

# AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

## ADAM EDELEN



**Party:** Democrat  
**Born:** Nov. 26, 1974  
**Residence:** Lexington  
**Occupation:** Business management consultant  
**Web site:** Adamedelen.com

## THE ISSUES

CANDIDATES WERE ASKED TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN 45 WORDS OR FEWER

## JOHN T. KEMPER III



**Party:** Republican  
**Born:** Oct. 31, 1963  
**Residence:** Lexington  
**Occupation:** Home builder and developer  
**Web site:** Johnkemper.com

Medicaid. As the Beshear administration adopts a broader role for managed-care providers, I'll work to make sure these private contractors doing billions of dollars in public work are held accountable to the taxpayers.

### STATE GOVERNMENT

Name an area of Gov. Steve Beshear's administration that you believe merits deeper investigation by auditors and explain why.

Personal service contracts under the current administration have grown from \$1 billion during FY 2010 to \$1.7 billion in FY 2011, an increase of \$700 million in 12 months. I will focus attention on these special contracts between executive branch agencies and private firms.

Policy makers often need to feel the heat to see the light. I'll make effective use of the office as a bully pulpit and engage the public as citizen auditors to insure accountability.

### EFFECTIVENESS

Crit Luallen, the current auditor, has said it's frustrating when her reports uncover serious problems but essentially are ignored by elected leaders. How will you make sure problems you uncover are addressed?

Democrats overseeing Democrats in Frankfort will never work. Period. An independent, impartial, non-partisan watchdog of taxpayer resources is needed to ensure that unbiased audits of executive branch agencies run by Democratic appointees actually take place. I will be just that advocate for taxpayers.

I have several. I played an important role in reforming the Transportation Cabinet and cutting the budget by a billion dollars. As the driving force behind New Century Lexington's acclaimed reports on community livability, I designed hundreds of accountability metrics.

### CORRUPTION

What is one example from your career where you confronted members of your own political party in order to root out waste, fraud or abuse?

I'm not a politician and don't owe anything to anyone. I believe in limited, fiscally sound government that's responsive to taxpayers. My opponent, Adam Edelen, has spent most of his life at the knee of Democratic politicians in Frankfort. He cannot be independent.

I will do both. As an executive with high-level experience in both business and government, I have a demonstrated record of leading organizations to high levels of performance with scarce resources.

### AUDITS

Would you expand the use of performance audits, which examine the impact and efficiency of state programs and agencies, or focus more on traditional audits of agencies' finances?

Simply put, I will use every tool available to the auditor's office to identify abuse and misuse of taxpayer funds. Of particular interest to me will be the increasing number of special taxing districts, which to date have been subject to little or no oversight.

Absolutely. I will push for legislation to make sure that this is the law of the land.

### AUTHORITY

Do you believe the state auditor has the authority to audit any organization that receives the majority of its money from taxpayers?

Yes. The Kentucky League of Cities and KACo are examples of such organizations caught wasting hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars. My opponent, Adam Edelen, shamefully has taken campaign contributions from employees of both organizations. Such abuses by these groups won't happen on my watch.

Yes.

### WORK HOURS

Elected constitutional officers don't record when and how long they work. If elected, will you keep accurate records of your work time and make those records available to the public?

In addition to details of my own time and compensation, I'll put state government's entire checkbook online. For too long Frankfort insiders have spent taxpayer funds with little or no accountability. That will change on my watch, and transparency is the key.

Current law outlines that the auditor may accept such contributions as long as they are properly reported in a transparent fashion. Like Crit Luallen, I will show neither fear nor favor in administering my duties.

### ETHICS

Is it appropriate for the state auditor to accept campaign contributions from state employees or employees of other taxpayer-funded agencies that might be the subject of a state audit?

I've not accepted a single dollar from any lobbyist, state official or employee of an agency I might be called upon to audit. My opponent, Adam Edelen, has taken more than \$100,000 from Frankfort lobbyists and state officials subject to direct oversight by the auditor.

My top priority is to fight head-on the traditional barriers to progress in Kentucky: corruption and scarcity of resources. I'll take on any corrupt politician or government contractor that steals or wastes our tax dollars.

### TOP PRIORITY

What would be your top priority as state auditor?

It's time for the Frankfort political class to address the burgeoning debt state government is building through off-the-books bond issues and oversize obligations to pensioners. As the taxpayers' watchdog, I will shine the light on these problems once and for all.