



Kentucky Chamber
Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.

2023 GOVERNOR'S RACE

VOTER'S

GUIDE

TO BUSINESS ISSUES

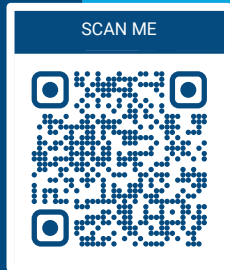




KENTUCKY'S WINNING STRATEGY



High-quality jobs. A growing population. A stronger Kentucky.
A Vision for the Commonwealth's Future





KNOW THE ISSUES

With all of the noise in political campaigns, it can be hard to compare the candidates on their stances. Ahead of the gubernatorial elections, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce has put together a voter's guide for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky Chamber asked each candidate in the 2023 governor's race, Democratic Governor Andy Beshear and Republican Attorney General Daniel Cameron, to share their visions for success for each area of "Kentucky's Winning Strategy," the Chamber's new plan for talent attraction, business growth, and workforce development.

In order to bring Kentucky's future to fruition, the Chamber has outlined ten issues of paramount importance to the Commonwealth, including tax reform, health care, workforce, economic development, and more.

A shared vision for success is critical. That's why the Chamber is encouraging state leaders to focus on these unifying priorities and work together to make the Commonwealth the best place in the nation to work, do business, and raise a family.

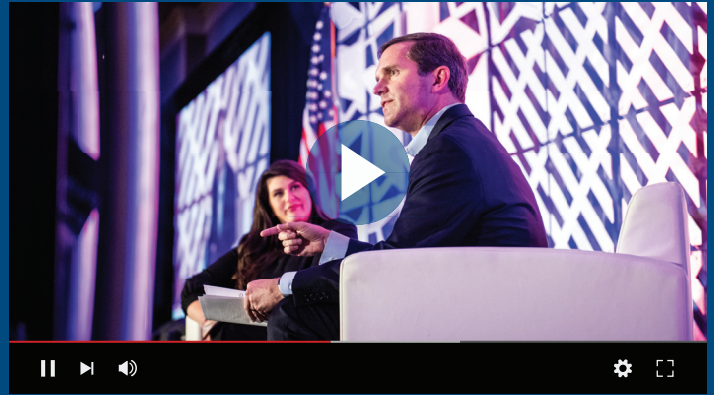
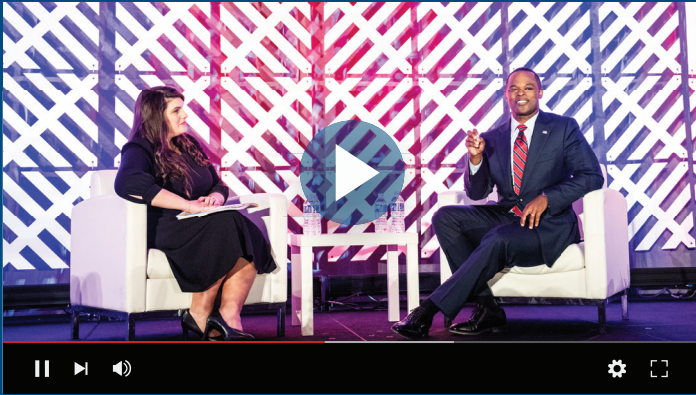


As a non-partisan organization, the Kentucky Chamber does not endorse in statewide races, but this voter's guide is intended to provide Kentuckians the information they need before heading to the polls on November 7, 2023.

Ashli Watts

ASHLI WATTS
PRESIDENT AND CEO, KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

INFORM YOURSELF. VOTE SMART.



The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce was the first organization in the state to conduct sit-down interviews with the 2023 gubernatorial candidates at the Kentucky Chamber's 77th Annual Meeting Dinner. Click the images above to watch the full interviews with each candidate or visit kychamber.com/votersguide.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

ANDY BESHEAR



PARTY

Democrat

OCCUPATION

Governor of Kentucky

HOMETOWN

Louisville

RUNNING MATE

Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman

DANIEL CAMERON



PARTY

Republican

OCCUPATION

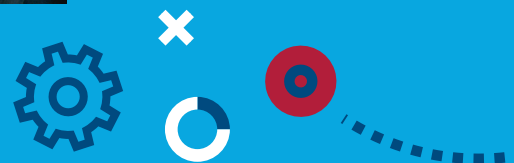
Kentucky Attorney General

HOMETOWN

Elizabethtown

RUNNING MATE

Senator Robby Mills





1 TAX REFORM

Cultivate a **competitive state and local tax environment** that supports growth, provides necessary revenues for essential services, and is attractive to businesses, skilled workers, and families.

ANDY BESHEAR

In my first term, we've saved Kentucky taxpayers millions of dollars and had the biggest budget surpluses in state history. This year we signed legislation cutting the income tax. Last year, to help families dealing with high fuel and car prices, we suspended the gas tax and saved Kentuckians \$35.4 million, halted the vehicle property tax and lowered the property tax rate three times.

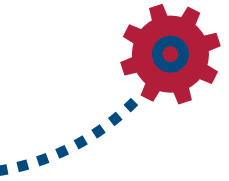
In my second term, we will continue to prioritize a friendly climate for both small businesses and major industries that create good-paying jobs that can support a family. We will continue to try and provide tax relief in the right way with a fiscally responsible approach as our economy grows.

DANIEL CAMERON

I will be the governor who gets our income tax down to zero. I believe your money belongs to you and not the government. Our tax code should be simple, fair, and make us competitive with surrounding states.

This subject is one of the critical differences between the Beshear/Biden approach and the Cameron-Mills objectives. Andy Beshear vetoed an income tax cut in 2021 during record inflation. He has actively worked against efforts to further reduce the income tax and continues to campaign in opposition to reductions. Despite his efforts, and thanks to the leadership of the General Assembly, Kentucky is moving in the right direction for the first time in decades.

Kentucky needs a Governor who will control state spending, improve our workforce participation, and grow our economy, allowing the state to transition away from taxes on production. I will be that Governor.





2 POPULATION GROWTH

Grow Kentucky's population by making it one of the top states in the nation for domestic and international migration.

ANDY BESHEAR

It is great to see that finally, surrounding states are looking at Kentucky and are envious of the progress we are making. Building off Kentucky's growth in my first term, I will keep prioritizing investments in education, workforce development and healthcare.

I will continue our efforts to attract businesses and industries, building on the record \$27 billion in private sector investment we've helped bring here to Kentucky. Infrastructure development, including modernizing our highways and expanding broadband access, will continue to be a major focus. This will let us create job opportunities and foster economic growth.

I will also intensify our efforts to promote Kentucky's natural beauty and cultural heritage to boost tourism, highlighting our state's landscapes and signature industries. Tourism has a bright future in Kentucky and will be an even greater engine for economic development moving forward.

DANIEL CAMERON

Kentucky has unmet economic potential. Neighboring states and nearby cities that were once on equal footing have since outgrown us. No one taking a serious look at our economy should think it's time for a victory lap.

There is tremendous opportunity though, and as Governor I will focus on building from the inside. Kentucky should be the best place in America to start and grow a business, and we should be fostering an environment that allows the next Humana or KFC to thrive. Our workforce participation must be improved. Our education system, from K-12 and beyond, should be a national leader. Our communities should be safe from violent crime and drug abuse.

When we do those things well, and we have a Governor who is willing to lead on the true fundamental issues, our economy, and metrics like population growth which is tied directly to it, will improve.



3 EDUCATION

Continue building and investing in a **high-quality K-12 and postsecondary education system** focused on workforce development in high-growth industries and postsecondary training.

ANDY BESHEAR

To improve the lives of Kentuckians now and in the future, we need to support our public education system. My Education First Plan would raise pay by 11% for every single school staff member, increase funding for textbooks, technology, and training, add more mental health resources for students and teachers, and fully fund universal pre-K. This is a huge and necessary investment in our education system to help every child, regardless of their zip code, reach their full potential – and it will be one of the highest priorities of my next term.

My budget also funds the Better Kentucky Promise Scholarship, which fills the gap between tuition and federal and other state aid for all new associate degree and certificate-seeking students. This will be a vital tool toward ensuring young Kentuckians can decide to stay in state and participate in our Commonwealth's growing economy.

DANIEL CAMERON

As a son and husband of educators, and as a beneficiary of great public schools, I know how important a strong education system is. Education provides opportunities for people of any background and is the foundation for a strong economy.

The largest education problem in our state is the learning loss caused by severe Covid lockdowns, which Beshear caused but has ignored. Our teachers and administrators are working tirelessly to address these challenges but need support from the top. My proposal, the Cameron Catch-Up Plan, will be the largest investment ever in reading and math instruction. It will authorize a fully funded tutoring program, restore classroom discipline, and surge resources to teachers and classrooms. My plan includes setting the first-ever statewide base starting pay rate for new teachers at \$41,500 and introduces a stipend for student teachers.

Strengthening our education system will be my focus every day as Governor.



4 WORKFORCE

Set Kentucky on a path to **rapidly grow the size of its workforce** by removing barriers to work for current residents and attracting skilled workers from other states and around the world.

ANDY BESHEAR

In my first term, Kentucky became a national leader in job growth. We had our lowest annual unemployment rate last year.

We'll continue to focus heavily on education and skills development. With our Everybody Counts Initiative, we plan on getting every graduating high school senior into the workforce if they aren't going on to higher education. I'll prioritize investments in education, like the Better Kentucky Promise Scholarship, to equip workers with the skills needed for in-demand jobs. We've also invested \$240M in career and technical education in our high schools, and have worked with the KCTCS to designate Education First Employers who support their workforce with education and training.

I'm proud that we've been working with the Chamber on second chance employment; we have the lowest recidivism rate in the history of Kentucky, meaning we are putting more people into jobs after jail, and our communities are safer for it.

DANIEL CAMERON

There are fewer Kentuckians working today than the day Beshear took office. More Kentuckians work multiple jobs just to make ends meet, inflating the jobs total but failing to address the real problems in our workforce. Kentucky has a chronically low workforce participation rate, ranking in the bottom five in the United States. It is exacerbated by expanded welfare programs, an unemployment insurance system which is not functional, and a governing culture which does not value hard work.

I will fix this as Governor. On day one, I will instruct CHFS to add work requirements for able-bodied individuals on Medicaid. We will rebuild the unemployment insurance system, which completely collapsed in 2020 but has still not been fixed, and integrate the system with better career training. And every part of state government will focus on how to better assist and improve the lives of working families. We will get Kentucky working again.



5

INFRASTRUCTURE

Sustainably invest in a **world-class, multi-modal infrastructure and transportation system** that reflects Kentucky's status as a global logistics hub.

ANDY BESHEAR

We will maintain the momentum we've made in improving Kentucky's infrastructure. Building on my first term, we will continue these critical infrastructure projects, enhance the quality of life for all Kentuckians and bolster our state's economic competitiveness:

Brent Spence Bridge: We will see through the completion of the Brent Spence companion bridge project without tolls.

Mountain Parkway: We are completing the four-laning of the Mountain Parkway, enhancing safety and connectivity in Eastern Kentucky, while spurring economic growth in the region.

I-69 project: We are moving so fast on this project that Indiana is struggling to keep up.

Clean Drinking Water: We will further invest in clean drinking water infrastructure to ensure safe and reliable access for thousands of homes.

High-Speed Internet: Expanding internet access to every home and business will remain a top priority, closing the digital divide and promoting educational and economic opportunities statewide.

DANIEL CAMERON

Kentucky's multi-modal infrastructure landscape allows our diverse economy to thrive. Right now, thanks to federal investments and the work of Kentucky's delegation in Congress, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve our transportation environment. Thanks to leadership at the federal level, the Brent Spence Bridge and I-69 Bridge are slated to be built. While it is good news, this does not address the low grades for road and bridge quality that our state has repeatedly received.

My administration will use this once-in-a-generation opportunity by improving the roads and interstates that affect most of our citizens most of the time. As home to the most navigable inland waterways in the continental United States, we will maximize federal resources to get more investment to ports. We will work to improve our airports, both urban and rural.



6 AFFORDABILITY

Protect Kentucky's status as an **affordable state for working families** by maintaining access to reliable, low-cost energy and ensuring a growing housing stock to fit the needs of current and future residents.

ANDY BESHEAR

Energy: We need an all-of-the-above energy strategy that puts an emphasis on producing affordable and reliable energy. We're among the largest coal producing states in the country and because of that we have among the lowest energy costs. We should support coal while also focusing on new ways to keep prices low and power plentiful - solar, wind or any other source that will ensure energy rates in Kentucky remain below the national average and surrounding states; we need to make sure rates are low to help make the Commonwealth an even more attractive location for high-quality jobs and industry.

Housing: We will work to continue Kentucky's status as an affordable market for housing. Our next budget will include an increase in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund spurring additional investment. A crucial part of this is investing in infrastructure improvements to support new housing developments and enhance housing affordability.

DANIEL CAMERON

Inflation is stealing the savings of working families and retirees across Kentucky. The cost at the grocery store and the gas pump are everyday burdens. Soaring mortgage rates make it harder to plan for the future. And despite what Andy Beshear said, this inflation is not temporary. It is reflective of two very different economic ideologies which are represented in this campaign. The Bidenomics agenda, which has been fully practiced by the Beshear Administration, makes work secondary while building the welfare state. It places the energy priorities of California above the energy advantages of Kentucky.

As Attorney General, I have repeatedly stood up to Washington and stood up for Kentucky. I fought alongside West Virginia to stop EPA's unlawful regulation of utilities. I fought President Biden's reckless border policies in court — and won. As Governor, I will fight the spending and regulatory policies that crush our families and businesses.



7

QUALITY OF LIFE

Foster a uniquely-desirable **quality of life** in Kentucky with safe communities, original cultural amenities, reliable and accessible essential services, and wide access to the Commonwealth's recreational resources.

ANDY BESHEAR

Tourism is booming in Kentucky. Last year, we had the best year for the economic impact of tourism in our history at \$12.9 billion. We had the most visitors to the Bourbon Trail ever. Part of how people see us is how we talk about ourselves, and I'll continue to talk us up every chance I get.

We will continue to promote Kentucky's natural beauty paired with our signature industries like bourbon to grow our tourism sector - this will only continue to grow as an economic engine in Kentucky.

We also will continue to prioritize keeping our people safe. We made historic investments in the Kentucky State Police to recruit, train and retain the essential workforce needed to protect Kentuckians. We ensured all troopers received a \$15,000 raise, leading to the largest KSP recruiting class in years. We've also put millions into body armor, new facilities and training.

DANIEL CAMERON

Every Kentuckian has the right to live and move freely around their community without fear. In the last four years, we have experienced record breaking increases in crime, and the problem has been made worse by the current Governor.

As Attorney General, I put criminals in jail, worked alongside local prosecutors, and supported our law enforcement. But as I was working to put more criminals in jail, Andy Beshear was releasing over 1,700 offenders, half of which recommitted terrible crimes.

My plan, the Cameron Public Safety Plan, is a comprehensive approach that directly addresses the rise of crime, drug trafficking and overdoses, and the need to retain and recruit officers in our state. I was honored to receive the endorsement of the Kentucky State Fraternal Order of Police. I've stood with our law enforcement officers every single day as Attorney General, and I'll do the same as Governor.



8 SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES

Fully leverage the economic potential of **Kentucky's signature industries** to grow quality jobs, attract tourists, and cultivate the Commonwealth's unique brand.

ANDY BESHEAR

I will continue to champion the bourbon and equine industries, recognizing their significance as cultural and economic pillars. Building upon the achievements of my first term, which saw growth in both sectors, I will intensify efforts to promote Kentucky as the premier destination for bourbon and horse fans.

Under my administration, the bourbon industry has grown larger and faster than ever before and I have worked to eliminate harmful tariffs. I will work with industry leaders to create programs that provide training and education pathways for careers in these industries, ensuring a skilled, enthusiastic and homegrown workforce.

The bourbon industry supports over one billion in payroll and the equine industry provides nearly 80,000 jobs while also ensuring ancillary services thrive. By nurturing these iconic industries, we will continue to see remarkable economic and cultural success celebrating our heritage while fostering job creation and prosperity for our residents.

DANIEL CAMERON

Kentucky must lean into our advantages, not run away from them. We are the national leader in logistics. We are a healthcare hub. We proudly build things, not just "Made in America" but "Made in Kentucky." And there isn't a state in the country that doesn't envy our diverse agriculture economy, which not only supports advantages like the bourbon and equine industries, but a wide array of farm products.

The key for our future, for our signature industries and our emerging industries, is to address the major economic challenges that are currently being ignored. We must improve our chronic labor force participation rate. We must lower our income tax and streamline our tax code. We must improve our academic outcomes and make up for the learning loss our students are struggling with. When I am Governor, we will tackle these problems head on, rather than continuing to allow them to worsen.



9

HEALTH OUTCOMES

Significantly improve both **physical and mental health outcomes** for Kentuckians in support of workforce development and a higher quality of life.

ANDY BESHEAR

Healthcare is a basic human right and every Kentuckian should be able to see a doctor when they're sick. I will continue to fight for affordable, accessible healthcare.

I expanded Medicaid benefits to cover dental, vision and hearing care while restoring Kentucky's health care exchange kynect. I signed legislation capping insulin costs at \$30 per 30-day supply. Under my administration, we have seen the first decrease in opioid overdose deaths since 2018.

In my second term, we will continue to support addiction treatment centers, hospitals and clinics in every part of the state, work to enroll every eligible child in KCHIP, hire additional social workers, reduce drug costs and expand healthcare access. Improving health outcomes will grow workforce participation, enhance quality of life, reduce healthcare costs and help to grow Kentucky's economy.

Repealing the Medicaid expansion, like my opponent has pledged to do, would be disastrous for Kentucky.

DANIEL CAMERON

Kentucky is ranked 43rd in the nation for overall health outcomes, which creates a drain on our economy. A healthy workforce is essential for Kentucky to reach its full potential. One of the reasons I am running for Governor is that I think we can do better.

I have worked aggressively on improving our healthcare outcomes as Attorney General. I secured nearly \$500 million in settlements from the drug companies responsible for the opioid crisis, which will help us to combat drug addiction and improve health outcomes across the board. I fought back against the unlawful business practices of pharmacy benefit managers who drove up the pricing of insulin, which is essential for hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians.

As Governor, my administration will work across Cabinets and agencies to improve outcomes, helping to integrate government services that can benefit our population and our economy.



10 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strategically foster **economic development and high-wage job growth** in all areas of Kentucky, including rural communities and regions experiencing depopulation and economic transitions.

ANDY BESHEAR

We must continue to grow our economy by bringing jobs that can support a family to Kentucky. In my first term, we've brought in \$27 billion in private investment, have added over 46,000 jobs and achieved the lowest annual unemployment rate in Kentucky's history. We've done all of this while also cutting taxes and achieving record budget surpluses year after year after year.

In my second term, my focus will remain steadfast on fostering economic growth and ensuring that all Kentuckians have access to good-paying jobs. We will keep building on the progress we've made and continue to support small businesses, recruit major industries like BlueOval SK and AESC, and grow our tourism sector through the Commonwealth's natural beauty and the global draw of our signature industries. We will continue to foster a more diverse, resilient, and dynamic economy, ensuring long-term economic development and prosperity for all Kentuckians.

DANIEL CAMERON

Kentucky has built-in economic advantages that make it a desirable place to do business. We are centrally located, with easy access for every form of transportation, low-cost energy, and abundant fresh water. Every Governor benefits from those advantages, but the key question must be on how we address our lingering shortcomings and prepare for the next frontiers.

As Governor, I will work to strengthen Kentucky's workforce and lower our income tax, both of which will build on our advantages and prime us for the future. I will better integrate our workforce programs with unemployment insurance, inside of the KCTCS system, and at the local level. But critically, I will put an increased focus on our businesses here at home, helping to foster entrepreneurship, lean into our biggest advantages, and support the next great companies that will shape Kentucky's future.

Get Out *the* Vote

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Kentucky Chamber
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VOTING RESOURCES

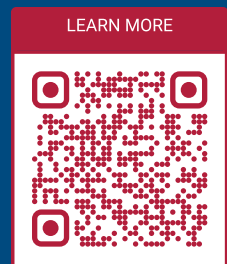
Employers can play a major role in improving civic engagement among their employees.

The people we send to Frankfort directly impact our communities and how we conduct business. Not only is voting our civic duty, but it is a way we can make our regions and state more competitive by electing lawmakers who support businesses.

With elections coming in November, the Kentucky Chamber has developed a valuable toolkit that you can share with your employees, enabling them to discover who's running for office, locate their precincts for voting, and identify opportunities for early voting to help them overcome barriers. We encourage you, as employers, to use these tools to engage your employees in the election process.

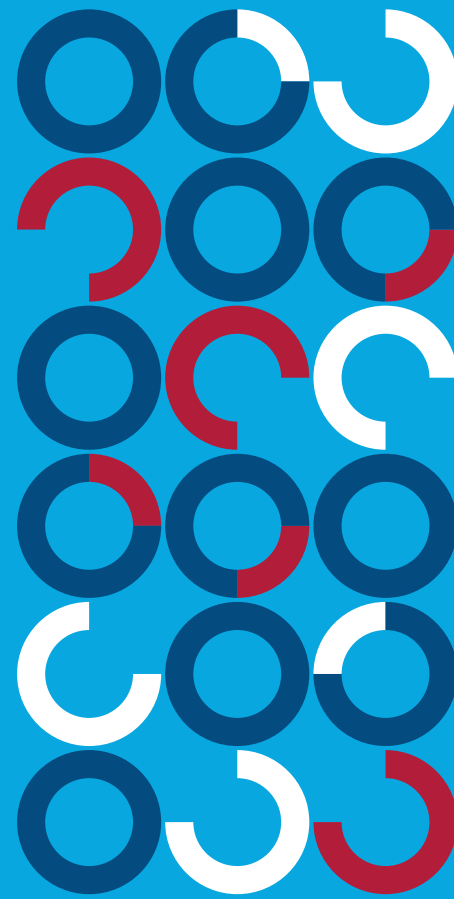
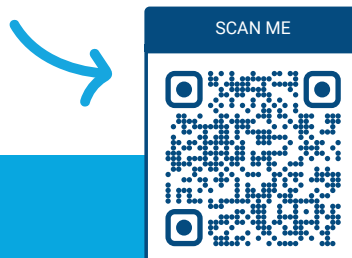
Visit kychamber.com/vote to view more.

Save the date!



WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR KENTUCKY'S FUTURE AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MAKE IT A REALITY?

Read more about how the Kentucky Chamber is working to shape the Commonwealth's future through pro-business advocacy and impactful programming at kychamber.com.





Kentucky Chamber

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