

2015 GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

# VOTER'S GUIDE TO BUSINESS ISSUES



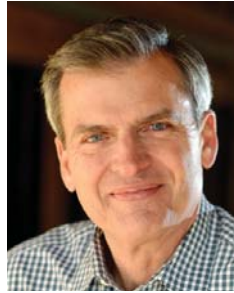
BEVIN



COMER



CONWAY



HEINER



SCOTT



YOUNG



A PUBLICATION OF THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# KNOW THE ISSUES



**Kentucky Chamber**  
*Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.*

**AHEAD OF THE 2015** gubernatorial primary elections, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce has put together a voter's guide for the citizens of the Commonwealth. With all of the noise in political campaigns, it can be hard to compare the candidates in races on their stances. So the Kentucky Chamber has compiled the stances of all six candidates in both primary elections, four Republicans and two Democrats, on the issues important to the business community and the state. The following stances have been gathered through responses by each candidate to a policy survey from the Kentucky Chamber as well as various public remarks made by the candidates. As a non-partisan organization, the Kentucky Chamber does not endorse in statewide races but our organization hopes this voter's guide gives the people of the Commonwealth the information they need before heading to the polls Tuesday, May 19.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS



The Kentucky Chamber logo on each page indicates the Chamber's position on each topic. Each issue page features the stance of the Kentucky Chamber as well as all candidates in the gubernatorial primary races.

**3** JOB CREATION

**4** PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

**5** PUBLIC PENSION REFORM

**7** EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**8** CHARTER SCHOOLS

**9** COMMON CORE STANDARD

**10** HIGHER EDUCATION

**11** HEALTH CARE

**13** LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX

**14** MINIMUM WAGE

**15** COAL INDUSTRY

**17** RIGHT-TO-WORK, SMOKE-FREE  
WORKPLACES, MEDICAL LIABILITY

# MEET THE CANDIDATES



**MATT BEVIN**

**PARTY**  
Republican

**OCCUPATION**  
Businessman

**HOMETOWN**  
Louisville

**RUNNING MATE**  
Jenean Hampton



**JAMES COMER**

**PARTY**  
Republican

**OCCUPATION**  
Kentucky Agriculture  
Commissioner

**HOMETOWN**  
Tompkinsville

**RUNNING MATE**  
Sen. Chris McDaniel



**JACK CONWAY**

**PARTY**  
Democrat

**OCCUPATION**  
Attorney General of  
Kentucky

**HOMETOWN**  
Louisville

**RUNNING MATE**  
Rep. Sannie Overly



**HAL HEINER**

**PARTY**  
Republican

**OCCUPATION**  
Businessman

**HOMETOWN**  
Louisville

**RUNNING MATE**  
K.C. Crosbie



**WILL T. SCOTT**

**PARTY**  
Republican

**OCCUPATION**  
Retired Kentucky  
Supreme Court Judge

**HOMETOWN**  
Pikeville

**RUNNING MATE**  
Rodney Coffey



**GEOFF YOUNG**

**PARTY**  
Democrat

**OCCUPATION**  
Retired Engineer

**HOMETOWN**  
Lexington

**RUNNING MATE**  
Johnathan Masters

## STANCE SUMMARY



**SUPPORTS  
CHAMBER  
POSITION**



**OPPOSE  
CHAMBER  
POSITION**



**STANCE  
EXPLAINED  
ON ISSUE PAGE**

CHAMBER POSITIONS ON ISSUES BELOW OUTLINED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

	BEVIN	COMER	CONWAY	HEINER	SCOTT	YOUNG
CHARTER SCHOOLS	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	○
COMMON CORE STANDARDS	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	○
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
RIGHT-TO-WORK	✓	✓	✗	✓	○	✗
LEGAL REFORM	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✗
SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACES	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX	✗	✗	○	✗	✓	✗
OPPOSES MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓





# JOB CREATION

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER BELIEVES PROMOTING LONG-TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB GROWTH SHOULD BE A TOP CONSIDERATION WHEN STATE REVENUE POLICIES ARE ADOPTED. IT IS CRITICAL THAT KENTUCKY BE SUCCESSFUL IN ITS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE BUSINESS RECRUITMENT, CREATION AND EXPANSION.

## MATT BEVIN

"I will enact the proposals in my Blueprint for a Better Kentucky in to law. My Blueprint is a plan to bring jobs and economic opportunity to Kentucky. I was the first candidate in this race to release a detailed jobs plan," Bevin wrote in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## JAMES COMER

In the Chamber's policy survey, Comer said he will work with Kentucky's businesses and employers to attract new jobs to the state by: passing tax reform that includes cutting taxes on small businesses, easing the regulatory burden on small businesses and making Kentucky a "right-to-work" state.

## JACK CONWAY

"Growing good-paying jobs in Kentucky is my top priority, and I have a lot of ideas about how we can do it. I will create a cabinet level Office of Small Business Advocacy that will give the private sector a seat at the table, and find new ways that we can cut red tape and support our small businesses which are the true engines of job creation. Education is also critical to job creation--which is why in addition to investments in early childhood education I will realign our Workforce Development and Economic Cabinets in order to make sure that our workers have the skills they need to get hired and that businesses have access to a well-trained workforce. We can also incentivize job creation by encouraging partnerships between our colleges and the private sector. To support our rural economy, I will invest in improved broadband--the infrastructure of the 21st Century. I will continue to fight for Kentucky's coal economy in order to protect these good-paying jobs and to keep our energy costs low," Conway wrote in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## HAL HEINER

In the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey, Heiner said the problems facing Kentucky can be tied back to an underperforming economy that doesn't have enough high-paying jobs and added that Frankfort needs "common sense business principles" to turn the state around. "I'll focus on passing a statewide right-to-work law, reforming our antiquated tax code with an emphasis on cutting income tax rates and changing the regulatory culture to a partnership approach including fast track permitting. All of these reforms are predicated upon solving our financial crisis that has us saddled with an underfunded pension system and an abysmal credit rating," Heiner wrote.

## WILL T. SCOTT

"Showing employers we are committed to paying our bills as a state, lowering our corporate tax rate 1% and doing a better job of explaining to potential employers how to take advantage of our natural resources are key to beginning the long process of digging Kentucky out of the strategic disadvantages we have placed on ourselves," Scott wrote in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## GEOFF YOUNG

"Cleaning up corruption is a central element, starting with the five most powerful members of the Kentucky Democratic Party. They are trying as hard as they can to rig the primary election in favor of Jack Conway. A state with rampant corruption at the very top of at least one of its major parties is a state that cannot develop economically," Young wrote in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.



# PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER SUPPORTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP LEGISLATION (P3) TO PROVIDE AN EXPLICIT FRAMEWORK FOR THE USE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AS AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, OR FINANCING OF CAPITAL PROJECTS AND SERVICES BY STATE GOVERNMENT.

## MATT BEVIN



Bevin does not support public-private partnership legislation. “P3 sounds fantastic because it’s always fun to think we are going to spend someone else’s money and solve our problems,” Bevin said in a northern Kentucky debate. Bevin has said if the state government is having to borrow money from the private sector to pay for a project, maybe the state can’t afford to address it (cn|2, 3/27/2015).

## JAMES COMER



Comer has stated he supports public-private partnership legislation as long as the scope of projects is well-defined and noting he does not support tolling to pay for a new bridge in northern Kentucky. “This is not a solution for projects like the Brent Spence Bridge and I will oppose any effort to use P3 for that purpose,” Comer said in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## JACK CONWAY



Conway supports public-private partnership legislation. “I support public-private partnerships because they give us flexibility and another tool in the toolbox to meet the goals of building infrastructure critical to Kentucky’s economic future and creating good-paying jobs,” Conway wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## HAL HEINER



Heiner supports public-private partnership legislation. “Kentucky needs to have every tool available to promote economic development and meet Kentucky’s infrastructure needs. In other states it has worked well yet we remain one of the few states without this important legislation. P3 helps states provide projects and services in the most efficient manner, and I support Kentucky joining the majority of states that have this tool available to them to reduce costs for taxpayers,” Heiner wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## WILL T. SCOTT



Scott has said he supports public-private partnership legislation as long as it is not used to impose tolls on the Brent Spence bridge project. Scott said he believes P3s will help Kentucky in a lot of areas in government and private enterprise coordination (cn|2, 3/27/2015).

## GEOFF YOUNG



Young does not support public-private partnership legislation. “I feel P3 limits state sovereignty to an excessive degree. I oppose toll roads in general. The best way to achieve the repair and enhancement of our infrastructure is comprehensive tax reform,” Young wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.



# PUBLIC PENSION REFORM

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER SUPPORTS REFORMS TO THE STATE'S RETIREMENT SYSTEMS TO ENSURE FINANCIAL STABILITY.



## Pensions

“THE PENSION SITUATION HAS, BY FAR, THE MOST IMMEDIATE AND CONSEQUENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FINANCIAL WELL-BEING OF OUR STATE. THE IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING THESE PENSION ISSUES CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. IN SHORT, THE FISCAL CHALLENGES FACING THE PUBLIC PENSION SYSTEMS REPRESENT THE SINGLE MOST SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO KENTUCKY’S ABILITY TO ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS AND THE SERVICES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR CITIZENS.”

– **DAVE ADKISSON**

KENTUCKY CHAMBER PRESIDENT & CEO

---

## MATT BEVIN

“As governor, I will call for an immediate, outside and transparent audit of every single state retirement plan. All resulting information will be made available to the public. All new hires must be enrolled in a standard 401(k) type plan similar to those in the private sector, and we must examine all options for moving existing employees into the same plan. State employees will own and have managerial control over their own retirement accounts. Putting individual employees in charge of their own retirement plans will free the taxpayers of Kentucky from new future liabilities and will decrease our indebtedness over time,” Bevin wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey. “All current employees should be required to make increased pension contributions in order to help secure their own pensions and make the system more financially sound. As governor, I will refuse to take a taxpayer-funded pension and will seek to eliminate taxpayer-funded pension plans for all future elected officials in Kentucky.”

---

## JAMES COMER

“We should honor our commitments to current beneficiaries, but we must change retirement benefits for new hires going forward if we ever want a solvent system. Giving future hires a 401(k) style plan is a good first step,” Comer said in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey. Comer has also said he will push to privatize the management of the state’s pension systems. “Kentucky domiciled investment firms can manage our pension systems better than bureaucrats in Frankfort.”

## JACK CONWAY

“The most important thing we can do to address Kentucky’s pension crisis is to grow our economy and create more good-paying jobs—which will be my top priority as governor. I will also target and root out waste, fraud and abuse in order to save money in the pension system, like I did through Medicaid fraud and civil collections. I’m the only candidate in this race to actually return money to the pension fund as a result of my lawsuit against Bank of America, which netted \$23 million for our pension system. Finally, I will work with both parties to make certain that we are continuing to make the contributions called for by the actuary in order to get our pension system healthy again,” Conway wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## HAL HEINER

“The pension problems in Kentucky are the result of overpromising when times were good and underfunding when times were bad. The only way to begin to address this problem is by stopping the bleeding - making the full Actuarially Required Contribution (ARC) payment immediately. There is no simple option around this but it will only get worse if we don’t fully fund the ARC now. We have got to honor past commitments and end the accrual of liabilities we cannot pay under the current defined benefit plan,” Heiner said in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## WILL T. SCOTT

Scott has said the pension contract is one that cannot be terminated under constitutional law and the state must pay its obligations (WDRB, 4/8/2015). On his campaign site, Scott states all options must be considered including letting citizens vote on a constitutional amendment to allow gaming in the state and if passed, put 95% of the revenue from gaming toward paying for unfunded liabilities in the pension systems. “Kentuckians are already gambling, but generating taxes to pay the bills for citizens of other states. I estimate we can generate \$250 million a year simply by keeping those dollars within our borders,” Scott wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## GEOFF YOUNG

Young stated that comprehensive tax reform is a way to shore up the state’s woefully underfunded retirement systems. “The super-rich, ultra super-rich, and billionaires have been getting a free ride for the last 30 or 40 years. I’d work with the General Assembly to eliminate the sales tax, which is regressive, and raise the tax rate on the richest and most powerful 5% of the population. TAX THE RICH,” Young wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER BELIEVES THE STATE MUST INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND MAKE GREATER INVESTMENTS IN ENHANCED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS FOR KENTUCKY'S DEVELOPING YOUTH.

## MATT BEVIN

"Parents should be empowered to make the basic choices for their children's education and be given the right to decide how their children's education dollars should be used, whether toward a public school, charter school, private school, or a home school," Bevin said in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey. On the survey, Bevin also added remarks about the need for charter schools and school choice options.

## JAMES COMER

"The Comer-McDaniel Administration will develop a more sophisticated student tracking system to ensure that children are not "double counted" when they transfer schools. This will reduce the double-counting problem of our current system and save Kentucky millions of dollars annually. The savings from this change will then be invested in early childhood reading and math programs for struggling students," Comer said in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## JACK CONWAY

"As we build upon Governor Beshear's legacy of getting healthcare for more of Kentucky's kids through the Medicaid expansion, we should look for ways to get those same kids into early education opportunities. Getting these lower-income children into early education programs will break the cycle of poverty in Kentucky. This will be a high priority for my administration," Conway wrote in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## HAL HEINER

"While I disagree with my Democratic opponent on universal early childhood education, I recognize that it is particularly important for parents who are in job training - trying to improve their workplace skills so they can better provide for their families. As governor, I would work to increase early childhood education options for families in these types of situations," Heiner wrote in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## WILL T. SCOTT

"I oppose expanding or making early childhood school attendance mandatory. Insufficient evidence supports it, and I think we should give kids a chance to be kids," Scott wrote in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## GEOFF YOUNG

Young responded to a question by the Kentucky Chamber about his plan about early childhood education by stating simply "imitate what works."





# CHARTER SCHOOLS

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF CHARTER SCHOOLS, INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE TUITION-FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION CHOICES TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS.

## MATT BEVIN



Bevin supports charter schools. “Kentucky should adopt policies that allow counties to fund (and local educators and parents to establish), public charter schools that cater to the particular needs of each community. Burdensome regulations that get in the way of charter schools should be eliminated. Until such time as all the education dollars follow the child, families who choose to home school their children should have access to the same public amenities provided to children who attend state-funded schools,” Bevin wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## JAMES COMER



Comer supports the idea of charter schools. In his education plan, Comer says school choice is a vital tool for improving the quality of education in the state. Comer writes in his plan “we support charter schools, but we also realize charter schools are not a one-size-fits-all approach to school choice. Therefore, we will promote school voucher programs and tuition assistance tax credits that give underperforming schools a chance for a world-class education.”

## JACK CONWAY



Conway stated in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey he is in favor of ideas similar to charter schools. “I support school innovations like charter schools as long as resources and funds aren’t diverted away from Kentucky’s public schools. These schools must also abide by the same high standards, including transparency, as our public schools,” Conway wrote.

## HAL HEINER



Heiner supports charter schools. Heiner often touts his longtime advocacy of school choice as he founded the Kentucky Charter Schools Association. “For the past twenty years, I have been civically engaged in education improvement efforts. Through these experiences, I’ve been able to see first-hand how many of our schools are excelling but I’ve also seen how nearly half of our Kentucky students are falling behind. This is unacceptable,” Heiner wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## WILL T. SCOTT



Scott supports charter schools. “Competition works to improve services wherever it is tried. We need competition in Kentucky schools, and I will support efforts to bring charter schools to Kentucky to improve education here,” Scott wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## GEOFF YOUNG



Young stated in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey that his support of charter schools would depend on how they are implemented in the state. “If they’re used to take money from the public school system and/or bust teachers’ unions, I’m opposed to them. If they can be implemented with the voluntary cooperation of teachers’ unions and in such a way as not to damage public schools, they could be beneficial.”



# COMMON CORE STANDARDS

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER SUPPORTS THE RIGOROUS EDUCATION STANDARDS PUT IN PLACE THROUGH THE KENTUCKY CORE ACADEMIC STANDARDS (COMMON CORE).

## MATT BEVIN



Bevin does not support common core standards. Bevin has said the educational standards are “unconstitutional overreach” (Courier-Journal, 5/14/14) and has run an ad during his campaign featuring a member of a group called “Ohioans Against Common Core” discussing her opinion that the standards should be repealed to help Kentucky students.

## JAMES COMER



Comer does not support common core standards. Comer has stated he doesn’t agree with the “one-size-fits-all” approach of common core and said he believes Kentucky should develop our own educational standards (cn|2, 7/22/2015).

## JACK CONWAY



Conway supports common core standards. “The most important goal of our schools is to make sure Kentucky’s students are college and career ready. The best way to do that is to maintain local control because those closest to our students know how best to improve our education and give our kids the skills they need for the future. I support necessary changes to common core standards to make sure our students are getting the best education possible,” Conway wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## HAL HEINER



Heiner does not support common core standards. Heiner told northern Kentucky Republicans he would ask lawmakers to shelve common core and replace the standards with more advanced ones established in Kentucky (cn|2, 3/14/15). “We were the first state to adopt Common Core standards and did so before they were even written. Now that the federal government has moved into providing testing for Common Core, we need to build a firewall between Kentucky and the federal government to make sure our high standards reflect Kentucky’s needs and priorities,” Heiner wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## WILL T. SCOTT



Scott does not support common core standards. “I reject the premise of Common Core standardization as well as the program’s methods and the idea that we need to keep expanding the role of the federal government in Kentucky schools. We should let our teachers teach and get the federal government out of our classrooms,” Scott wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## GEOFF YOUNG



Young said he does not have a formal position on common core standards. “I’m suspicious of any mandated curriculum. Standardized tests and mandated curricula don’t lead to learning; good teachers and academic freedom do. I strongly support the reinstatement of KERA, the 1990 reform legislation that went beyond standardized tests. I oppose the “No Child Left Behind” Act of 2001 and the vast expansion of testing that followed in its wake. I feel its goals are antithetical to real learning and education,” Young stated in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.



# HIGHER EDUCATION

INVESTMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION SHOULD BE DIRECTLY TIED TO PERFORMANCE AND HELPING ENSURE THESE INVESTMENTS CORRELATE WITH A WELL-PREPARED WORKFORCE. WITH A FOCUS ON LIFELONG LEARNING, THE CHAMBER WORKS TO ENSURE THAT KENTUCKY'S ECONOMY BENEFITS FROM A PREPARED, PRODUCTIVE AND DIVERSE WORKFORCE.

## MATT BEVIN

"As governor, I will incentivize and support an education system that results in a highly employable workforce. Well-structured vocational training programs are an example of how we will develop workers with the technical and life skills necessary to contribute to and thrive in a strong economy," Bevin said in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## JAMES COMER

Comer and McDaniel have put forth a plan for higher education to give tax incentives to students who graduate from a Kentucky school in four years and then stay in Kentucky to begin their careers. "Students who accept a job in Kentucky and live in Kentucky will be reimbursed for tuition over those amounts through annual tax credits on their Kentucky tax returns after graduation. Tax credits will total up to \$20,000 for graduates from flagship universities and up to \$15,000 for graduates from regional universities. Students must graduate in 4 years to be eligible for these tax credits. The Comer-McDaniel 2015 Plan for Higher Education is budget neutral," Comer wrote in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey. "By improving the business climate in Kentucky, businesses will want to locate here but only if we can provide them with a well-educated, well-prepared workforce. We want to incentivize our graduates to stay here in Kentucky, to lay a solid foundation for a competitive business climate. Therefore, students will only be eligible for these tax credits if they are Kentucky taxpayers after graduation."

## JACK CONWAY

"I will pursue a top-to-bottom review of higher education in Kentucky. I pledge to start Higher Education Reform 2.0--a second round of education reform that will assess what's working and what needs to be changed with a focus on college affordability to make sure Kentuckians aren't being priced out of a college education. As Attorney General I fought to stop for-profit colleges that were taking advantage of Kentucky students. As governor I'll continue to fight to make sure that Kentucky's students are getting affordable and quality education," Conway said in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## HAL HEINER

"One of the promises made to Kentuckians was that lottery proceeds would be dedicated to student scholarships. Now we are seeing over \$80 million diverted to the general fund over the current budget biennium. This is money that should be flowing to need-based scholarships and it is a practice that I will not support as governor. We need to maintain a high-quality university and community college system and this is one way to make that happen," Heiner wrote in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## WILL T. SCOTT

"I would implement a HOPE scholarship type of program to provide college tuition for good students," Scott said in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## GEOFF YOUNG

Young responded to a question by the Kentucky Chamber about his plan about higher childhood education by stating simply "tax the ultra super-rich."



# HEALTH CARE REFORM

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER IS FOCUSED ON DEVELOPING COMPREHENSIVE, LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO HELP SLOW THE EVER-INCREASING COSTS OF HEALTH CARE IN KENTUCKY AND TO PROMOTE PUBLIC POLICIES THAT WILL HELP IMPROVE THE OVERALL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF KENTUCKY'S CITIZENS.



---

## MATT BEVIN

Bevin has stated he would repeal the statewide health exchange set up in Kentucky through the Affordable Care Act (Kynect) and transition Kentuckians to the federal exchange. Bevin has argued that “having health insurance doesn’t make you healthy,” and said that the state should be offering incentives to Kentuckians for healthy behavior (CN|2 debate, 4/21/15). “I have been the only candidate in this race to clearly and consistently call for Kynect to be dismantled,” Bevin stated in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey. “We will use the open enrollment period to transition people over to the federal exchange.”

---

## JAMES COMER

Comer and his running mate, state Sen. Chris McDaniel, have released a health plan where the campaign calls for the health exchange (Kynect) to be dismantled and work on incentivizing people to live healthier lives. “Kynect is just an exchange. Eighty percent of people who get healthcare through Kynect are on Medicaid. We need to be focused on getting people off of Medicaid and into private healthcare plans. We do that by changing the business climate in Kentucky like passing right-to-work legislation and reforming our tax code to be business friendly,” Comer wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

---

## JACK CONWAY

Governor Beshear has made Kentucky into a model state for insuring more of its citizens. I will work to build on his legacy but be ready to make the tough decisions about what we can afford and what we can’t,” Conway said in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

---

## HAL HEINER

“The expected cost of this expansion in 2020 when the bill comes due has been estimated to approach \$400 million. Second, Kynect is a healthcare exchange that is self-financed via a tax on insurance policies sold on the exchange. Do I support Gov. Beshear’s Medicaid expansion as it currently exists? No. But it is also important to remember that dismantling Kynect will not have any positive budgetary impact on the Commonwealth,” Heiner wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey. “I have called for a full repeal of the Affordable Care Act and stand with Sens. McConnell and Paul in doing so. In the meantime, we are left with an expanded Medicaid system that must be reformed - both to protect the survival of our rural hospitals but also to fit within our budget constraints as a Commonwealth. As Governor, I’ll work to bring accountability and personal responsibility into our healthcare system by introducing programs that are working in other states - health savings accounts, deductibles, provider choice incentives, and healthy lifestyle incentives that can bring down costs for the entire system.”

---

## WILL T. SCOTT

Scott has said the Patient Care Act, legislation introduced by a group of Republican U.S. Senators as an alternative to the Affordable Care Act, is the solution to the health care problems because Scott says the legislation keeps the inclusion of individuals with pre-existing conditions and letting a person stay on their parents’ insurance until age 26 but does away with the mandate of ACA (cn|2 debate, 4/21/2015). “We don’t need Kynect. It’ll be much cheaper to use the federal exchange, and, of course, we can transfer our info to them and save money by doing it,” Scott wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey adding he would sign an executive order to close kynect on his first day in office.

---

## GEOFF YOUNG

Young has stated on his blog that the creation of the health exchange in Kentucky through the Affordable Care Act was “most courageous thing Beshear has done in his administration” (Young4KY blog post, 2/7/2015). In the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey, Young wrote “I support a single-payer health insurance system similar to those in Australia, Canada, and dozens of other advanced countries. Vermont is trying to move toward single-payer on a one-state level, and I would imitate their efforts. The ACA should include the public option that was originally a part of it but was stripped out for political reasons. If Kynect has problems, I will make fixing them a high priority.”





# LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX



THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER SUPPORTS LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX LEGISLATION (LIFT) TO ALLOW CITIZENS IN A COMMUNITY TO VOTE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT TO INCREASE THEIR OWN SALES TAX SLIGHTLY IN ORDER TO PAY FOR A CERTAIN PROJECT IN THEIR AREA.

## MATT BEVIN



Bevin does not support local option sales tax legislation. Bevin has said raising taxes of any kind would “push more jobs out of our state and dissuade others from coming” to the state (Associated Press, 2/10/2015).

## JAMES COMER



Comer said in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey he does not support LIFT. In an Associated Press article, Comer stated he is normally in favor of local control but raising taxes in the current climate was not something he supports. “It’s hard for me to imagine that people even in more liberal parts of the state are going to vote themselves a sales tax increase” (AP, 2/10/15).

## JACK CONWAY



“We have to hold the line on taxes to keep Kentucky competitive. The need for local projects must be balanced with the need to keep our taxes low to attract and keep businesses in our state,” Conway wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## HAL HEINER



Heiner does not support LIFT. “Our state needs comprehensive tax reform - reform that helps our antiquated tax code meet the demands of the 21st century economy, eases compliance for taxpayers, and lowers income tax rates. As I have campaigned across Kentucky, I have reiterated this need for tax reform and plan to prioritize tax reform as governor. A local option sales tax could be a part of that comprehensive tax reform package, but I will not support it as a standalone effort,” Heiner said in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## WILL T. SCOTT



Scott supports local option sales tax but has warned against over spending by government (Associated Press, 2/10/2015). “Local voter decision-making on a limited, visible sales tax with a sunset provision is a better way to finance local projects than just writing them into the state budget without the same limits on taxes or spending,” Scott wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## GEOFF YOUNG



Young said he does not support LIFT because “sales taxes are regressive” (Kentucky Chamber policy survey).



# MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

TO ENHANCE WORKFORCE FLEXIBILITY, THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER OPPOSES STATE AND LOCAL WAGE MANDATES, SAFETY REGULATIONS AND ADDITIONAL STANDARDS THAT EXCEED FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS.

## MATT BEVIN

Bevin does not support legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. During his U.S. Senate campaign, Bevin stated he believes the federal government has no role in telling businesses what to pay workers. “I don’t see anywhere it’s been constitutionally defined,” Bevin said. (Think Progress, 5/9/2014)

## JAMES COMER

Comer does not support legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. In public comments, Comer has stated he believes everything needs to be looked at and “we all agree you can’t live on \$7.50 an hour,” but he would rather see growth in the economy with more high-paying jobs and making sure businesses that are not paying a living wage are not getting tax incentives (Lexington Herald-Leader, 9/14/2014). When asked if he would veto an increase as governor, Comer said the rate should match the federal minimum wage “no more, no less” (Glasgow Daily Times, 12/9/2014).

## JACK CONWAY

Conway supports legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. “I support raising the minimum wage. I would prefer an increase at the federal level to keep Kentucky on a level playing field,” Conway said in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## HAL HEINER

Heiner does not support legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. “An increase in the minimum wage will hurt Kentuckians because it will eliminate entry-level jobs, making it even harder for job seekers to find work and gain work experience. Additionally, as I’ve seen in my own business background, it is clear that an increase in the minimum wage will hurt our ability to compete for jobs and economic growth with surrounding states,” Heiner wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## WILL T. SCOTT

Scott does not support legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. Scott has stated that raising the wage would affect border businesses, but believes raising the rate at the federal level would be better because it would make sure “everyone’s in the same boat,” (State Journal, 4/16/2015).

## GEOFF YOUNG

Young does not support the effort at the state level to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. “I strongly support an increase in the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, but I oppose county-wide or Kentucky-only increases in the absence of action by the U.S. Congress. Too many jobs and businesses could be driven out of Kentucky, Jefferson County, and/or Fayette County, and no one would benefit from that,” Young wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.



# COAL INDUSTRY

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TO ENSURE THE LONGEVITY AND SUCCESS OF KENTUCKY'S SIGNATURE COAL INDUSTRY.



## MATT BEVIN

Matt Bevin has said he believes the state should continue to focus on coal as its main energy source and that he believes there is no reason the state shouldn't be maximizing the use of this resource (cn|2 debate, 4/21/15 and Americans for Prosperity debate, 4/28/15). Bevin also says the state should not submit an implementation plan for the Clean Power Plan from the EPA (cn|2 debate, 4/21/15). "As governor, I will not enforce onerous federal regulations that are economically detrimental to our state and harmful to our citizens. The governor's office will use its constitutional right and legal discretion when enforcing environmental laws. This may include instructing its regulatory enforcement agencies to ignore federal regulations that are unreasonable and excessive. Kentucky should join with other states in asserting the legal protections guaranteed to it under the tenth amendment. Any federal financial incentives the state of Kentucky would forfeit through non-enforcement of excessive federal regulations, pale in comparison to the costs of enforcing regulations that are economically debilitating and harmful to Kentucky families," Bevin said in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.

## JAMES COMER

James Comer has stated he wants to see the state to continue focusing on coal as the center of the state's energy portfolio but that the commonwealth should also look to diversifying including looking into natural gas and fixing the permitting process in the state (cn|2 debate, 4/21/15 and Americans for Prosperity debate, 4/28/15). Comer has also noted that he does not believe the state should submit an implementation plan for the Clean Power Plan, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation that sets carbon reduction mandates for each state (cn|2 debate, 4/21/15). Comer said in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey he believes the Obama administration's environmental policies are to blame for much of the decline in the resource. "Coal production in Kentucky decreased by nearly 12% in 2013 and declined again in 2014. Additionally, Kentucky coal mining jobs decreased by over 15% over the last two years with the same trends projected to continue. I understand the critical role that coal has played in our economy for decades. As your next Governor, I will fight for Kentucky's coal industry because low utility rates bring business and business brings jobs," Comer said.

## JACK CONWAY

“Coal is an important part of our state’s energy future. I will always fight for Kentucky coal and the good-paying jobs and low-cost energy it brings to our state--that’s why I was the only Democratic Attorney General to sue President Obama and the EPA on new proposals that would harm our coal industry. I will continue to make decisions on energy issues that put Kentucky coal communities first, but we also need to pursue an all-of-the-above energy strategy when it comes to sources of energy generation,” Conway said in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey. Conway has stated he would not continue the Beshear administration’s work on an implementation plan “until the court has ruled on the lawsuit” (WFPL, 3/13/15).

## HAL HEINER

Hal Heiner has stated he believes coal is very important to Kentucky for many reasons, including the low utility costs that attract business to the state (Americans for Prosperity debate, 4/28/15) and said the state has only mined about 15% of its coal and should continue to utilize the resource while also looking to put a permitting privacy act in place in Kentucky for oil and gas. Heiner also says the state should not submit an implementation plan for the Clean Power Plan from the EPA (cn|2 debate, 4/21/15). “I believe that coal has a bright future in Kentucky. It is a resource and an industry that provides jobs and, perhaps most importantly, provides one of state’s chief economic advantages: low cost power. This makes Kentucky attractive to companies that provide good-paying jobs,” Heiner wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## WILL T. SCOTT

Will T. Scott said Kentucky has the best coal in the world and needs to continue to utilize the resource and export it to other places. Scott also says the state should not submit an implementation plan for the Clean Power Plan from the EPA (cn|2 debate, 4/21/15). “The future of the coal industry can be bright after we get federal and state regulators out of our way so we can mine coal. The consumption of coal for electricity in the world is going to increase by 50% by 2040. Our coal is going to be in that market. We are blessed with an abundance of energy resources and I support an all-of-the-above approach,” Scott wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.

## GEOFF YOUNG

“The future of the coal industry for the next 50 to 100 years is bleak because of cheap natural gas produced by fracking and horizontal drilling technologies. Kentucky needs to embrace energy efficiency as the fastest, most cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, and reliable energy “source” that exists. Many other states are far ahead of Kentucky when it comes to efficiency. We also need to promote and encourage passive and active solar energy, low-head hydropower, sustainable biomass energy, and wind power. My professional experience is in energy efficiency and energy utility regulation. Coal needs to be phased out over the next two or three decades, and the market is already doing for us that without much involvement of the Obama Administration,” Young wrote in the Kentucky Chamber’s policy survey.





## RIGHT-TO-WORK

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TO MAKE THE COMMONWEALTH A RIGHT-TO-WORK STATE AND ALLOWING WORKERS TO CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISH TO JOIN A UNION. THE CHAMBER ALSO SUPPORTS EFFORTS BY LOCAL COUNTIES TO PASS RIGHT-TO-WORK ORDINANCES TO MAKE THEIR REGION MORE COMPETITIVE.



BEVIN



COMER



CONWAY



HEINER



SCOTT



YOUNG



"I support counties making their own decisions on this kind of labor policy. That is real representative government. But when you look at the Golden Triangle, you have to realize they have the best economy and the highest per capita income levels in the state, yet they also have the highest union membership. That's why some would want it and others wouldn't," Scott wrote in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.



## SMOKE-FREE

THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TO MAKE KENTUCKY SMOKE-FREE BY PROHIBITING SMOKING IN ALL INDOOR WORKPLACES AND PUBLIC PLACES IN KENTUCKY. OF THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER'S MEMBERSHIP, 92 PERCENT OF BUSINESS OWNERS FAVOR A STATEWIDE SMOKE-FREE LAW.



BEVIN



COMER



CONWAY



HEINER



SCOTT



YOUNG



## LEGAL REFORM

THE CHAMBER SUPPORTS COMMONSENSE LIABILITY REFORMS TO LIMIT THE DEVASTATING ECONOMIC IMPACT MERITLESS LAWSUITS HAVE ON KENTUCKY EMPLOYERS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.



BEVIN



COMER



CONWAY



HEINER



SCOTT



YOUNG



"I support ways to keep healthcare costs down and to keep our state competitive for new and growing employers. At the same time, we must also make sure we do not diminish protections for Kentuckians across the Commonwealth," Conway wrote in the Kentucky Chamber's policy survey.





## OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM ...



**DAVE ADKISSON**  
PRESIDENT & CEO



**BETSY DEXTER**  
MANAGER,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS,  
EDUCATION & WORKFORCE



**BRYAN  
SUNDERLAND**  
SENIOR VICE  
PRESIDENT ,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



**JACQUELINE PITTS**  
MANAGER,  
COMMUNICATIONS



**ASHLI WATTS**  
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS



**BEVERLY STANDIFER**  
MANAGER,  
POLITICAL EDUCATION

## SENIOR POLICY ADVISORS



**JOHN CUBINE**



**BOB GRAY**



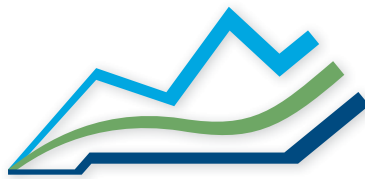
**DIANA TAYLOR**



*Stay informed on business issues at the state's capitol.*

**kychamberblog**

The Business Blog of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce



**Kentucky Chamber**  
*Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.*

**THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROVIDES LEADERSHIP AS A CATALYST, CONSENSUS-BUILDER  
AND ADVOCATE TO UNITE BUSINESS AND ADVANCE KENTUCKY.**

464 CHENAULT ROAD, FRANKFORT, KY 40601 | 502-695-4700 | KYCHAMBER.COM | TWITTER.COM/KYCHAMBER