

2024 General Assembly Agenda

Improve Public Safety

Reduce Violent Crime

- Provide Metro Louisville with the autonomy, even temporarily, to destroy weapons used in murders and other violent crimes, require background checks for all firearm sales, allow Emergency Risk Protection Orders, require a waiting period for first-time gun buyers, and limit concealed carry for individuals under 25 years old.
- Provide state funding for new resources to local police departments to improve clearance rates for violent crimes and provide technology to combat violent crime, including license plate readers, flock cameras, and gunshot detection systems.
- Enact a state wiretapping law to apprehend gang leaders and the most violent offenders in our cities. Kentucky is one of four states that does not have a wiretapping law. This law would be narrowly targeted, would only be permitted in jurisdictions with a population above 250,000, and would require extensive training for investigative law enforcement.
- Enact legislation making carjacking, theft of a vehicle by means of force or fear, a state crime. Create a pre-trial diversion program for juveniles convicted of first-time carjacking offenses.

Early Childhood Education

Make Universal Pre-K a Reality

• Provide \$20 million a year for two years to help establish Kentucky's first pilot program providing free, high-quality early education to 3 and 4-year-olds. This funding will be used to jump start Louisville's universal pre-k initiative, which is targeted to improving educational outcomes, supporting working parents, and increasing workforce participation.

More Affordable Housing

New Incentives and Protections

• Enact a State Affordable Housing Tax Credit. Provide \$20 million in annual credits for five years to spur the development of multi-family affordable housing and housing for first-time home buyers. Funding for this tax credit should be equally divided for urban

and rural housing development.

- Dedicate at least 20 percent of the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund to implementing a comprehensive, fully coordinated affordable housing plan for all of Metro Louisville.
- Modernize eviction records to ensure that, when a court rules in favor of a tenant, the legal filings are expunged from that individual's record and are not a barrier to future housing. Forty-one percent of the evictions filed in 2019 were dismissed, but continue to show up on the tenant's records, creating a barrier to quality housing.
- Stop bad actors from purchasing vacant properties at Kentucky Master Commissioner sales. Require bidders to certify, under penalty of law, that they have no record of failing to maintain other property, no outstanding liens, and hold no properties that have been vacant for 18 consecutive months, unless there is active construction on the property.
- Amend Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant statute to allow local governments to enact additional tenant protections, which is prevented under current law.

Strengthening Economic Development

Stronger Incentives

- Provide \$20 million per year for five years for the Kentucky Investment Fund Tax Credit and implement new metrics and guidance to ensure the tax credit is successfully driving business growth and job creation.
- Spur new capital investment in the Commonwealth with a major infusion of funds for programs like Commonwealth Seed Capital, KeyHorse Capital and similar state entities, as well as initiatives that support small businesses and minority and women enterprises.
- Raise the \$20 million annual cap on Kentucky Enterprise Initiative Act allowances. With more projects qualifying for this sales tax rebate on construction costs, funding for KEIA is not matching demand for this incredibly important program.
- Improve Kentucky's Tourism Development Act to support new and ongoing tourism attractions, including allowing businesses to reapply after 10 years of compliance and prior to undertaking another qualified project.
- Expand the Kentucky Business Investment (KBI) program so that technology and business services companies can take advantage of its tax incentives. Current KBI requirements largely limit eligibility to manufacturing and agribusiness. Given the dramatic shift in our workforce and new remote work reality, KBI needs to be updated so we can also compete for the new, high paying jobs of the future.
- Support a constitutional amendment that allows the General Assembly to delegate more authority to city and county governments to craft local tax policies tailored to their needs and goals. Local revenue reform will increase our competitiveness for talent and investment, help us spur economic development and address other urgent needs here in Louisville and other communities across Kentucky.

\$246,000,000 for Louisville's Safe & Healthy Future

- \$50 million to the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund, at least \$20 million of which will be used to build affordable housing for first-time home buyers.
- \$22.5 million for capital improvements at the Community Care Campus. This one-time request will help complete this groundbreaking initiative to help those experiencing homelessness stabilize and access services.
- \$42 million Metro Parks & Recreation Capital Needs:
 - \$20 million for the design and construction of a newly envisioned, world-class activated Belvedere
 - o \$7 million to enclose new Algonquin Park Aquatics Center
 - \$200,000 to add seating and improve safety for our Commonwealth's State Amphitheater, Iroquois Amphitheater, with an Orchestra Pit Conversion project
 - \$15 million for a world-class natatorium and public pool in South Louisville, in partnership with U of L
- \$30 million to spur conversions of downtown office buildings to residential and other non-office (hotels, retail, entertainment) uses. This fund would support incentives like offering low interest loans, commissioning architectural feasibility studies, providing direct subsides, or other options.
- \$26 million Ohio Riverfront Investment Strategy. This funding will be used for:
 - Riverport infrastructure (\$9 million)
 - Shawnee Park Nature Center (\$7 million)
 - Louisville Loop infrastructure in Eastern Jefferson County (\$8 million)
 - Ohio River Northeast project connecting Lewis & Clark Bridge to US42 (\$1 million)
 - \$800K per year for enhanced Waterfront Development Corporation operations
- \$17 million for the design and construction of new infrastructure for the LouMed district, creating a safe, campus like environment in the heart of our downtown medical district.
- \$12 million for infrastructure improvement to support the development of an entertainment and residential district surrounding Lynn Family Stadium.
- \$35 million of additional, one-time grant funds for the planning and construction of transportation and other infrastructure improvements needed to support smart growth in the less densely populated portions of Louisville.
- Support the critical education, literacy, training and job-seeking role of public libraries with \$11 million in funding for the Public Library Facilities Construction Fund program to complete the Fern Creek, Portland, and Parkland libraries.
- Strongly support the University of Louisville's \$280 million request for the new Health Sciences Simulation and Collaboration Hub.