



REPUBLICAN 2019 GOVERNOR'S RACE

VOTER'S GUIDE TO BUSINESS ISSUES

A KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLICATION



BEVIN

GOFORTH

LAWRENCE

WOODS



**INFORM
YOURSELF.
VOTE SMART.**



KNOW THE ISSUES

AHEAD OF THE 2019 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 candidates in both primary elections, four Republicans and four 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. Some candidates did not respond to the Chamber's request for their positions, which is reflected in the voter's guides. 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 21**.

MEET THE CANDIDATES



MATT BEVIN

PARTY
Republican

OCCUPATION
Current Governor/Businessman

HOMETOWN
Louisville

RUNNING MATE
Ralph Alvarado



ROBERT GOFORTH

PARTY
Republican

OCCUPATION
Pharmacist/Kentucky State Representative

HOMETOWN
East Bernstadt

RUNNING MATE
Michael Hogan



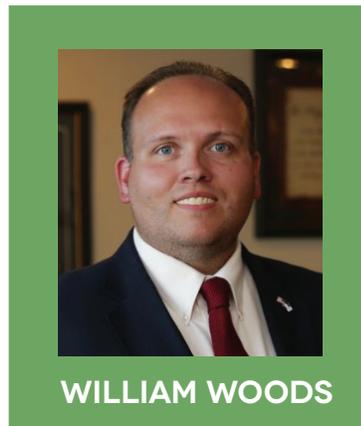
IKE LAWRENCE

PARTY
Republican

OCCUPATION
Businessman

HOMETOWN
Lexington

RUNNING MATE
James Rose



WILLIAM WOODS

PARTY
Republican

OCCUPATION
Businessman

HOMETOWN
Florence

RUNNING MATE
Justin Miller

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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.



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

“When I ran for this office in 2015, I published a Blueprint for Kentucky with seven specific priorities: (1) Enacting Pro-Business Right-to-Work Legislation, (2) Modernizing Kentucky’s Tax Code, (3) Resolving our Pension Crisis, (4) Reforming Kentucky Government, (5) Modernizing Kentucky’s Education System, (6) Improving Kentucky Healthcare, and (7) Fighting Federal Government Overreach. While each of these seven priorities are distinct issues, there is one common thread amongst all of them—improving in each of these area will lead to creating a business friendly environment that will, in turn, create jobs.

“Our Administration’s job creation plan is working. Government is operating more efficiently with much lower budgets. We have repealed or simplified more than 1,200 job-killing regulations. We invested \$100 million in job training that leveraged nearly another \$150 million in local investment. We invested record amounts in education with SEEK funding at an all-time high and our Work Ready Scholarship program providing job-relevant education for any Kentuckian who lacks a degree. Since my inauguration, we have announced more than 1,100 new or expanded facilities and announced investments of nearly \$20 billion. We have reported over \$91 billion in exports of Kentucky goods. Results matter! Today, our economic development efforts, coupled with the policies noted above, have resulted in over 51,000 new jobs created and Kentucky’s unemployment rate at historic lows.”

ROBERT GOFORTH

Goforth campaign did not return survey. On his campaign website, Goforth states he “will work closely with our counties and cities, as well as our area development districts (ADDs), and the state Economic Development Cabinet, to bring good paying jobs to Kentucky.”

IKE LAWRENCE

“Government doesn’t create jobs. Kentucky businesses should create jobs. Return money from the treasury back to the job creators and not to large, out-of-state companies that never break group.”

WILLIAM WOODS

“Our plan prioritizes jobs that will bring people out of poverty. Our plan requires any tax incentive provided to a company pass along the majority of the incentive to it’s employees through higher wages. We will focus on jobs that make sense for the Commonwealth. Jobs that are ready to put people to work today, not after failed taxpayer investment and years of failed planning.”



PUBLIC PENSIONS



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

MATT BEVIN

"As I have often said, Kentucky has a moral and legal obligation to honor the commitment made to teachers and other state employees. The longer we go without fully addressing the issues, the more costly the problem will be to solve. It is important to note, that since my first year in office, I have been the most transparent political leader with Kentuckians regarding the magnitude of the pension problem, the structural issues that must be addressed, and have proposed the most comprehensive fixes for those problems. Our original 'Pension is a Promise' proposal would have gone farther to fix the actual root cause of the problems than anything that has been proposed since. Unfortunately, we have been unable to get agreement in the General Assembly as to the best course of action. I am confident in our second term, the magnitude of the problem will require all policymakers to arrive at the consensus we need. We cannot continue to offer future employees the same defined benefit plan that current and past employees were promised."

ROBERT GOFORTH

Goforth campaign did not return survey. On his campaign website, Goforth states he "will work to fully fund our pensions in a way that is just and fair to all. Pension dollars are crucial to Kentucky's economy and they affect far more than just pension holders—small businesses in all of our communities are affected, too. We have to do what is right for our current and retired state employees, and for all of Kentucky."

IKE LAWRENCE

"It is up to the 138 legislators and leaders of the pensions to come up with a solution, since they created it over the past 29 years. I will sign anything that actuaries say fix the problem."

WILLIAM WOODS

"1. Fund the system properly 2. New revenue (Casinos and Marijuana) 3. Demand Budget Appropriation for additional funding until the system has bounced back."



TAX REFORM



THE CHAMBER URGES CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS TO KENTUCKY'S TAX CODE TO INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS.

MATT BEVIN

"I agree with your assessment which is why tax modernization was one of my original 7 points in the 'Blueprint for a Better Kentucky.' As a person with an extensive business career, I understand the critical importance of enacting tax reform that makes us more competitive with our neighboring states. I have pushed for that and we have certainly made progress. The Tax Foundation has improved our ranking compared to other states, but we have more we must do in this area. I am committed to pushing for additional reforms to make us even more attractive to job creators."

ROBERT GOFORTH

"While maintaining legitimate exceptions to the state sales tax for essential items like groceries and prescription medications, we should eliminate other exemptions that drain revenue from the General Fund without achieving critical policy goals," Goforth states on his campaign website.

IKE LAWRENCE

"I will create more jobs and businesses, wanting to come to Kentucky by raising the bar at our public high schools and state universities. No tuition increases for 4 to 5 years. Accelerated 3-year degrees. No to recreational marijuana, casino gambling and sports gambling as revenue. Not worth the society costs."

WILLIAM WOODS

"First, we'll cut waste from the budget. Second, tax reform shouldn't require new revenue. New revenue means new taxes and citizens are fed up with government waste. Our goal would be to eliminate the state income tax."



INFRASTRUCTURE



KENTUCKY'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OF ROADS, BRIDGES, AIRPORTS, RIVERPORTS, AND RAILROADS CONNECT KENTUCKY BUSINESSES TO THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE BY PROVIDING MULTIPLE SAFE, COST-EFFECTIVE WAYS TO MOVE GOODS AND DELIVER SERVICES. THE CHAMBER STRONGLY SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDES CONSISTENT LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS TO TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

MATT BEVIN

"This is another example where I have taken the position of bold leadership. It is never popular to advocate for additional user fees, but we must face reality with regard to our transportation infrastructure. I support taking bold actions to ensure we have the revenue necessary because transportation infrastructure is critical for economic development and supporting my vision for Kentucky to become the manufacturing and engineering leader in the United States. Increasing road funding is necessary and I am confident Kentuckians will see a return on that investment. We just undertook our "Bridging Kentucky" initiative. We will repair over 1,000 of our bridges which fell into disrepair under my predecessors. Improvements in our infrastructure will continue and likely increase our economic momentum where we have had record investment into Kentucky and record job creation."

ROBERT GOFORTH

From Goforth campaign website: "Good roads, new bridges, expanded Broadband Internet capacity, and filling in the gaps of rural cellular telephone services are all critical components of Kentucky's future. Without them, we cannot expect to grow our economy and recruit the kind of new development that will mean more jobs for Kentuckians. A Goforth-Hogan Administration will fight hard for the transportation and infrastructure that Kentucky must have to insure viability and continued growth."

IKE LAWRENCE

"We just had 17 new taxes added in July 2018 and the new teachers are still paying into the defined benefit plan and not on a 401k. Let's look at all waste and mismanagement first before we consider taxes. A go-fund me highway and/or selling naming rights for 10-20 years are good ways to raise capital, not taxes."

WILLIAM WOODS

"No [do not support gas tax increase for infrastructure funding]. We support fiscal conservatism. Our plan for addressing issues like the Brent Spence Beidge replacement is to make it clear that Tolls won't be acceptable and that Kentuckians shouldn't bear the entire burden. Many states benefit from that bridge specifically - Kentuckians deserve to share in its replacement cost, not fully fund it."



EARLY CHILDHOOD



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

“Our administration’s office of Early Childhood Education is doing great work. We were recently awarded a one-year \$25,000 National Governor’s Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices grant to enhance early childhood development. Through this NGA grant — Integrating and Advancing State Prenatal to Age Three Policies — the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood (GOEC) will collaborate with partner agencies to align policies aimed at enhancing cognitive and social-emotional development. Last month, Kentucky was awarded a \$10.6 million federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Preschool Development Birth through Five Grant (PDG B-5). Kentucky is building a strong foundation to prepare our youngest children for success, and we are grateful for NGA’s investment in that critical mission. This grant will enable the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) to assess current resources and develop necessary supports for our infants, toddlers, and expectant families. As we identify and implement these best practices, the Commonwealth will continue our momentum toward becoming the national model for serving and equipping children, families, and especially the most vulnerable among us.”

ROBERT GOFORTH

Did not return survey.

IKE LAWRENCE

“Assuming kindergarten is free public education and pre k is not, I would support financial aid by early childhood providers and proof of money from local donors.”

WILLIAM WOODS

“Our Kentucky First Public School Preservation and Workplace Readiness Initiative appropriates a full 1% of the annual budget for education programs including those supporting children six and under with reading programs and free literature and includes programs for children in low income / rural communities as well.”



WORKFORCE



BEYOND WHATEVER IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED IN THE DESIGN AND DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE PROGRAMS, KENTUCKY'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF A SKILLED WORKFORCE. EMPLOYERS' CAN MAKE A CRITICAL DIFFERENCE IN THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SERVICES WORKFORCE PROGRAMS DELIVER.

MATT BEVIN

"Considering we are shattering records for economic development and having one major job creation announcement after another, I am confident we are headed in the right direction. The key is to continue this momentum working with local officials and continuing the partnership we have like the one our administration has implemented with the Kentucky Chamber. We are just getting warmed up. These efforts have bolstered our job attraction and retention efforts," Bevin stated in the Chamber's policy survey. "We have more than plans. We have extensive multi-million dollar programs in place. See the material that has already been published on: ▪ Work Ready Skills Initiative ▪ Work Ready Scholarships ▪ Work Matters Taskforce (recognized as a model for the nation by the U. S. Deputy Sec of Labor. ▪ Our expanded and growing apprenticeship program."

ROBERT GOFORTH

Did not return survey.

IKE LAWRENCE

"Since workforce development programs are started when we removed the father-husband from his home, I would advocate for state tax credits back to the two-parent family with an emphasis on trades being taught from father-to-son and mother-to-daughter," Lawrence stated in the Chamber's policy survey. "Return though love discipline and dress code to middle and high schools so that disruptive kids don't get a chance to become punks. Move UK and all state universities from a 29% graduation rate to 80+% graduation rate, like at private colleges."

WILLIAM WOODS

"We would stop pretending the state creates jobs because it doesn't. We have an actual plan to train our workforce to incentivize companies to build in the Commonwealth in order to have a world class workforce at their disposal," Woods stated in the Chamber's policy survey. "Our workplace Readiness Initiative provide college and trade school funding for those who want to work. We must have a well trained workforce in order to compete. Tax incentives mean nothing if we have a poorly trained workforce."



LEAKY BUCKET



THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER'S "LEAKY BUCKET" PUBLICATION DOCUMENTED UNSUSTAINABLE SPENDING IN CORRECTIONS, MEDICAID AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS. EACH CANDIDATE WAS ASKED HOW THEIR ADMINISTRATION WOULD WORK TO CONTAIN COSTS IN THESE AREAS?

MATT BEVIN

"Our Administration has led the way, working with groups like the Kentucky Chamber, to enact meaningful justice and public safety reforms, lower the cost of government, enact pension reforms and make sensible changes to Medicaid through our 1115 waiver. Had the courts not overstepped and intervened our Medicaid 1115 waiver would already be curbing some of these costs. We intend to continue fighting in court for the right of Kentuckians to determine their own health choices and to have improved health outcomes. We are not done addressing prison reforms, nor have we fully solved the state's pension system issues, but we continue to make efforts to address these challenges that others have ignored."

ROBERT GOFORTH

Did not return survey.

IKE LAWRENCE

"Pass laws that put parents in with their children for 10% of the time. That will cause parents to be more tough love with children, regardless of age."

WILLIAM WOODS

"As Governor I would LEAD and crack down on corruption in state government, specifically in the financial arena. Waste in the Budget is Kentucky's Achilles Heel!"



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

"Our Work Ready Scholarship program and dual credit scholarship programs both help address affordability for Kentuckians to access higher education. Despite our budget challenges, we have enacted performance funding for higher education to get the best results for every dollar expended. Most funding for state government and education hinges on the public pension crisis. Once this is solved, we will have more funds available for higher education and other critical needs."

ROBERT GOFORTH

Did not return survey.

IKE LAWRENCE

"Guaranteed tuition rate for 4-5 years putting colleges on a diet. Re-bid everything every year and fix anything that breaks."

WILLIAM WOODS

"We stop pretending that every person needs a college degree. We focus on trade schools and life Readiness. We stop making education a for-profit industry and truly begin to take care of our people."



ENERGY



THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER BELIEVES AFFORDABLE ENERGY RESOURCES ARE KEY TO SUSTAINING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INVESTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN COST-EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO UTILIZE OUR NATURAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES MORE EFFICIENTLY.

MATT BEVIN

"I favor a variation on an 'all of the above' energy strategy. I favor all of the above that makes economic sense. That conversation, for it to be serious, must include coal. Our grid resiliency and national security in addition to our economy, depend on affordable energy. Fossil fuels and nuclear must be a large part of that mix going forward. At this point renewables aren't close to being able to satisfy our energy needs. We should face that reality in our policy making."

ROBERT GOFORTH

Did not return survey.

IKE LAWRENCE

"Clean energy must have dirty energy to work as a 'marriage.' We keep rates down through the Public Service Commission and competition to an area."

WILLIAM WOODS

"1. Push for a cap on utility cost increases 2. Perform a forensic audit on utilities requesting rate increases 3. Push for common sense changes to our energy grid"



CASINO GAMING



THE CHAMBER SUPPORTS AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION TO EXPAND GAMING IN ORDER TO CREATE JOBS, GENERATE MUCH-NEEDED REVENUE, AND STOP THE SIPHONING OF TAX DOLLARS BY OTHER STATES, WHILE PROTECTING OUR SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES.

MATT BEVIN

“Expanded gambling is not the answer to our economic concerns. These proposals often are used as an excuse to ignore fiscal reality and place false hope in a policy that has little to no support in the General Assembly. Expanding the economy and helping private businesses thrive and create jobs is the best way to ensure we have funding available for our Commonwealth’s needs.”

ROBERT GOFORTH

Did not return survey.

IKE LAWRENCE

“Against due to societal cost to the gambler and his family. Send a bill to other states and casinos halls for financially ruining Kentucky’s families.”

WILLIAM WOODS

“100% for Casino Gaming in the Commonwealth”



BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING KENTUCKY



THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER ASKED ALL 2019 GOVERNOR'S RACE CANDIDATES WHAT THEY FEEL ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING THE COMMONWEALTH IN THE COMING YEARS.

MATT BEVIN

"There is no greater financial threat to the Commonwealth than our public pension shortfall. We are making progress, but we must solve this problem, or it will remain a drag on our economy as well as continue to threaten the retirement security of our public employees and teachers."

ROBERT GOFORTH

Did not return survey.

IKE LAWRENCE

"Mediocrity across the spectrum."

WILLIAM WOODS

"Transparent, Honest and Ethical Leadership. Once we can reintroduce these character traits to the Governor's Office, there is nothing the Commonwealth can't achieve."



LEADERSHIP STYLE



THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER ASKED ALL 2019 GOVERNOR'S RACE CANDIDATES HOW THEY WOULD DESCRIBE THEIR LEADERSHIP STYLE, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF WORKING WITH THE LEGISLATURE.

MATT BEVIN

"Throughout my first term, working with the General Assembly, we have made tremendous progress with a bold, pro-business and pro-growth agenda. We have looked for areas of agreement and found common ground on many, many issues. There are issues for which we are still searching for consensus. I realize that government does not always run at the speed of business, but it is important to move forward as expeditiously as possible. My style of leadership is to push some beyond their comfort level to do what is needed for the citizens of our Commonwealth. Leadership means pushing for improvements, rather than settling for the status quo."

ROBERT GOFORTH

Did not return survey.

IKE LAWRENCE

"Highest of standards, compromising down to high standards. No more average as average is in the other 7 states, too."

WILLIAM WOODS

"Honest, Transparent, Ethical and Bold. I won't hesitate to call out any Legislator from either side if they don't have the best interests of citizens in mind when voting."



LEGAL LIABILITY



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



SUPPORTS CHAMBER POSITION



OPPOSE CHAMBER POSITION



NO ANSWER

**Some candidates did not explain their yes or no answer to this question. If a candidate added comments on the issue, those remarks are listed below.*

MATT BEVIN

“Yes. I support tort reform and other efforts to enact common sense liability reform measures. I championed medical review panels legislation and other reforms that have passed, but we have more work to do as a Commonwealth. Due to adverse Court rulings, I support a Constitutional Amendment to clarify the power of the General Assembly to enact further liability reforms.”

BEVIN

GOFORTH

LAWRENCE

WOODS



BAIL REFORM



THE CHAMBER SUPPORTS REFORMS TO KENTUCKY’S BAIL SYSTEM, TRANSITIONING THE SYSTEM TO FOCUS ON THE OFFENSE AND OFFENDER AND NOT ON THEIR FINANCIAL MEANS.

BEVIN

GOFORTH

LAWRENCE

WOODS

MATT BEVIN

“Yes. I have been a staunch supporter of criminal justice reforms. I was with President Trump in the White House for the signing of the Criminal Justice Reform bill. I think this is something we need to address as part of our ongoing efforts to give those who have earned a second chance, a fair opportunity at employment and rebuilding their life.”

IKE LAWRENCE

No. “Judges already have wide latitude to look at the whole picture of an inmate’s crime and situation. That’s why they are called judges.”



SMOKE FREE



THE KENTUCKY CHAMBER SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TO MAKE KENTUCKY SMOKE-FREE BY PROHIBITING SMOKING IN ALL INDOOR WORKPLACES AND PUBLIC PLACES IN KENTUCKY.

BEVIN

GOFORTH

LAWRENCE

WOODS

MATT BEVIN

“I don’t have a formal position on this topic. Recognizing the adverse health effects of second hand smoke, I signed smoke-free school legislation this year. Legislation creating further restrictions must balance the health effects of a bill with private property rights of individuals.”



PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM



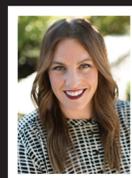
Dave Adkisson
President & CEO



Ashli Watts
Senior Vice
President,
Public Affairs



Jacqueline Pitts
Director,
Communications



Alaina Holcomb
Marketing Design
Coordinator,
Communications



Diana Taylor
Senior Policy
Consultant



Kate Shanks
Vice President,
Policy
Development



Travis Burton
Director,
Political Affairs



Sawyer Coffey
Manager,
Communications



John Cubine
Senior Policy
Consultant



Bob Gray
Senior Policy
Consultant



The **Bottom Line** YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS.

A majority of the laws and regulations affecting Kentucky businesses are passed in Frankfort, not Washington.

You can't be at the Capitol on a daily basis, but we can. With the goal of closely monitoring the progress and facts of business-related legislation in Kentucky and delivering behind the scenes knowledge of state government, The Bottom Line breaks down complex policy issues for the business community.

Stay up to date at kychamberbottomline.com.



Kentucky Chamber

**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