2018 County Legislative Issues

Kentucky Association of Counties
# KACo Board of Directors

## Executive Committee

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>1st Vice President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>Caldwell County</td>
<td>Boone County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circuit Court Clerk</td>
<td>Magistrate</td>
<td>Judge/Executive</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hon. Reagan Taylor</th>
<th>Hon. Bruce Todd</th>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Vice President/Secretary</td>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison County Judge/Executive</td>
<td>Henderson County Magistrate</td>
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## Executive Committee Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hon. Jodi L. Albright</th>
<th>Hon. John A. Goble</th>
<th>Hon. Eddie Rogers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Laurel County Attorney</td>
<td>Floyd County Magistrate</td>
<td>Taylor County Judge/Executive</td>
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<tr>
<th>Hon. Alex Barnett</th>
<th>Hon. Steve Gold</th>
<th>Hon. John A. Settles</th>
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<tr>
<td>Harrison County Judge/Executive</td>
<td>Henderson County Attorney</td>
<td>Washington County Judge/Executive</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hon. Bill Bartleman</th>
<th>Hon. Orbrey Gritton</th>
<th>Hon. Rick Stiltner</th>
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<tr>
<td>McCracken County Commissioner</td>
<td>Anderson County Judge/Executive</td>
<td>Menifee County Judge/Executive</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hon. Brad Boyd</th>
<th>Hon. Steve Henry</th>
<th>Hon. Terry Stringer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Christian County Jailer</td>
<td>Webster County Judge/Executive</td>
<td>Livingston County Magistrate</td>
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<tr>
<th>Hon. Dennis Brooks</th>
<th>Hon. Craig Peoples</th>
<th>Hon. Carl Tolliver</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wolfe County Judge/Executive</td>
<td>Pendleton County Sheriff</td>
<td>Boyd County Commissioner</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hon. Chuck Dills</th>
<th>Hon. Sue Carole Perry</th>
<th>Hon. Steve Tribble</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant County Sheriff</td>
<td>Shelby County Clerk</td>
<td>Christian County Judge/Executive</td>
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<tr>
<th>Hon. David Fields</th>
<th>Hon. Jerry Powell</th>
<th>Hon. Chris Waugh</th>
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<tr>
<td>Butler County Judge/Executive</td>
<td>Trimble County Judge/Executive</td>
<td>Floyd County Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<th>Hon. Larry Foxworthy</th>
<th>Hon. Vincent Riggs</th>
<th>Hon. Mike Welsh</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fleming County Judge/Executive</td>
<td>Fayette County Circuit Court Clerk</td>
<td>Metcalfe County PVA</td>
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<tr>
<th>Hon. John Goble</th>
<th>Hon. Melanie Roberts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scott County Coroner</td>
<td>Bullitt County Judge/Executive</td>
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Legislative Committee Members

Hon. David L. Nicholson
Committee Chairman
Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk
KACo President

KY Association of Circuit Court Clerks
Hon. John C. Middleton
President, Kenton County Circuit Court Clerk

Hon. Vincent Riggs
Fayette County Circuit Court Clerk
Legislative Co-Chair

Hon. Herbert McKee
Henderson County Circuit Court Clerk
Legislative Co-Chair

KY Commonwealth’s Attorneys Association
Hon. Courtney Baxter
President, 12th Judicial Circuit

Hon. Christopher T. Cohron
Legislative Director; 8th Judicial Circuit
Co-Legislative Chair

Hon. Rob Sanders
16th Judicial Circuit
Co-Legislative Chair

KY Coroners Association
Hon. John P. Northcutt
President, Rowan County Coroner

Hon. John P. Goble
Scott County Coroner

KY County Clerks Association
Hon. Chris Waugh
President, Floyd County Clerk

Bill May
Executive Director

KY County Judge/Executive Association
Hon. Melanie Roberts
President, Bullitt County Judge/Executive

Vince Lang
Executive Director

KY Jailers Association
Hon. Brad Boyd
President, Christian County Jailer

Renee Craddock
Executive Director

KY Magistrates & Commissioners Association
Hon. Bruce Todd
President, Henderson County Magistrate

J.C. Young
Executive Director

KY PVA Association
Hon. Joyce Garland Parker
President, Laurel County PVA

Mack Bushart
Executive Director

KY Sheriffs Association
Hon. Craig Peoples
President, Pendleton County Sheriff

Jerry Wagner
Executive Director

KY County Attorneys Association
Hon. Steve Gold
President, Henderson County Attorney

Bill Patrick
Executive Director
Legislative Advocacy Process

Each affiliate organization of KACo has one vote on the Legislative Committee. The affiliate organizations of KACo are the Kentucky Association of Circuit Court Clerks, the Kentucky Commonwealth’s Attorneys Association, the Kentucky Coroners Association, the Kentucky County Attorneys Association, the Kentucky County Clerks Association, the Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association, the Kentucky Jailers Association, the Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners Association, the Kentucky PVA Association, and the Kentucky Sheriffs Association.

Support

The KACo Legislative Committee agrees this legislation would be beneficial to the mission of county government, and will collaborate with affected stakeholders and the General Assembly to promote its passage.

Oppose

The KACo Legislative Committee agrees this legislation would be harmful to the mission of county government, or impede the ability of a county official to perform their duties, and will advocate for an acceptable amendment or its defeat.

Under Review

The KACo Legislative Committee has requested additional information before voting on the bill.
KACo Legislative Issues

BIENNIAL BUDGET AND TAX REFORM

County and State government are intimately interconnected, and, as such, Kentucky’s biennial budget is critical in the execution of services to the Commonwealth and its citizens. Such responsibilities include public safety, infrastructure, economic development and public health. As we deal with budget constraints, essential services and core personnel are often compromised and local government deficits often must be addressed through increased local taxes and/or deep budget cuts. This is unsustainable. County officials want to work with the Legislature to address tax reform, since state and county taxes are intricately linked to one another. We are committed to finding solutions, together. We support modernizing state and local tax structures to create a more competitive environment for increased economic investment, and to insure a modern, sustainable system for the future.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

We all agree that safe, reliable, and efficient transportation is a priority. When we say “transportation” we mean all modes; roads and bridges, river ports, airports, rail and public transit. We have over 1,100 structurally deficient bridges. We need $500 million more just to maintain current roads and bridges and build the new ones needed for the economic growth of Kentucky. Counties have maintenance needs at 53 General Aviation airports. While 2015 legislation stopped the bleeding by stabilizing the motor fuels tax, it did not provide a ‘roadmap’ for long-term maintenance or future needs. It’s one of the reasons we are collaborating with our partners in the Kentucky Infrastructure Coalition to bring all ideas and stakeholders to the table. We need more sustainable revenues to adequately fund all modes of transportation infrastructure. We support the Governor’s goal in making Kentucky the manufacturing hub of the nation. To make this possible we must increase funding for our transportation system and we support any and all efforts to do so.

JAILS

Like the state, counties continue to battle corrections costs. Public safety, reducing recidivism and managing increased operational costs are shared concerns. The County Jail is part jail, part hospital, part workforce development center, and part mental health facility. It is critical that the County Jail per diem be increased for housing state inmates to help offset costs. We continue to work with stakeholders of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Policy Assessment Council (CJPAC) to address the everchanging challenges facing the corrections system statewide.

CERS AUTONOMY

KACo continues to support an independent County Employees Retirement System board, as outlined in Senator Joe Bowen’s Senate Bill 226. Highlights of the bill include: Maintaining the requirement for CERS employers to pay 100% of the actuarially required employer contribution; requiring individuals with investment and pension experience; prohibiting current elected officials from serving, and; full financial and ethical transparency and oversight by the Public Pension Oversight Board. We applaud the “ARC+” contribution in the current biennial budget for the other public pension systems, but concede that revenue level is not sustainable. We commit to working with the Governor and the Legislature on pension reform. We support full funding of all public pension systems, and believe more revenue, along with structural changes, must be a part of pension reform to insure sustainability for both the budget and our employees.
Affiliate Legislative Issues

**Kentucky Association of Circuit Court Clerks**
2. Monitor the Voluntary Travel ID implementation.
3. Monitor the Pension Crisis Reforms.

**Kentucky Magistrates & Commissioners Association**
1. Tax Reform: Add more tools for local government to utilize to pay for essential services. Diversify means to raise necessary revenue as not all taxing options are viable in every county in the state.
2. Unfunded Mandates: Review county-mandated expenses and restricted use funds. (31 Mandated Appropriations in Statute)
3. Coal Severance: Re-assess programs funded from “off the top, off the middle, off the bottom” of the Local Economic Development Fund. Modify the formula and return a higher percentage to counties.
4. Road Aid Formula/Gas Tax Floor: Protect the road aid formula, ensuring that Counties are receiving the same percentage of County Road Aid and Rural Road Aid from the Department of Transportation. Review the diesel tax rate; consider matching the gas tax rate.
5. Jail Costs: Maximize the use of Medicaid coverage. Maintain level of funding for Catastrophic Medical line item in state budget. Increase felony per diem rate. Fund state approved architect and design fees through the Local Corrections Assistance Authority for construction of jails. Allow for other Governmental Agencies to help pay for correction costs at local level. Revise “sin tax” structure to allow appropriations to pay for corrections at the county level.
6. Retirement: Create defined revenue to fund the State and Local Government ARC. Explore separation of KRS and CERS. Review investment policies for each fund.
7. Occupational Tax: level playing field.
8. Misdemeanant Sentence Structure: Obtain input from prosecutors, jailers, legislators, public advocates, and fiscal court members to review mechanisms that would conditionally release non-violent misdemeanants to save county jail expenses.

**Kentucky Sheriffs Association**
1. To be able to continue to rehire retirees at no cost to the employee or employer.
2. Tax Reform. As a fee-based office, the office of the Sheriff depends on fees from tax collection as its major source of income.

**Kentucky Commonwealth’s Attorneys Association**
1. Oppose 17.4% budget reductions.
2. Pension reform.
3. Prosecutor salaries/employee retention.
4. Supporting a Marsy’s Law that is NOT an unfunded mandate on prosecutors.

**Kentucky PVA Association**
1. A dedicated funding source for state budget appropriations.
2. Be a resource for any property tax reform initiatives.
Affiliate Legislative Issues

Kentucky Jailers Association
1. Increase the daily per diem reimbursement for state inmates.
3. Clarify Current Law as it relates to the use of Canteen Proceeds.

Kentucky County Clerks Association
1. Amend KRS 132.017 relating to recall elections.
2. Amend KRS 117.035 relating to County Board of Elections meetings.
3. Amend KRS 117.343 relating to the 50 cents per registered voter reimbursement.
4. Amend KRS 117.075, KRS 117.085 and related statutes to allow for us to send an absentee application by email to the voter application, must be mailed back.
5. Amend KRS 117.075, KRS 117.085 and other related statutes to require the application for an absentee ballot to be in our office by the close of business at least 14 days prior to the date of the election.
6. Amend KRS 116.055 to define new voter to close loophole on registration changes after December 31.

Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association
1. Separate CERS from KRS.
2. Increase funding for transportation needs.
3. Maintain the current road funding formula.
4. Reduce jail costs.
5. Tax reform. Ensure any reduction or elimination of taxes (Inventory Tax) is more than offset with addition of local tax options.
6. Return a higher percentage of coal and mineral funding to counties.
7. Allow the Judge/Executive with fiscal court approval to appoint Library Board members.
8. Support a dedicated revenue source to pay pension obligations.
9. Allow fiscal courts the opportunity to determine whether to eliminate or continue constables in their respective communities.
10. Occupational license tax change. For counties over 30,000, remove the 1% cap and the crediting provisions between cities and counties.
11. Allow TVA in-lieu-of revenue from the state general fund to be distributed to local governments for economic development projects.

Kentucky Coroners Association
1. Monitor pension system proposals.
2. Review any tax reform proposals.

Kentucky County Attorneys Association
1. The new budget fully funding the Prosecutorial Advisory Council.
2. Funding for the position of victim advocates across the state to properly comply with the enactment of Marsy’s Law.
3. Increased funding for the state child support program.
Mark Your Calendar!!!

County Officials Legislative Reception
Thursday, February 15, 2018
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History

KACo Advocacy Team

Brian Roy, Executive Director/CEO – brian.roy@kaco.org
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