LEXINGTON NONPROFIT COALITION

The Lexington Nonprofit Coalition is a local alliance of Kentucky Nonprofit Network members.

OTHER KNN MEMBERS/VOTER GUIDE PARTNERS:

A Caring Place
Lexington Children’s Theatre
Lexington Public Library Foundation
Mental Health America of Kentucky
The Nest – Center for Women, Children, and Families
The Bluegrass region is rich with nonprofit organizations. As of 2017, nearly 5,000 nonprofits in the Bluegrass provided 23,095 jobs, with over $1 billion paid in annual wages. Revenue totaled over $4.6 billion, and expenditures over $4.3 billion. Nonprofits are a major employer essential to providing the kind of quality of life that makes people want to live in and visit Lexington. Learn more at www.kynonprofits.org/advocate/morethancharity.

Lexington Nonprofit Coalition, an alliance of charitable nonprofit organizations, works to ensure that nonprofits and the Lexingtonians they serve have a seat at the table as decisions are being made regarding funding and other policies that impact the quality of life in our community. The Coalition is a local alliance of Kentucky Nonprofit Network (KNN) members, the state association of nonprofits. KNN provides administrative and advocacy support to the Coalition.

Nonprofit organizations are nonpartisan and can 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. That means we can work closely with local election boards, the Secretary of State, and other nonpartisan entities involved in voting. 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 the people we serve, Lexington Nonprofit Coalition invited all candidates running for Urban County Council on November 3 to answer five questions. The questions are included on page 4 of this Voter Guide. All unedited answers received by the responding candidates are included in this Guide.
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH NONPROFITS
Q: Nonprofit organizations provide crucial services such as temporary shelter, permanent housing, food access, mental health support, tutoring for children, economic development, domestic violence prevention and support, arts and history education, and more. Please highlight your personal experiences with nonprofits as an employee, board member, volunteer, or donor. How do these experiences shape your policy positions as they relate to the city's partnerships with nonprofits?

NONPROFITS AS ECONOMIC ENGINES
Q: Charitable nonprofit businesses employ 9% of the Lexington/Fayette County workforce (14,060 residents) and account for 9.6% of the annual wages ($674 million) [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017]. In addition to being major employers, the nonprofit sector also brings significant revenues through tourism, local dining and retail support, and more. How would you support the nonprofit sector as an employer of choice and as an economic engine in Lexington?

NONPROFIT AGREEMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CITY
Q: At a time of crisis, with the COVID-19 pandemic and urgent calls to address racial and social injustice, nonprofits have stepped up in remarkable ways to provide crucial services for the Lexington community. At the same time, nonprofit partnerships with the city were cut from the mayor's proposed budget, though some were later restored by the Urban County Council. What is your position on the city's future agreements and partnerships with nonprofits to deliver needed services, enrichment opportunities, and more that ensure a safe, thriving community for ALL Lexington residents?

FINANCES
Q: What are your thoughts on addressing the city's financial woes? Do you have any specific ideas for increasing revenue to invest in community needs?

TOP 3 POLICY PRIORITIES
Q: If elected to council, what would be your top three policy priorities? And if these priorities would benefit from nonprofit partnerships or engagement, please elaborate.
Visit www.lexingtonky.gov/departments/urban-county-council for more info and an interactive map.
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH NONPROFITS
I began my career as an AmeriCorps VISTA at the Carnegie Center, where I learned about the challenges facing downtown Lexington while overseeing youth outreach programs, the tutoring program, and the Young Women Writers Project. During that time, I realized that my life’s work would involve getting people meaningfully connected in our city. Professionally, I have worked for an environmental services nonprofit and I currently work in higher education at UK. On a personal level, I co-founded the nonprofit Lexington Film League and I have continued my interest by serving on several nonprofit boards. I strongly believe that nonprofits provide essential services within the community; it is crucial that we promote and support their missions.

NONPROFITS AS ECONOMIC ENGINES
My career has shown me firsthand how the nonprofit model can be an effective way to organize and improve community wellbeing. I also know there are opportunities to improve our nonprofit sector by increasing capital for long-term stability and promoting creativity and innovation. I believe that intentional partnerships with for-profit businesses and governmental agencies can help this goal and connect the nonprofit realm with more growth options. My goal as a leader is to partner with nonprofits for professional development, leadership training, and fundraising to increase compensation for employees and help nonprofits maintain top talent, strengthening their position as an economic engine in our city and ensuring their sustainability.

NONPROFIT AGREEMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CITY
LFUCG has always focused on nuts and bolts issues like public safety and streets and roads, which is why nonprofits are essential to improving our city. Due to growing disparities in health, wealth, and safety in Lexington, I want to make strategic investments in affordable housing, local agriculture, recycling and environmental health, and workforce development. In serving ALL our residents, we can use data-based policies and partner with nonprofits and community service organizations. These investments will ultimately reduce our costs over time and protect our most vulnerable residents. Nonprofits are a major part of the success of Lexington, and supporting them is essential to the health, safety, and opportunity within our city.

FINANCES
Over the next year we will need to overcome an economic crisis and budgetary shortfall. As the city’s revenue is dependent primarily on payroll taxes, attracting additional businesses and supporting existing employers remains essential. To diversify revenue, we can consider creating new tax districts and a small single-time user fee. I support participatory budgeting so residents have an increased say in how the LFUCG allocates funds and ensure that costs are distributed equitably. Moving forward, our city’s focus needs to be directed toward maintaining essential operations, but it is also imperative that we support local businesses and organizations while making strategic investments to keep people employed, healthy, and safe.

TOP 3 POLICY PRIORITIES
At: If elected, my priorities will be economic recovery, affordable housing, and environmental sustainability. As mentioned before, the LFUCG is experiencing a budget shortfall and nonprofits will be essential to meet the needs of Lexington residents. The city should support these invaluable local organizations whenever possible, and create new nonprofit partnerships to meet policy goals. Whether supporting groups that provide economic opportunity and workforce development, expanding partnerships with affordable housing organizations, or developing contracts with environmental services groups, LFUCG should support and promote the city’s varied nonprofit sector as a way to advance our shared goals and further develop our community.

FINANCES
COVID-19 has shown the importance of diversifying revenue streams. I would explore restructuring the taxation system, so the majority of the revenue stream is not coming from one source—payroll taxes; renegotiate state contracts to give equity across govt organizations; reassess the fee structures; look closely at our public safety funds to explore ways specific departments like our police might be able to contract directly with organizations whose services they rely on, such as Arbor Youth and GreenHouse 17; and, support holding corporations receiving economic development incentives accountable for providing jobs that provide benefits and a living wage. Higher wages = more payroll tax income for local government.

TOP 3 POLICY PRIORITIES
Fully fund the Affordable Housing Fund, support impactful use of our city’s vacant land to secure long-term housing solutions, and ensure our city’s growth is self-sustaining, accessible to all, and considerate of neighborhood identity and culture. The Commission on Racial Justice and Equality should be a permanent department with a direct revenue stream and track racial equity-related metrics to help us better understand which LFUCG departments and policies are failing our BIPOC residents, and how we can better combat systemic inequalities. Work with economic entities to develop & sustainably grow the great community of Lexington businesses so they can hire more people – and pay them more – is just as important to bringing in more revenue.
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH NONPROFITS
Throughout my life I have volunteered and supported nonprofit organizations. I understand their important role and value their critical services. As your 5th District Council member, my experience has been to advocate for more consistent funding. Just last year I helped update the funding allocation method to be more inclusive and effective. This year I implored the council to add the $2.1 million in funding for all these partners left out by Mayor Gorton’s budget, restoring their annual allocation from the City in full. The council’s adopted budget included that funding. Each of these groups act in a support service role of the human condition. I thank all who work and serve - making that difference. I am glad to be your partner.

NONPROFITS AS ECONOMIC ENGINES
As we work to recruit and retain our creative class and grow and educate our workforce, Lexington’s nonprofit sector plays a big role as an employer of choice. As you create and support a fantastic work culture, I strive to protect and grow Lexington’s natural beauty and options for all. By leading the Corridors Commission, welcoming international friends as chair of the Sister Cities Commission, enacting a smoking ban and a fairness ordinance – personally, funding parks and infrastructure and keeping our city safe, these are actions that continue to set the stage for even more choice and good will. I remain glad to help.

NONPROFIT AGREEMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CITY
I felt obligated to lead the council to re-fund these partners this year as noted above and my commitment as noted there remains. Especially now, during this pandemic, the flexibility, ability to quickly adjust and individual expertise make our nonprofit partners the go-to for so many solutions. In order to keep ALL Lexingtonians safe and thriving we ALL must work together.

FINANCES
Lexington’s finances are best when employment flourishes. Working to add good jobs will elevate some of the expressed needs. The mayor may propose revenue enhancement but my preference is to get folks to work and provide them a world class city they can BOTH live and work in.

TOP 3 POLICY PRIORITIES
When re-elected, I will continue to complete the work needed to satisfy the EPA Consent Decree, the sewer work eliminating red lining in Fayette County, $350 million in total. Complete the new Convention Center and iconic re-imaging of the Arena $260 million. Both of those endeavors drive economic development by bringing more folks to Lexington out of a sense of interest - only to find they love it and move here. To me successful implementation of the Percent for Art Ordinance would be ideal. Council passed this but COVID et al has kept the funding at bay. To remedy that and begin changing Lexington in an inclusive beautiful way to help all would benefit all.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH NONPROFITS
My family recently adopted a room at GreenHouse17 for Syrs; we donate to local organizations advancing advocacy, education, direct services, and arts. I co-founded a nonprofit called Compassionate Lexington to encourage kindness and volunteerism throughout our community. For years until COVID-19, I served weekly meals at the Hope Center. I volunteer with other nonprofits: Lexington Fairness (Chair), Civilarc Board, League of Women Voters, Junior League (2019 Volunteer of the Year), Ashland Neighborhood Association Board, and Girl Scouts. I am an educator at UK in Psychology, so my chosen profession is based on service to the community as well. I understand and value the vital role our nonprofits play in making Lexington equitable and just.

NONPROFITS AS ECONOMIC ENGINES
A 2019 Civilarc study reported a diverse set of 1,964 nonprofits in our area. Their data showed trends in job stress, low compensation compared to for-profit jobs, and high turnover. These issues arise when nonprofits are under-resourced. We can continue to fund ESR, but need to do more to overcome these challenges. This will take approaches involving collaboration and promotion. In my Careers in Psy course at UK, I often invite nonprofit guest speakers to share about their profession to show my students the value of the nonprofit sector; my students often take interest and intern at these organizations. As a councilmember, I will continue to provide opportunities and partnerships that showcase nonprofits as an employer of choice.

NONPROFIT AGREEMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CITY
The nonprofit sector is vital to our community. We cannot allow nonprofits that are intervening/providing services/helping the most vulnerable to fail. The city would either have to absorb those services [at a higher cost] or, more likely, those services would suffer—if not cease to exist. We may have to make tough decisions about our budget, but our support of nonprofits providing essential services cannot be an area for savings. We are seeing our education-centered nonprofits, like Bluegrass Greensource and the Living Arts & Science Center, provide support to teachers, students, and parents during NTI. I would be a dedicated advocate for the ESR program and our nonprofits BEFORE a cut is threatened to these programs.

FINANCES
With the added stress on our already-strained budget, thoughtful leadership will be required to ensure we are meeting our community’s basic needs. Across-the-board cuts cannot get us through these challenging times. We must invest in partner agencies that meet the basic needs of our neighbors, especially where gaps have been highlighted due to COVID-19. We need to continue working with state legislators to allow our community to make fiscal decisions best suited for our needs, lower our unemployment, work to attract high paying jobs, maximize federal/state funding designed to alleviate economic strains, have honest conversations about what expenses are necessary, and be prepared to use more of our contingency fund.

TOP 3 POLICY PRIORITIES
1) Meeting basic needs (housing, food access, safety, physical and mental health) is a top priority and requires direct partnership with nonprofit service providers. 2) Smart growth and development. Our agricultural area is a vital resource to our economy and should be protected. With in-fill and redevelopment, we should prioritize affordable housing and multi-use spaces. We can partner with nonprofits for public feedback and education. 3) I will work to reduce barriers to civic engagement. These times provide an opportunity to innovate and reimagine methods of participation. I favor efforts including: providing childcare, adjusting meeting times, providing more extensive notes/recordings, and increasing education about local government.
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH NONPROFITS

As a nonprofit employee, my work focuses on supporting community-based partnerships among nonprofit and government agencies to take on challenges across early care and education, violence prevention, mentorship and training. These experiences and my service as a volunteer and board member for organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters and On the Move Art Studio, support my view of nonprofits as essential to the social infrastructure in our community. The city should work with nonprofits and other cross-sector partners to create a shared vision for success and target local investments to accelerate results.

NONPROFITS AS ECONOMIC ENGINES

In our work to support working families through COVID, we have to see nonprofit organizations and their employees as key populations for targeted support. That’s why I supported the city’s deployment of CARES funds for service employees like educators, nonprofit and retail workers at risk of being evicted and the partnership between the city, BGCF and United Way to raise private dollars for grants to organizations. As chairman of the Lextran board, I also know how important it has been that our transit system persist with suspended fares and increased safety measures to ensure that essential workers could continue to travel. I intend to be a strong partner to facilitate the resilience and fiscal health of the nonprofit community.

NONPROFIT AGREEMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CITY

When COVID hit our community, and the economy slowed, many employees faced furlough or job loss, and agencies were losing capacity at the moment they needed to be at their best. Funding through the ESR Program has facilitated partnerships with community organizations to meet critical outcomes for residents, particularly those related to youth, families and our most vulnerable populations. I supported the Council’s action to continue funding the ESR program, and believe we should leverage CARES funding to help service agencies keep their doors open and continue to work collaboratively to stabilize our neighborhoods.

FINANCES

We know that one of the strongest indicators of a positive budget forecast is a robust economy. Pre-COVID, we knew that we would face budget challenges and there was discussion about options to raise revenue. As we continue to battle a pandemic whose impact has destabilized families, schools, small businesses and the nonprofit community, I believe our essential focus must be an equitable recovery that gets this health crisis under control and fortifies our economy so that we build for the future from a place of strength.

TOP 3 POLICY PRIORITIES

Since knocking our first door last November, we have had many conversations with residents. We have found that voters in the 8th District want government to perform basic functions well, with responsive communication, and an intentional strategy for youth. I’m committed to all three, but will look to partner with our nonprofit community to build a shared strategy for youth and families. As chair of the Lextran board, I was proud of our relationship with Lexington Public Library through their Grow Up Great initiative with PNC Bank to support early learning with installations in our buses. I see nonprofits as essential partners and will work to see us do more to meet challenges with collaborations that get results.
Nonprofits as Economic Engines

We know that one of our goals as a city is to attract the best and brightest talent to work and live here. If we are supporting and sustaining non-profits that are doing good things for our community, we will attract even more individuals that choose to work for those employers that are truly making a difference. The chain effect will only continue to drive the economic development of Lexington. As a Council Member, I would work with these nonprofits to see what assistance they need to promote themselves as employers of choice and provide longevity for their overall business plan.

Nonprofit Agreements & Partnerships with the City

As a city we need to continue to support and partner with nonprofits. There are too many community programs that are needed so that no citizen is left behind. We must place priority on working with our youth and education supplementation programs, homelessness and food security programs, and all equity based programs. I would be in favor of the city matching private donations as long as it is fiscally responsible for us to do so.

Finances

It is a scary time for our city and our residents. In this time of economic uncertainty, we must look to increase revenue in new and creative ways. We have already voted to not raise property taxes, so increasing fees for other services may be an option. After a full revenue review, we could consider raising fees for permits, violation fines, and area advertising and marketing opportunities. We will survive this downfall, but we have to work hard as a community to ensure a bright future for the city of Lexington.

Top 3 Policy Priorities

If elected to council, there are many areas that I would like to work on. Most importantly, I would focus on all policies that have an impact on racial and social justice and equality. Secondly, I would turn to zone changes and initiatives that will allow smart growth within the Urban Service Boundary. Lastly, policies related to our youth are important to me. We must invest in the future of our city by creating responsible citizens and teaching our children the importance of investing in themselves and their community.

Personal Experiences with Nonprofits

Through non-profit donations, I have seen the importance and influence private donations can have on different types of organizations. Through a city donation matching program, we could encourage elevated private donations and in turn earmark budget money to match these private donations. The budget matching programs would benefit those nonprofits that have the highest impact on our community. We have to do all we can to responsibly support those nonprofits that our city cannot live without. We cannot continue to grow as a city and fight for an equitable society, if we do not place priority on our nonprofit partners.

Nonprofits as Economic Engines

When we devote the proper resources to something greater than ourselves, we have the power to change the lives of others less fortunate. The more we support the causes that matter to us, the better our community can become. I will strongly support cooperation between local government and the nonprofit sector as a productive way to promote the public good. I believe government must strive to meet its obligation in this collaboration by adequately financing these invaluable community services carried out by nonprofits whenever possible.

Nonprofit Agreements & Partnerships with the City

The City of Lexington is facing an unprecedented budget shortfall for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, funding future agreements and partnerships with nonprofits will remain a significant challenge. I will certainly remain acutely aware of the pressing need for local government to adequately meet its obligations in the relationship between the City and the nonprofit sector.

Finances

First and foremost, the next City Council must ensure that each taxpayer dollar is spent thoughtfully and frugally. Significant changes for increasing revenue sources, however, would involve legislative changes at the state level. I pledge to support maintaining an open line of communication with our state elected representatives to keep the conversation moving forward which is in Lexington’s financial interests.

Top 3 Policy Priorities

My priorities will be working to make our neighborhoods safer; public safety is essential, followed by strong financial management, and ensuring basic City services are the best that they can be. Nonprofits certainly would be factored in with providing basic services to our citizens.
TOP 3 POLICY PRIORITIES

Expanding the Paramedicine Program would be one of my top priorities. Another would be providing critical stabilization units with psychiatric emergency services that are permanent structures not mobile units. A third priority would be to provide training for crisis intervention with youth for police officers. With all three priorities there is always opportunities for collaboration with non-profits and I would be pleased when we all came to the table together to create the most robust and successful programs for our community.

FINANCES

As an investment manager, I feel that I am most interested in tackling the city’s current financial situation. I know a lot of ways to restructure debt and hope that once I can take a hard look at the city’s books I can find creative ways to address our needs in the near term while the city runs at a deficit.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH NONPROFITS

For the last 10 years I have been a board member and president of the Kloiber Foundation right here in Lexington KY. Our goal has been to enhance the use of technology in our children’s education in order to better prepare them for the world they will graduate into. To date we have been one of the single largest donors to Fayette County Public Schools, and have helped in achieving a 1:1 ratio of devices to children in our school system. In this time I have come to understand how much can be accomplished through collaboration, and as a policy matter, I will be very interested to try to leverage all available partnerships for the mutual benefit of our community.

NONPROFITS AS ECONOMIC ENGINES

From this perspective I would look to treat them like any other business. Our city needs guidance and stimulus in order to grow economically, and that growth comes from helping and supporting the businesses who are driving our economic engine. Each industry faces its own unique challenges, and some may require more assistance than others, but as a councilman for the sixth district I will look for any possibilities available to cultivate growth in our community.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH NONPROFITS

While my experience with non-profits has been limited to the six years I have served on the Urban County Council, my respect and appreciation for the work that is accomplished by all organizations has grown beyond anyone’s imagination. We are truly blessed to have so many people who work tirelessly every day to help the most vulnerable community members. The value in partnerships not only with the city but with others in the community has shown me what collaboration and successes are supposed to look like.

NONPROFITS AS ECONOMIC ENGINES

Recognizing the level of importance that jobs are to Lexington-Fayette County as our top revenue driver, I greatly value the jobs that non-profits bring to our community. I am supportive of all employers who strive to bring more jobs to help increase our revenues.

NONPROFITS AS ECONOMIC ENGINES

At this crossroads. We have been running at an operating loss in key areas for some time, while increasing the amount of programs the city government undertakes. This is unsustainable going forward, and we must find a way to reconcile these two things. I would love to see more social programs and partnerships fostered through our local government, but it is hard to commit to a course of action that will require dedicated funding if the citizens are not interested in committing financially to the cause. As a Councilman I plan to address our communities directly in an attempt to generate widespread support to increase funding to both existing and new programs through the LFUCG.

TOP 3 POLICY PRIORITIES

My number one priority is to address the deficit that our city now faces. I strongly believe that we can redevelop the city’s financial weakness into a strength as we move out of this time of worldwide pandemic. With that as the goal, as a Councilman, I plan to do everything I can to stimulate economic growth in the community, so that our city can continue to provide the kind of services and amenities that make Lexington a great place to live and work.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.

FINANCES

There are numerous ways to increase revenue for local governments. However, in Kentucky our hands are tied because the Ky Revised Statutes prohibit local government’s ability to be creative with revenue sources that align more so with their communities. I remain hopeful that 2021 Legislative Session would take under consideration more options for local governments to create revenue options that fit more properly with each community.
I am proud of my voting record to support the nonprofit community as they are critical components in the efforts we all play toward a stronger community. I currently serve on three nonprofit boards and volunteer in others so I see first hand how important the work is as it assists our city in important goals like education, healthcare, workforce development, youth development, senior care, homelessness, crisis intervention, literacy and so many others. My priority is simply to do what’s best for Lexington and I value the how our nonprofit community employees and volunteers join me in that effort as we all work together for the best Lexington can be.

As past President/CEO of United Way of the Bluegrass 2000-2009 I am very familiar with most of all the health and service agencies in the region. I have served in all the areas mentioned above as a board member, volunteer, donor and employee. UWBG I have deep respect and support for our non-profit sector due to the tremendous impact on basic needs and quality of life as I have seen and have been involved first hand.

I feel like I am a good ambassador for our non-profits as I the merits of the sector to others, especially my current council colleagues. I feel like the education about non-profits is critical. I founded 100 Women 6 years ago which is a women’s donor organization that will be reaching one half million dollars to area agencies that provide programming for women and their children.

Our revenue is primarily dependent on payroll tax. An increase at this time would be tough considering the current situation with unemployment. It would not be popular. However when you look at the both payroll and net profits taxes a .25% would generate $27 million in revenue. This translates into minimal increases for our citizens. An example let’s say a person makes $50,000 a year a .25% increase would translate into an additional $125 annual payment. When you break it down like that it is much more palatable. We are out of additional funding sources and we might have to consider this option.

Land use (because I represent 73% of the land mass in Fayette County), revenue growth for the city which would directly impact our non-profits, Racial disparities also need to be addressed and would impact some of our non-profits in a positive way.
3 WAYS TO VOTE IN LEXINGTON:

Absentee Ballot

- ANY KENTUCKIAN MAY REQUEST A BALLOT BY MAIL DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS.
- Ballots can be requested at www.govoteky.com or through the Fayette County Clerk through October 9.
- Mail ballots must be postmarked by November 3 and received by November 6.
- You can return your absentee ballot by mail or at one of the following 5 locations: Tates Creek Branch Library, Northside Branch Library, Beaumont Branch Library, Lexington Senior Center, BCTC Leestown Campus, or Fayette County Clerk’s Office.
- Absentee ballot drop boxes will be deployed by October 1 and will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The boxes are bright blue and are identified as a "Ballot Drop Box."

Early Voting

- ANYONE MAY VOTE EARLY FOR ANY REASON. Early voting is NOT absentee voting.
- Dates: October 13 through November 2, Monday through Friday 8:30am-4pm, and Saturday 9am-1pm.
- You may vote at ANY of the locations below - there are no specific voting precincts.

Election Day Voting

- In-person voting on Election Day (November 3) will take place from 6am to 6pm.
- You may vote at ANY of the locations below - there are no specific voting precincts.

Lexington locations for Early Voting & Election Day Voting

- Tates Creek Branch Library
- Northside Branch Library
- Beaumont Branch Library
- Dunbar Center
- Lexington Senior Center
- BCTC Leestown Campus
- Wellington Elementary
- Garrett Morgan Elementary