


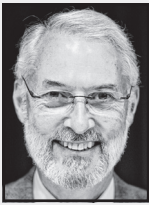

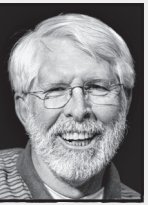


THE ISSUES: URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL AT LARGE

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

<p>PRIORITIES</p> <p>If elected, what proposal would you introduce first for approval by the Urban County Council?</p>	<p>GEORGE BROWN Born: Nov. 14, 1948 Residence: 424 East Fourth Street Occupation: Supply chain coordinator, University of Kentucky</p>  <p>I would put forth legislation to increase revenues by way of beefing up economic development (employment) initiatives. I would also insist that we adhere to the World at Work index for paying non-sworn employees in government.</p>	<p>CHUCK ELLINGER II Born: April 13, 1964 Residence: 1823 Nicholasville Road Occupation: Lawyer, investor and councilman</p>  <p>The council must look at our ever-increasing utility costs for our citizens. Costs continue to escalate dramatically while citizens' income does not. I will propose we look at all franchise agreements and be proactive in our renegotiations.</p>	<p>LINDA GORTON Born: June 15, 1948 Residence: 605 Beechmont Road Occupation: Registered nurse and councilwoman</p>  <p>A proposal to facilitate the mayor and council working together on the budget from the beginning of the process. When the mayor presents the budget to the council in April each year, it'll have had significant input from council members, making the process more efficient.</p>
<p>QUALITIES</p> <p>Why are you the best candidate to be Lexington's vice mayor?</p>	<p>My experience, knowledge and passion equip me to be vice mayor. I've built a reputation as an intelligent, bold, dynamic and visionary leader. I would lead council to understand its legislative and fiduciary responsibility and raise awareness to become an equal partner in governing LFUCG.</p>	<p>As the only two-term council-at-large candidate, I bring the necessary experience and leadership to be Lexington's next vice mayor. I have chaired numerous meetings including committee, work session and council. My exemplary attendance record shows my passion and commitment to this community.</p>	<p>Currently the longest-serving council member, I am fair, honest, hard-working, listen to all sides of issues, respect all persons and opinions, have even temperament, love working with people to solve challenges and problems, never forget who elected me or that I am working with taxpayer dollars.</p>
<p>PRESERVATION</p> <p>Do you support the city's continued funding of the Purchase of Development Rights program to preserve Fayette County farmland?</p>	<p>Due to the extremely tight budget, there are some community concerns that require immediate attention — complying with the EPA judgment and some overdue improvements to our infrastructure. Throwing money at a problem is rarely a solution, and the preservation of land is no exception.</p>	<p>I have and will continue to support the city's funding of the Purchase of Development Rights program to preserve Fayette County farmland. We are halfway to our goal. Lexington is the "Horse Capital of the World," and we need to protect our brand.</p>	<p>Yes. Agricultural, ag-tourism, and equine jobs have a huge positive impact on Fayette County's economy. The PDR program, halfway to the goal of 50,000 protected acres, enables farmers to continue their jobs and allows Fayette County to continue proactive land-use planning.</p>
<p>GROWTH</p> <p>Would you advocate for or against an expansion of the city's Urban Service Boundary during the next four years?</p>	<p>Rather than expanding the Urban Service Boundary we must use the land that we have available more effectively.</p>	<p>The Urban Service Boundary (USB) helps protect what makes Lexington unique. Staff is presently evaluating our available land. It doesn't appear at this time that we need to expand the USB. We must continue growing up, not out, and focus on infill and redevelopment.</p>	<p>Council doesn't have power to expand the growth boundary — only the Planning Commission does. I do not support adding a goal to expand the boundary. Studies show there are still significant acres available for development within the Urban Service Boundary. I support infill and redevelopment incentives.</p>
<p>CENTREPOINTE</p> <p>How does Lexington avoid a repeat of the CentrePointe situation, in which buildings were demolished for new construction that has not materialized?</p>	<p>We must be very careful how far we get into regulating a private enterprise's ability to make decisions about private property. Agencies in government have jurisdiction over permitting demolition. Examine the effectiveness of current regulations. I favor a common-sense approach.</p>	<p>Although CentrePointe is a private development, it sits in the heart of downtown. Everybody feels vested in what happens to it. The government needs to make sure all necessary safeguards are in place, such as demolition, design guidelines, etc., to provide the best project possible.</p>	<p>We should build in a step during the permit process to ensure funding for redevelopment is in place. Other cities already do this.</p>
<p>INVESTIGATION</p> <p>What is the lesson learned from the monthslong investigation of fraud allegations involving the city's procurement of insurance services?</p>	<p>This impasse provides the legislative branch the opportunity to examine its ability to have checks and balances in relation to the executive branch. The council desperately needs independent legal and financial expertise to advise on legislative deliberations.</p>	<p>Many lessons were learned from the fraud allegations. These include, but are not limited to: reviewing our purchasing and procurement policies and procedures; establishing a better process to report anonymous complaints without retaliation; and reorganizing our Internal Audit Board and establishing better operating procedures.</p>	<p>We learned that our government needs to be more open, that there are some significant improvements to be made in the areas of procurement and protection of employees who have complaints against the government.</p>
<p>DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Should the city set design standards for developments in the downtown area?</p>	<p>Possibly! Be mindful of the costs associated with these standards for developments in the downtown area. There is already a higher cost to downtown development. We should be careful not to price our downtown out of being able to do business competitively.</p>	<p>Yes, that is why I was one of the council members who put into the Planning Committee the idea of design standards for developments in the downtown area. The citizens of Lexington deserve the best downtown we can imagine and create.</p>	<p>Yes, there should be some type of design standards, form-based codes or a hybrid of the two for downtown. I serve on the task force which is working on this issue and will present to the Council Planning Committee, which I chair, a recommendation for standards.</p>
<p>SPENDING</p> <p>Name one specific cut you would propose to reduce city expenditures.</p>	<p>The most logical place to cut LFUCG expenditures is in personnel, which comprises approximately 70 percent of the general fund expenditures. We must seriously seek input from all affected parties and the general public.</p>	<p>As a council member, I helped reorganize Streets, Roads and Forestry. There were situations of duplication of services. We eliminated Property Management. We need to make sure we are being as efficient as possible and not having any further duplication of services.</p>	<p>My first priorities for funding in the budget are always basic services such as police and fire protection, corrections, code enforcement, building inspection, street resurfacing, sewers, storm-water management, snow removal, etc. After basic services are provided, I will consider potential reductions when necessary.</p>

<p>PRIORITIES</p> <p>If elected, what proposal would you introduce first for approval by the Urban County Council?</p>	<p>STEVE KAY Born: Sept. 28, 1943 Residence: 250 Campsie Place Occupation: Partner, Roberts & Kay Inc., consulting firm in organizational development and public policy</p>  <p>As the owner of a small business, I know the difficulties small businesses face and how much they contribute to the community. I will propose that council adopt measures that help our small local businesses and that grow jobs by encouraging entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>KATHY PLOMIN Born: Aug. 30, 1954 Residence: 3508 Trinidad Court Occupation: Former president, United Way of the Bluegrass</p>  <p>I would propose a process to revisit the over 50 empty city-owned buildings downtown and seek innovative redevelopment and infill uses.</p>	<p>DON PRATT Born: Sept. 10, 1944 Residence: 210 Walton Avenue Occupation: Foster parent and retired owner of Woodland Grocery</p>  <p>Election reform reducing ridiculous, wasteful campaign spending and increase participation with: voter guides to all voters with equal space for all candidates, Web pages with biographies, endorsements and answers to pertinent questions from the public, voting by mail, and Lexington voting for a publicly elected auditor!</p>
<p>QUALITIES</p> <p>Why are you the best candidate to be Lexington's vice mayor?</p>	<p>As a professional facilitator, I have significant experience helping groups with differing opinions come to agreement. I also have a deep understanding of the issues from my work with state and local government agencies on economic development, social services, education, the arts and the environment.</p>	<p>I'm not running for vice mayor. I'm running to bring my experience in and knowledge of our community to the council. This would be my first term, and I feel council members Gorton and Ellinger's longtime service gives them the edge on being vice mayor.</p>	<p>For much of my life, I have questioned what's wrong and advocated what's right, including in local government! We need change! The courage to stand for what needs to change has not been visible. I make that commitment. No dishonesty, no coverups, no waste.</p>
<p>PRESERVATION</p> <p>Do you support the city's continued funding of the Purchase of Development Rights program to preserve Fayette County farmland?</p>	<p>Yes, I support the PDR program. It ensures that the beautiful, productive rural landscape we treasure will be here for our great-grandchildren. The PDR program keeps Lexington distinctive and prevents sprawl. It protects our economic potential and our quality of life.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>With no hesitation, I support the intent but question the program. Buyout rights, threatening surrounding counties' development, effectiveness, current economic conditions, alternative laws as well as current economic needs must be in the answer before continuation. Let's not act on intention but succeed with preservation!</p>
<p>GROWTH</p> <p>Would you advocate for or against an expansion of the city's Urban Service Boundary during the next four years?</p>	<p>I see no need to expand the Urban Service Boundary during the next four years. That said, I believe that good council members should listen to and consider opinions from all the people they represent.</p>	<p>Maintaining the right balance between preserving farmland and encouraging growth is an issue we face as a community. Our outlying rural countryside is a treasure. I am always open to listening to both perspectives and making the right choice for our community's best interests.</p>	<p>Against! Expansion is obviously not needed now. Infill encouraging better land usage and increasing closer proximity to work, school or play is essential. Building up is best, particularly increasing numbers of downtown residents and housing near UK — focused on lower-income students and staff.</p>
<p>CENTREPOINTE</p> <p>How does Lexington avoid a repeat of the CentrePointe situation, in which buildings were demolished for new construction that has not materialized?</p>	<p>We should adopt regulations requiring developers to prove they can build what they propose — before permitting demolition. Replacing viable businesses with empty lots is an economic drain on our city. We can also prevent building deterioration by firm, fair code enforcement.</p>	<p>Private property rights must be balanced with good zoning laws and enlightened urban planning. If, as a community, we want to save farmland and control growth, and save the historic districts around downtown, we have to allow more intensive development downtown.</p>	<p>Better investment, laws, ordinances and leaders. Architectural treasures and historic structures are part of our character and soul. And, what about other structures like the Springs Motel? In 63 years here, I have witnessed too much loss. My commitment is to change with better preservation.</p>
<p>INVESTIGATION</p> <p>What is the lesson learned from the monthslong investigation of fraud allegations involving the city's procurement of insurance services?</p>	<p>We need increased vigilance by elected officials and clearer, more effective regulations. Otherwise we will continue to waste time and money. New policies should ensure protection for employees raising questions, and ways to prevent conflicts of interest for those charged with investigating allegations of wrongdoing.</p>	<p>That checks and balances in government work. The administration has the day-to-day responsibility for running the government, but the council has a policy and oversight role to play as well.</p>	<p>The independence of council and sharing of information is controlled for political purposes. Greater council independence and financial transparency must be achieved by LFUCG. Review our relationship with the Kentucky League of Cities as well as insurance purchasing. And, elect a local public auditor.</p>
<p>DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Should the city set design standards for developments in the downtown area?</p>	<p>Yes. I support the work of the committee that is developing a set of proposals for design standards for downtown development. The issues and process are complex. Working together, we can encourage smart development throughout Lexington.</p>	<p>We don't want to end up with cookie-cutter look-alike buildings and a more complicated process that could discourage investment in development. Yet standards could serve as guidelines for comparison.</p>	<p>Look to the success of other cities! Use their lessons learned and add our own creative thinking. While promoting our own beauty, be aware of hardships to think of how we can help. What about retail space requirements for new first-floor exterior fronts?</p>
<p>SPENDING</p> <p>Name one specific cut you would propose to reduce city expenditures.</p>	<p>I am a member of LFUCG's Climate Action Task Force, which will propose comprehensive measures to reduce our energy use and result in cost savings. I will support changes in transportation, building management and other areas that have a positive impact on government's overall budget.</p>	<p>The greatest unnecessary expense we have is repair and maintenance on the current government building. We could save money just by renting space in vacant office buildings downtown and moving city offices there while we look for the right site for a new building.</p>	<p>In light of serious needs during these economic times, an answer must not be meaningless. And one answer is inadequate. The mayor's budget, imbalanced high salaries, unnecessary trips and other frippery of so many political appointees in this mayor's administration should be the first cuts.</p>