



KFRW ELECTIONS

KFRW Political Newsletter

April 10, 2015

STEVE KNIPPER - THE NEXT SECRETARY OF STATE?

I recently had the privilege to sit next to Steve Knipper at a Lincoln-Reagan dinner and found him to be a really nice down to earth type of guy. We had a nice time visiting and at the close of the evening I asked permission to do an interview with him. Below are some of the questions I asked him and his responses:

Question #1: In a 2014 Forbes article, Kentucky is ranked #7 for people moving out of state. One might surmise that it was job related. As a candidate for Secretary of State, what are some specific plans you have for bringing businesses back to Kentucky so our young people can find jobs in the state?

I'm asked this question all the time on the campaign trail. Everyone, from graduating college students to parents who want their children to stay in Kentucky, is concerned about the lack of jobs.

Fortunately, as Secretary of State, I can do something about that. The Secretary of State is the Chief Business Officer of the state. In the past, no one (including the current Secretary of State) has explored this role. I intend to do that. I have worked as both a business analyst and a project manager. I know what businesses need to succeed. Kentucky is poised to do great things, but the problem is no one knows about it. We have several niche markets we can develop and expand. We can work with the universities to identify even more areas where Kentuckians excel. We then market these areas to both



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Domestic and international businesses. In addition, I will work with the legislature to identify laws that impede business development. Once we eliminate these road blocks, Kentucky will truly be open for business.

Question #2: Voter fraud is a serious issue during elections. You mention developing an electronic registration format on your website. IF elected, just exactly how will this work to eliminate or cut down on voter fraud?

First of all, I will conduct an audit of current state voter data bases. I will select several counties as test cases and roll out a pilot program to them. This will be a long and tedious process—it can take up to four years to fully “clean” the data—but I am committed to making sure those who vote in Kentucky have the legal right to do so.

Question #3: Your campaign platform mentions that you will use your work experience to bring more comprehensive and sophisticated security to prevent identity theft & cyber-attacks on infrastructure. What are some specific ways you would do this?

I have spent several years implementing security for hospital databases. Privacy and security are of utmost concern in the medical field. Because of this, I will bring a high level of IT Security experience to the Secretary of State’s office. I already know the cutting edge industry standards of IT security. In addition, I know the software the state would need to purchase and what is fluff. I won’t pay for something the state doesn’t need. This is why we need an IT professional in the office, and not an attorney who has a little to no experience in this area;

Question #4: What are some key differences between you and your opponent in the general election that will convince voters to vote for you.

First of all, skill set. For far too long the Secretary of State’s office has been held by attorneys who viewed the office as a stepping stone to bigger and better things. (I think we saw some of that in the recent Senate Campaign). As a result, the office has been underutilized. It doesn’t make sense to have someone who has neither a business nor an IT background in the office.

Second of all, commitment. If I’m elected Secretary of State, I will show up for work and do the job. I don’t think our current Secretary of State can say the same. According to a Mitch McConnell ad, she didn’t come for work 70% of the time. Now I don’t know about you but where I come from, one of the basics of holding a job is showing up to work. In addition, it just doesn’t make sense to re-elect someone who began campaigning for Senate just eighteen months into her first term. That isn’t what I’d call commitment.

Interview Con’t:

Question #5: What will be the one key issue you will address immediately once you are elected to office

Jobs. Jobs. Jobs. That will be my number one priority. Kentuckians are hurting. They need to work. I will immediately begin pushing Kentucky as a great state in which to do business. But as a project manager, I’m trained to juggle multiple projects, so while I will be focused on jobs, I will also be cleaning up the voter databases. I’ve already started putting together teams that will address both issues. IF elected, I don’t plan to sit idle. I look forward to actually serving the people of Kentucky instead of spending my time looking for my next office.



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SECRETARY OF STATE 2015

Election Calendar

April 2: Last day for county clerks to mail absentee ballots to voters who request absentee ballots prior to the printing of the ballots

May 1 - 18: Voters may make application to vote absentee in county clerk's office

May 12: Last day to apply for mail-in absentee ballot

May 19: Primary Election Day

Campaign Volunteer Hours

Club Presidents: Don't forget to turn in your volunteer campaign hours for the fourth quarter (Oct. Nov. Dec 2014) and for June 2014—May 31, 2015 to KFRW Elections Chairman: Debra Henley at dshenley@twc.com Hours must be turned in no later than June 1st. In order to qualify for National recognition at the 2015 NFRW Convention.

HEROIN BILL PASSES



As probably most everyone knows, SB 192 passed at the end of the General Assembly 2015 session. This is a huge step in battling the heroin epidemic in the state of Kentucky. The law, after signed by the governor, will take effect 90 days after the session's adjournment.

- There is a good Samaritan provision, which gives immunity to drug addicts who report an overdose victim to authorities.
- Greater use of life saving drugs like Naloxone, and Vivitrol which can reverse an overdose
- A redirection of savings from 2011's criminal justice reforms.
- A local option needle exchange program, which will reduce blood borne diseases as HIV and Hep C and the dirty needle sticks by law enforcement and the public.
- Tougher penalties for criminals in cases of large amounts of heroin.

Other bills that passed are

HB 8—Dating violence Bill
SB 133—Ignition interlock legislation
HB 299—Road fund bill
HB 134—Breeder's Cup
SB 33—Charitable gaming.
HB 76—Crowdfunding
HB 24—Drug abuse
HB 234—Early childhood development
SB 28—Gambling
HB 62—Kentucky Employees Retirement System
SB 75—Newborn Health Screening
SJR 20—Sexual Assault
SB 119—Schools
SB 159—Spina Bifida
SB 10—Strokes
HB 209—Veterans

Gubernatorial Race Poll By: Triumph Campaigns Released March 26, 2015

Hal Heiner	33%
James Comer	19%
Matt Bevin	12%
Justice Will Scott	4%

VOTE MAY 19TH

Just Sayin

Sarah Palin became famous during the 2008 Presidential Elections for her phrase of putting lipstick on a pig. This of course was a message aimed at the Democratic party for their attempt to disguise the true nature of the democratic party in that particular election. Well, we could say the same thing regarding the issue of Common Core and the attempt of certain states trying to sell their voters on a premise that they are dropping Common Core in their schools and replacing it with a different set of standards. However, in several reports I have read, the same phrase kept coming out in comments made by different states saying that they are dropping Common Core and replacing it with a new curriculum. However, the new math and reading standards contained in the new curriculum are still aligned with the national standards, or are substantially similar to Common Core standards". One excuse the states use for this reasoning is, the text books that they buy for these classes are all geared toward Common Core. The Association of American Publishers says textbooks selected by states for instructional programs in various grades and subject levels are used for six years, so from a monetary viewpoint one could understand they might not want to waste money, so they try to formulate a curriculum that would allow them to continue to use the instructional materials and books. However, any way you look at it – Common Core doesn't work. In the fall of 2010, Kentucky became the first of 45 states to adopt the Common Core curriculum, but so far it doesn't seem to be working. The first tests based on CC were administered in Kentucky in the spring of 2012. The results were less than impressive and in fact the results were worse than previous results. The National Education Association is finally waking up to the fact that this curriculum doesn't work. During their annual meeting in 2014 they called for the resignation of the U.S. Secretary of Education. They planned to give their members grants to critique the standards or to write replacement standards. They considered a resolution that asserted the promise of CC has been corrupted by political manipulation, administrative bungling, corporate profiteering and invalid scoring system ensuring that huge numbers of kids will fail the new math and language exams. Kentucky Opponents of CC have become more vocal and are attempting to follow Ohio's lead and get a bill introduced to repeal the standards. All of this criticism from all sides is a definite blow to one of President Obama's top educational goals. No matter how state's attempt to word it : You can clean up a pig, put a ribbon on its tail, spray it with perfume, it's still a pig. -----Just Sayin



Opinion Article: Debra Henley
Election Education Chairman

Newsletter Resources:

Steve Knipper for Sec. of State Campaign
Politico.com/story/2014/7
Common Core Implementation by State
Bipps.org
Theatlantic.com
Eagleforum.org

UPCOMING ARTICLES

- Results of Primary Elections
- Interview with Candidates
- Just Sayin...
Opinion Article