



KFRW ELECTIONS

KFRW Political Newsletter

August 14, 2015

CANDIDATE SPOTLIGHT

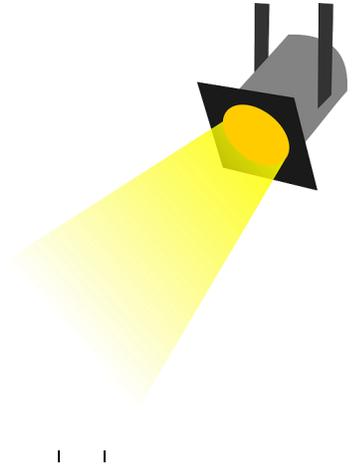
JENEAN HAMPTON

As an organization that focuses on recruiting and supporting women candidates, we are very proud to be able to support Jenean Hampton, the next Lt. Governor of Kentucky.

Jenean's story is not much different from many of those who are running or have run for an elected office. She came from a humble and modest income family. As a young girl, Jenean sought inspiration in a new and exciting program at the time—NASA. That program laid the foundation for Jenean's future. She received an Industrial Engineering degree from Wayne State University and then joined the U.S. Air Force as a computer systems officer. After her service in the Air Force, Jenean began a career in the corrugated packaging industry. While working, she earned an MBA from the University of Rochester.

We are involved in various activities such as careers, military service, volunteer positions, or other activities which help shape who we are as individuals and we never know where those experiences will lead us. Jenean's experiences have lead her down the road to now run for the 2nd highest office in the state. We reached out to Jenean and she was nice enough to answer a few questions for us:

Question #1: One of the responsibilities of Lt. Governor used to be to preside as President over the Senate and oversee the movement of legislation through the chamber. This particular responsibility was abolished in Kentucky many years ago, however, along those lines, what bill(s) do you think should hold high priority and be moved through the Senate as quickly as possible?



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Answer: I will work closely with the House and Senate to pass Right to Work (RTW) legislation, one of the most critical actions we can take to attract companies and jobs to Kentucky. It's worth another state-level attempt at passage despite the Democrat-majority House where RTW usually fails, because Kentucky's lack of RTW status has caused many companies to eliminate us from consideration. Although several counties have already passed RTW locally, other counties are stalling pending resolution of the lawsuit against Hardin County.

Question #2: The debate over tolls in reference to funding repair of the Brent-Spence bridge, so far, has Kentucky against tolls and Ohio for them. What are your thoughts on how the new bridge should be funded?

Answer: All proposals regarding the Brent Spence bridge should be evaluated based on objective cost-benefit and traffic flow analyses. While relevant parties agree that traffic congestion exists surrounding the bridge, there are conflicting opinions as to whether the bridge requires repair, expansion and/or updating and there is an alternate proposal for a bypass. I'm against using tolls to finance the solution—they act as a tax that will likely shift traffic to other roads that are already congested. Instead, Matt Bevin and I recommend using Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) bonds for funding. Such bonds would be collateralized against annual payments Kentucky receives from the federal highway trust fund.

Question #3: Since the Supreme Court's ruling of same sex marriage, some county clerks in Kentucky have refused to issue marriage licenses arguing it runs counter to their Christian beliefs. What is your opinion of this and does the Religious Freedom Restoration Act protect them?

Answer: We must balance our obligation to provide services, with the religious rights and protections afforded by the First Amendment and Kentucky's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA). On one hand, we must provide marriage licenses to all who are eligible under the law. On the other hand, when the Supreme Court changed Kentucky's definition of marriage, it also changed the job description of the county clerks. This should be about balancing competing liberty interests, not replacing one liberty interest with another. My preference would be to find a way to accommodate all parties. It is not uncommon for employers to provide reasonable accommodations to people when job duties conflict with their religious beliefs, so long as there is no undue burden on the employer. A Bevin/Hampton administration would find a way to provide a reasonable accommodation to clerks who hold religious views that conflict with official duties. Such an approach would be consistent with the Kentucky's RFRA which requires that the government use the "least restrictive means" to carry out the government's interest. Matt Bevin has proposed removing the government from the marriage business altogether using a marriage contract form that would simply be recorded at the clerk's office. It's an approach I agree with.



Question #4: Sen. Chris McDaniel co-sponsored SB20 regarding transparency of the pension system and state politicians' tax payer funded benefits. McDaniel says, "Those making decisions about the pension system have had their financial motivations hidden from the public" Do you think this bill will help bring accountability to the process?

Answer: Former Supreme Court Justice, Louis D. Brandeis said that "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants" and I agree—any bill that sheds light on Kentucky's pension system will help bring badly needed accountability to the process and shed light on the true extent of the debt. As governor, Matt Bevin will initiate an independent audit of the entire system so that he and legislators can formulate a robust solution to the \$34B unfunded liability. Matt gained experience managing a pension fund company he founded.

Question #5: Raising the minimum wage has been a hot topic across the country. Republicans argue that increasing the minimum wage will be detrimental to small businesses and will result in the loss of jobs. If raising the minimum wage is not the solution for raising low-end wages, then what is the solution for helping hard working Kentuckians struggling to make ends meet to provide a better quality of life for their families?

Answer: The minimum wage is not meant to be a livable wage; it is an entry-level wage intended for lower-skilled positions in which most workers don't stay long. It gives workers the opportunity to learn new skills and move to other positions at higher salaries commensurate with the market. Artificially increasing the minimum wage forces companies to either raise prices and/or cut employees to stay competitive. Raising the minimum wage has historically reduced or eliminated entry level positions and led to higher unemployment rates for teens and minorities. Our focus is better spent on policies that increase job opportunities, such as Right to Work, tax reform and workforce development.

***We want to thank Jenean for taking time out of her busy schedule to respond to our interview questions and we would like to extend our congratulations to her for recently being inducted into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame.*

THE BATTLE GOES ON

In June of 2015, the Supreme Court upheld a ruling to allow same sex marriages to move forward and be legalized. However, that decision immediately invoked county clerks in several states to begin refusing to issue marriage licenses based on their religious beliefs. That in turn, gave cause to state legislators to begin writing new bills to protect certain groups from civil and criminal liability.

In Kentucky, Rep. Addia Wuchner, on July 2nd, pre-filed House BR102 for the 2016 legislative session. She was quoted as saying "While respecting the opinions and life choices of others, regardless of their positions on the matter, the intent of BR102 is to provide clarity and protect the religious freedom of individuals and institutions to proclaim the Gospel message and provide ministerial services without prejudice and to practice their long held religious convictions and faith traditions. "

Soon after that, on July 16th, Rep. Stan Lee, Minority Caucus Chairman, and Rep. David Meade, initiated BR101 Protecting clerks from liability if they refused licenses on religious grounds. One article from the Courier-Journal said that at the time, 10 county clerks had sent letters to Governor Beshear's office with concerns.

On Wednesday, Aug. 12th, Judge David L. Bunning of United States District Court for Eastern Kentucky, ruling in a case brought by the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) on behalf of four couples — two same-sex and two heterosexual — ordered Ms. Davis to resume issuing licenses. But lawyers for Ms. Davis immediately appealed and sought a stay; Thursday morning, Ms. Davis did not show up at work. (per New York Times, Aug. 13, 2015)

.....And on it goes

Campaigns & Elections

Election Calendar

9/14— Deadline for printing of regular and absentee ballots

9/17—Last day for county clerks to mail absentee ballots to voter who request absentee ballots prior to the printing of the ballots. (within 3 days of the receipt of the printed ballots. Absentee ballots that are requested subsequent to the receipt of the ballots by the county clerks shall be mailed to the voter within 3 days of the receipt of the application)

11/3—ELECTION DAY

There are only 81 days till the November election and campaigns are in full swing and on the down hill slide as they pack in all of the speaking engagements and fundraisers that they can until Nov. 3rd. The latest polls show a tight race for the Governor's seat and a lead for Republicans in all of the other state wide races.

Governor: Bevin 42% Conway 45%
(as of July 31, 2015—Bluegrass polling)

Sec. of State:	Knipper	47%	Grimes	42%
Att. General:	Westerfield	41%	Beshear	36%
State Aud.:	Harman	39%	Edelen	33%
State Treas:	Ball	40%	Nelson	31%
Ag. Comm:	Quarles	40%	Spann	31%

(as of June 23, 2015— Public Policy Polling)

GUBERNATORAL DEBATE SCHEDULE

Oct. 6—Center College in Danville. (This event will be televised)

Oct. 19th—KET forum in Lexington. (This event will be televised)

Oct. 25th—Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond. (This event will be televised)

Oct. 26th—KET forum in Lexington. (This event will be televised)

Newsletter Resources:

Bluegrass Institute—bipp.org
Publicpolicypolling.com/main/polls

KentuckyRepublicanWomen.org

Mattbevin.com

New York Times

Kentucky State Legislature

Kentucky.com

Ballotpedia.org

**KENTUCKY FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN
CAMPAIGN DONATION DISTRIBUTION REPORT**

The KFRW is proud to support our state and local candidates in many ways and one of those ways is through financial donations. On August 8, 2015 the KFRW Executive Committee, with recommendation from the Campaign Finance Committee, approved the disbursement of funds to the following campaigns:

Governor/Lt. Governor	\$500
Allison Ball Campaign	\$500
Steve Knipper Campaign	\$250
Ryan Quarles Campaign	\$250
Whitney Westerfield Campaign	\$250
Mike Harmon Campaign	\$250

(Distribution of funds is based on the following: 1st—Members of the KFRW, 2nd—Assoc. members of the KFRW, 3rd—non members of the KFRW)

Any candidate or legislator who would like to become a member of the KFRW can visit our website: Kentuckyrepublicanwomen.org and click on the link for clubs to find a club in your area, or contact our state president, Barb Ellerbrook at bae73144@gmail.com

Oldham Co. Republican Women’s Club Donates to Candidates	
Bevin Gubernatorial Campaign	\$1,000
All other Republican State Candidates	\$500