



THE ISSUES: URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

1ST DISTRICT

MARTY CLIFFORD

Age: 52
Occupation: Real estate investor
Elected office: None
Web site: Martyclifford.com



CHRIS FORD

Age: 34
Occupation: President and chief executive officer of REACH Inc.
Elected office: None
Web site: Votechris1st.com



THE ISSUES

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

5TH DISTRICT

BILL FARMER JR.

Age: 51
Occupation: Owner of Farmer's Jewelry
Elected office: Former Urban County Council member
Web site: None



CHERYL FEIGEL

Age: 63
Occupation: Councilwoman
Elected office: Urban County Council, 2008 to present
Web site: Cherylfeigel.org



QUALITIES

Why are you the better candidate?

I have been a community leader for over 10 years. I've completed 20-plus 1st District improvement projects. I have the experience, relationships and time to get quality improvement done. I'm the only candidate able to commit full-time work and energy to this council position.

I have the personal and professional background to fairly represent all citizens and neighborhoods within our diverse district. My experience as a former LFUCG employee provides me the advantage needed to be an effective councilman, in adapting to the complexities of governance and legislative leadership.

Nobody knows the 5th better than Bill Farmer. I am a native of and lifelong resident in the 5th District. When I served on the council previously, I earned a reputation for cutting red tape to get things done and demanding audits of local government.

Historic problems were finally addressed during my term: Lexington Mall redevelopment; redesign of a congested, unsafe intersection, including grant applications; new resurfacing funding formula yielding a higher percentage for 5th District; initiation of a new funding mechanism for private funds to support parks master plan.

PROBLEMS

What is the most pressing problem in your district? How would you fix it?

We have many problems in the 1st District including: inadequate infrastructure, high poverty and crime. As a full-time candidate I will have time to address these issues, especially crime. Reducing crime is the springboard to working on all other quality-of-life improvements.

Every District 1 resident should have access to decent, safe and affordable housing. As a solution, I will support the creation and implementation of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. I will also work to establish a Land Bank Authority to help neighborhoods redevelop existing housing.

Sewer repair. We need to use the EPA funds already available to us to stop house flooding and sewer overflows. The problems are well known, and the money is there. What are we waiting for? I will get the solutions started. That's my top priority.

Aging infrastructure. I will advocate a strategic plan to resurface all substandard streets, including annual maintenance requirements; initiate new policies regarding sidewalk and curb replacement to more equitably assist homeowners; expedite the sewer and storm-water overhaul mandated by EPA and "sunset" water quality fee.

PRESERVATION

Do you support the city's continued funding of the Purchase of Development Rights program to preserve Fayette county farmland?

I do support the PDR program. I support this program because it protects our farmlands, which preserves both our culture and our signature business industry. By putting programs in place to protect our rural lands it will help promote infill and redevelopment.

Yes. I also hope to utilize the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program as a model and leveraging tool for implementing infill and redevelopment initiatives within the Urban Services Boundary.

Yes.

Surrounding farmland is Lexington's unique asset which provides our coveted "identity" and must be preserved; however, in this unprecedented economic crisis it may be impossible to fund at the highest levels we have enjoyed. A balance between critical services and identity is necessary.

PRIORITIES

If elected, what proposal would you introduce first for approval by Urban County Council?

I would create a Community Development Corporation that focuses on the 1st District. A CDC was a major recommendation of the small area plans. I helped initiate these plans in 2004. A CDC will provide many solutions to the problems in the 1st District.

I will lead efforts to recreate a comprehensive Workforce Development/Job Training Center for low-income residents, similar to the former Mayor's Training Center. District 1 will benefit (from increased economic opportunities and higher median household incomes) as a result of more residents working.

I would propose legislation that mandates mediation if we are ever in court against ourselves again. Your tax dollars are too precious to waste arguing among ourselves.

I will advocate a five-year strategic plan to resurface all substandard streets and advocate a mandatory annual allocation for street maintenance to keep pace with deterioration. Neglected sewer and storm-water infrastructure finally resulted in an EPA lawsuit. Street maintenance has been equally neglected over decades.

SPENDING

Name one specific cut you would propose to reduce city expenditures.

It would be irresponsible to name specific cuts without having had the experience of the spring budget review process. I would not cut programs that support education, affordable housing and public safety, as these are the programs the 1st District needs most.

I promote optimal efficiency in core function services. I would reduce funding for external reports, such as the 2008 Management Audit (reorganization study). Greater focus should be placed on administering the Comprehensive and Consolidated Plans, both of which guide local land-use and urban development.

I would cut the funds being spent planning for a new government center. How can we consider building a new city hall when we can't even afford to repave the streets around it?

LFUCG vehicular fleet has grown exponentially over the years. I will advocate a new vehicle pool system to dramatically cut costs associated with vehicle procurement, maintenance, insurance, storage and fuel consumption, including liquidation of surplus vehicles.

7TH DISTRICT

K. C. CROSBIE

Age: 40
Occupation: Former hospital representative of Merck and Co.
Elected office: Urban County Council, 2006 to present
Web site: Facebook.com/KCCrosbie



CHRIS LOGAN

Born: 43
Occupation: Pastor of High Point Church
Elected office: None
Web site: Facebook.com/ChrisLoganforCouncil



THE ISSUES

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10TH DISTRICT

DOUG MARTIN

Age: 47
Occupation: Attorney
Elected office: Appointed to the Urban County Council in 2008
Web site: DougMartin10th.com



KEVIN WILLIAMS

Born: 46
Occupation: Retired Lexington firefighter
Elected office: Served 13 years as a magistrate, four years on Irvine City Council
Web site: Kevinwilliams10.com



QUALITIES

Why are you the better candidate?

My council record of standing up for taxpayers, strengthening government oversight and demonstrated commitment to public safety have defined my term. I understand the budgetary process and I have helped identify ways to reduce spending and cut waste.

I will put people before politics. Representing the people of the 7th District by being available and responsive to their issues will be my top priority. My experience as a business owner, financial planner and community leader as a pastor make me the best candidate.

My economic development and legal background will help create jobs and run government more like a business. I want to fix our roads, crumbling sewers and aging infrastructure. As a husband, father and past neighborhood president, I care about our families, parks, schools and neighborhoods.

I can serve full-time and conduct myself in a courteous and professional manner representing the 10th District. I will be an independent voice of the district representing its citizens' best interests and not guided by an administration or special interest.

PROBLEMS

What is the most pressing problem in your district? How would you fix it?

Keeping families in my district safe is always my priority. I'll continue work on the Public Safety Budget Committee to ensure we have staffing necessary to support the growth of 7th District neighborhoods. Through those efforts, I earned the endorsements of Lexington police and firefighters.

Many problems exist in the district, including traffic, safety, expansion and blighted properties. However, traffic concerns rate the highest by constituents, especially the volume and speed of cut-through traffic in neighborhoods. I will work closely with Traffic Engineering and the neighborhoods to resolve this.

Aside from Lexington's pension troubles, the 10th District mostly suffers from deteriorating roads and traffic. The state needs to finish Clays Mill, fix the New Circle and Harrodsburg Road interchange, and stop speeders. The council must also repave more of our failing roads.

Infrastructure and small business. I will work tirelessly with others to restore funding and seek new funding on the Clays Mill and Harrodsburg Road projects, and address aggressively storm and sewer upgrades that are outdated. I will listen and assist small businesses and entrepreneurs.

PRESERVATION

Do you support the city's continued funding of the Purchase of Development Rights program to preserve Fayette county farmland?

Yes. We have been able to successfully apply for and obtain federal matching dollars, which has accelerated the city's ability to meet its objectives.

Protecting, preserving and promoting our agricultural and equine industries is vital for the future of Lexington. The PDR program, with its matching federal grant, helps to accomplish this goal, and I would strongly support continuing this program.

I support Lexington's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program, provided funding of PDR during these difficult economic times does not deprive other critical programs of necessary financial resources.

I will support a local match, up to an amount committed by the state and federal government, having the assurance that we adequately funded our essential and basic services to meet the needs of our citizens.

PRIORITIES

If elected, what proposal would you introduce first for approval by Urban County Council?

I voted against the small business tax and have pushed for its repeal. It targets the most financially vulnerable small businesses and hampers economic growth and job creation. I will again propose to have it repealed.

Improving our quality of life, especially through our parks system, is important to attract and keep families in Lexington. Currently our parks have \$50 million in identifiable needs. Finding solutions and funding would be one of the first issues I would present to the council.

A motion to allocate an additional \$5 million for the repaving of Lexington roads during the current fiscal year.

Propose to study, obtain information, receive public comment and share ideas on the possibility of selling naming or private/public sponsorships of recreational property to help upgrade, maintain and help offset costs.

SPENDING

Name one specific cut you would propose to reduce city expenditures.

We need to reduce our dependency on third-party contractors who currently provide information technology services. Those costs have skyrocketed over the past eight years.

The budget received a series of painful cuts to adjust to the current economy. We could also look at realigning some of our funds and revenues. It makes no sense to brown-out fire stations while we have a reserve of \$27 million in solid waste.

Eliminate loopholes and give public safety employees the same disability benefits as their percentage of impairment, as does the U.S. military. Currently, public safety employees can receive full disability benefits for only 1 percent impairment. Lexington cannot afford pensions that are leaking this much money.

I would cut expenditures by reducing the amount of LFUCG property maintained, insured and under roof, which is estimated to be over 80 acres, or 3.5 million square feet, according to a council LINKS report.