for an absentee ballot was October 25. **YOU CAN NO LONGER REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT.**
- **If you already requested your absentee ballot:**
 - After receiving your absentee ballot, be sure to follow the instructions carefully. The strict compliance with procedures has been reinstated.
 - How to return your ballot: There's a drop box in front of the County Clerk's office at 162 E. Main Street. You can mail it in as well.

In-person Absentee Voting

- **EXCUSE REQUIRED.** In-person, excused early voting requires a qualifying excuse. Visit www.elect.ky.gov/Voters/Pages/Absentee-Excused-In-Person.aspx for more information.
- Where and When: County Clerk's Office, 162 E. Main Street, Lexington - October 26, 27, and 28; October 31; November 1 and 2 - 8:00am-4:30pm

Early Voting: 11/3-5

- **ANYONE MAY VOTE EARLY FOR ANY REASON.**
- Where and When: Senior Center, 195 Life Lane, Lexington - November 3, 4, and 5 - 8:30am-4:30pm
- Bring your driver's license or any qualifying ID for a fast and easy check-in. Learn about qualifying IDs here: www.fayettecountyclerk.com/web/elections/voteridentification.pdf

Election Day Voting: 11/8

- In-person voting on Election Day (November 8) will take place from 6am to 6pm.
- Find your voting location at www.fayettecountyclerk.com/web/elections/votingLocations.htm
- Bring your driver's license or any qualifying ID for a fast and easy check-in. Learn about qualifying IDs here: www.fayettecountyclerk.com/web/elections/voteridentification.pdf



LEARN MORE AT WWW.GOVOTEKY.COM

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