

THE KENTUCKY GAZETTE'S  
2020 NOTABLE WOMEN  
IN KENTUCKY POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT



**POWERFUL WOMEN  
TRANSFORM THE WORLD  
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



# Congratulations, **Julia L. Babbage**

Cheers to Julia L. Babbage for her impact here at home and in Washington, DC as well as across the nation.

We celebrate the exceptional women recognized by the Gazette. Babbage Cofounder is a team where outstanding women find uncommon support, critical causes to work for, and a tradition of deep commitment to public progress. You are a notable woman, Julie, a rising leader we value and emulate.



[babbagecofounder.com](http://babbagecofounder.com)







**JULIA L. BABBAGE****BABBAGE COFOUNDER**

Julie Babbage is the executive director of the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition. Just a year into her role, dozens of trained advocates have joined the ranks of DPAC as “Champions,” and the organization has been able to more than double in size.

Babbage works to ensure quality of and access to care, medications and devices for patients living with diabetes; and to educate, inspire, and empower patient advocates plus lawmakers toward meaningful action on diabetes.

DPAC received national recognition for its work to keep open the FDA approval pathway for biosimilar products. At least one new insulin has come to market as a result, and at the lowest list price of any available long-acting insulin. A recent affiliation with the Diabetes Leadership Council expands DPAC’s impact. Together they are leading the conversation on national health-care reform through a diabetes lens.

Babbage has enjoyed a lifelong front row seat in politics. Her earliest memories are of her dad, Bob Babbage, on the campaign trail, and she has been interested in government ever since.

She continues as principal at Lexington-based Babbage Cofounder, a leading government-affairs firm in the state. A native of Lexington, she graduated with honors from Vanderbilt University. She is engaged to Dr. Nash Laungani, a resident physician in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Louisville.

**KRISTIN BALDWIN****NORTHERN KENTUCKY CHAMBER**

Kristin Baldwin serves as vice president of public affairs and communications at the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

On behalf of the organization that represents more than 1,600 businesses, she leads the Northern Kentucky Chamber’s efforts on public affairs and working directly with government at all levels. Baldwin also manages the organization’s communications and marketing initiatives.

Over the past year, the NKY Chamber has been focused on voter engagement, due to the Northern Kentucky metro region having one of the worst voter turnout rates in the state.

Prior to her work at the NKY Chamber, she served as the senior director of governmental and external affairs at the Kentucky Distillers’ Association, where she was responsible for overseeing all governmental and regulatory affairs, member services, public relations and social responsibility efforts.

During Baldwin’s tenure in the Kentucky bourbon industry, she led advocacy efforts to pass numerous pieces of legislation, including the bourbon barrel ad valorem tax credit, as well as transformational legislation to expand and modernize Kentucky’s archaic alcohol laws and allow for the sale of vintage spirits at retail premises.

Baldwin earned a bachelor’s degree in financial economics from Centre College in Danville. Baldwin and her husband, Jeff, and son, Bodhi, are residents of Newport.

**RACHEL PHELPS BAYENS****GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES**

Rachel Phelps Bayens has nearly two decades of experience as a government relations and public affairs professional.

She is a partner at Frankfort-based Government Strategies, one of Kentucky’s first, most experienced and well-respected government relations firms, which she joined in 2002.

Bayens is an influential and distinguished professional in the commonwealth’s capital. She has represented clients from various sectors, including health care, manufacturing, transportation, education and energy, before the Kentucky General Assembly and the executive branch. She has worked with some of Kentucky’s largest corporations and most influential trade associations.

Bayens has been featured as one of Kentucky’s “Top Women in Business” by The Lane Report and was a member of the 2008 Leadership Kentucky class.

She received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Kentucky and is a member of the University of Kentucky’s Women and Philanthropy network.

A native of Marshall County, Bayens resides in Lexington with her husband, Dan, and son, Sam.

**EMILY BEAUREGARD****KENTUCKY VOICES FOR HEALTH**

Emily Beauregard became the executive director for Kentucky Voices for Health after years of active health coalition membership.

A registered lobbyist, Beauregard works to advance health outcomes in the commonwealth.

Before becoming executive director at KVH, Beauregard chaired KVH’s Partner Advisory Team.

Beauregard’s work experience includes serving as the director of planning and communications at the Kentucky Primary Care Association, where she worked on practice improvement, community development, communications and policy development with members and policymakers.

She previously served for five years at the Family Health Centers in Louisville as the health planner and refugee health coordinator.

For the last nine years, Beauregard has served on the board of the Food Literacy Project, where she currently serves as the fundraising committee chair. She is a former volunteer with Big Brothers-Big Sisters, and she served as on the board of the Louisville Urban Corps.

She holds a master’s degree in public health from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a bachelor’s degree in social sciences and nonprofit management from Indiana University-Bloomington.





**NEELI BENDAPUDI**  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE



Dr. Neeli Bendapudi is the 18th president of the University of Louisville. Her vision is to ensure that the University of Louisville is a great place to learn, a great place to work, and a great place to invest, because it celebrates diversity, fosters equity and strives to achieve inclusion.

Bendapudi received her Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Kansas and has taught at The Ohio State University and Texas A&M University.

She most recently served as provost and executive vice chancellor at the University of Kansas, where she had previously been dean and H.D. Price Professor of Business at the KU School of Business.

Bendapudi specializes in the study of consumer behavior in service contexts. Her research deals with customers' willingness and ability to maintain long-term relationships with firms and with the brands and employees who represent them.

Her research has been published in top-tier journals, including the Journal of Academic Medicine, Harvard Business Review, and Journal of Marketing, and featured by popular media outlets including the New York Times, CNBC, CNN, MSNBC, WebMD and Fox News Network.

She has experience on public and private boards, and served as executive vice president and chief customer officer of Huntington National Bank.

**CANDANCE BRAKE**  
OWENSBORO CHAMBER



Candance Castlen Brake is president and CEO of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce.

Brake, who has been CEO since 2015, has a career dedicated to her community. She served as a three-term city commissioner from 2004 to 2010, serving on commissions that led Owensboro's transformational downtown place-making strategy and the regions' shift to a knowledge-based economic-development strategy.

Prior to holding public office, she served as executive vice president of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corp., and as deputy judge-executive for the Daviess County Fiscal Court, having been appointed to the position in both Republican and Democratic administrations.

She also taught as an adjunct professor in the Department of Government at Western Kentucky University.

She has served on numerous boards and commissions throughout her career, including Brescia University Board of Trustees, Owensboro Riverport Authority, and Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence.

She is currently serves on the Owensboro Health Board of Directors, Wendell H. Ford Government Education Center and is a member of the Kentucky Chamber's Local Chamber Advisory Board.



**“A good leader not only inspires her team; she also inspires the world.”**

**Congratulations Kathy Groob**  
**2020 Notable Women in Kentucky Politics & Government**

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**LA TASHA BUCKNER****OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

La Tasha Buckner, of Lexington, serves as both the chief of staff and senior counsel to Gov. Andy Beshear, and she is the first person in the commonwealth to serve in the dual position. She also is the first African American to hold the role of chief of staff to the governor.

In these roles, she implements and assists in developing the governor's policy and program initiatives, and she offers the office legal advice.

A graduate of the UK Honors Program and UK College of Law, she began her career as a state prosecutor in the office of Fayette Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Larson.

She has more than 20 years of legal experience in federal, state and administrative law, and has litigated notable legal cases, including those dealing with public pensions and university budgets.

During Beshear's tenure as attorney general, she was assistant deputy attorney general for the Civil Division. She also has served as deputy executive director for the Office of Legal Services at the Public Protection Cabinet and as general counsel to the Department of Charitable Gaming and the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Buckner, a native of Glasgow, continues to work to create a state government that is open, accessible and responsive to Kentuckians.

**BRYANNA CARROLL****KENTUCKY LEAGUE OF CITIES**

Bryanna L. Carroll is director of public affairs for the Kentucky League of Cities.

Following eight years as a policy analyst in the office of the Senate president, she began working at KLC as a legislative liaison, and for eight years she has managed the legislative and communications strategies, as well as the direct lobbying of the Kentucky General Assembly.

Carroll developed an expertise in the area of public pensions as she worked to bring reform to the Kentucky Retirement Systems. Most recently, she led the effort to separate the County Employees Retirement System from KRS and create an independent board to govern the local pension system.

Carroll is past president of the CASA of Lexington Board of Directors, serves on the Downtown Lexington Management District Board, is a member of the Leadership Lexington Steering Committee, and is a board member of the Community Action Council of Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison, and Nicholas counties. She serves on the St. Peter Parish Council, where she is a catechist and youth group leader for middle- and high-school students.

She graduated from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor of arts degree in political science.

**CAROLINE CASH****OFFICE OF U.S. REP. JAMES COMER**

Caroline Cash serves as chief of staff and general counsel to Kentucky's First District Congressman James Comer.

Having grown up in the Kentucky political hotbed of Fancy Farm, Cash always has had an interest in politics and government.

An attorney, she has served as the congressman's top staffer since his successful campaign in 2016, of which she served as his campaign manager in both the primary and general elections that year. She also was the finance director and legal counsel for Comer's 2015 gubernatorial bid.

Outside of political campaigns, Cash was an associate attorney with the Lexington law firms Walters Meadows Richardson, and Golden and Waters.

In her current role, she oversees the congressman's district and Washington operations, and is Comer's top adviser on policy, politics and personnel.

Cash also assists Comer in his role as lead Republican on the House Oversight Committee, serving as a liaison between his committee and personal offices.

Caroline holds a B.S. in business from Murray State University and a J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

**DANIELLE CLORE****KENTUCKY NONPROFIT NETWORK**

Danielle Tharp Clore is the CEO and founder of Kentucky Nonprofit Network, the state association of nonprofits, which combined are the commonwealth's fourth-largest employer.

Clore founded KNN in 2002 and is a fierce advocate for Kentucky's nonprofit sector and the communities they serve.

She was recognized in 2017 by Women Leading Kentucky with the Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award and was a 2015 finalist for the Excellence in Advocacy Award by the Professional Women in Advocacy Conference, Washington D.C.

Clore also served as director of major gifts for Kentucky Educational Television's Commonwealth Fund, as director of annual giving at Eastern Kentucky University, and as development director for Special Olympics Kentucky.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Transylvania University and a master's degree from the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Administration.

Clore is a 2012 graduate of Leadership Kentucky and currently serves as a public policy committee member with the National Council of Nonprofits and as an advisory board member with First Nonprofits.

She is a native of Bardstown, grew up in Pineville and resides in Lexington with her husband and two children.





**JACQUELINE COLEMAN**

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman is a rural Kentuckian who has devoted her personal and professional life to serving others as an educator, administrator, basketball coach, writer and founder of Lead Kentucky, a non-profit that empowers women to become leaders.

She is the 58th lieutenant governor of Kentucky.

Because of her expertise and advocacy for public education, Gov. Andy Beshear appointed her secretary of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

She is committed to using her positions as both lieutenant governor and secretary to help all Kentuckians get a great education and quality training, so they can attain a meaningful career, support their families, break the cycle of poverty, and prosper.

Before her election, Coleman was an assistant principal at Nelson County High School. As a former high-school basketball coach, she was named regional Coach of the Year in 2015.

She graduated from Centre College and earned a master's degree from the University of Louisville. She currently is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Kentucky.

She is a wife to Chris and a bonus mom to Emma, Will and Nate. The family welcomed a new member, Evelynne, in February.



**SHERRI CRAIG**

CHI SAINT JOSEPH HEALTH

Sherrri Craig is vice president for public policy at CHI Saint Joseph Health in Louisville. There, she leads the engagement strategy with government officials and regulatory agencies. She treasures her role to help shape health policy on behalf of patients across Kentucky, particularly amplifying the voice of the most vulnerable.

In a dual role, Craig formerly headed the six foundations of KentuckyOne Health (the former name of CHI Saint Joseph Health) while leading the system's advocacy efforts across the state.

Craig began her career in the rapidly evolving health-care industry with Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's HealthCare.

Her advocacy efforts focus on policies that build healthier communities and foster stability and growth in the commonwealth's health economy.

Formerly district director for Congresswoman Anne Northup, Craig worked on impactful community issues, such as the Ohio River Bridges Project.

Craig previously served as director of the Jefferson County Board of Elections.

Craig earned an MBA and a bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Louisville.

She is active with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the Kentucky Hospital Association and International Women's Forum.




**CONGRATULATIONS TO RACHEL BAYENS**

Named One of the 2020 Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government



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Government Strategies is a full-service government relations firm. Our mission is to be aggressive advocates for our clients while maintaining the highest level of integrity and professional standards.



**RACHEL BAYENS**



**DUSTIN MILLER**



**PRENTICE HARVEY**



**MIKE HELTON**



**MIKE SHEA**



**JOANNA DECKER****LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION**

A native of Owensboro and magna cum laude graduate of Western Kentucky University, Joanna Decker graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law before beginning her tenure with the Legislative Research Commission as a legislative analyst with the Judiciary Committee.

Decker served in this nonpartisan role with legislators from both parties to draft many pieces of important legislation, including the first major criminal-justice reform in 40 years, as well as groundbreaking human-trafficking legislation that has been used as a national model.

Decker was serving as the Judiciary Committee's lead Senate staff when she accepted the position of chief of staff for the House Majority Caucus chair. Later, she was appointed general counsel and senior policy advisor for the Democratic Caucus.

Decker joined Gov. Andy Beshear's administration as general counsel for the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet until the House Democratic Caucus convinced her to return to the LRC to serve as its chief policy director. In her current role, she is charged with developing policy initiatives and crafting legislation for the caucus.

Decker lives in Versailles with her husband, Jimmy, and their children, Hayden and Alex.

**JULIE DENTON****THE DENTON GROUP**

A graduate of the University of Louisville, Julie Denton is the president of The Denton Group, a boutique government-relations firm she founded four years ago.

After serving 20 years in the Kentucky state Senate and chairing the Health and Welfare Committee for 16 years, Denton won a seat on the Louisville Metro Council. She served there for four years before retiring to devote her full attention to The Denton Group.

Her clients include national corporations, non-profits and fire departments.

Denton's expertise in health-care policy, coupled with her knowledge of and experience in the legislative process, have equipped her to represent her clients in both the legislative and executive branches of government.

Before elective office, Denton was a dental hygienist and worked in offices in the Louisville area for more than two decades. She also served as vice president of operations and development for the Family Scholar House in Louisville, and in provider relations for MCNA.

She lives in Louisville with her husband, Barry, and their daughters, Caroline and Callie. They have an adult son, Thomas, who lives in Mississippi with his wife, Bella. They also have three tiny dogs with big attitudes.

**SUSAN DUNLAP****KENTUCKY STATE GOVERNMENT**

Susan Dunlap is executive director of the Office of Public Affairs in the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, a role she assumed in March 2020.

She's responsible for internal and external communications for the cabinet that is home to most of the state's human services and health-care programs, including the Department for Medicaid Services, the Department for Community-Based Services, the Department for Public Health, the Department for Aging and Independent Living and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities.

Her career began in print journalism and has bridged to marketing and communications leadership in the nonprofit, midsize corporate, and Fortune 50 space.

She formerly worked with two high-tech companies, two hospital systems, including an academic medical center, and three managed-care organizations. Most recently, she was employed by WellCare at its Tampa headquarters.

Dunlap is a member of the National Press Club and the Public Relations Society of America, and is a former member of the board of directors of the Kentucky Humanities Council.

She holds a bachelor of arts degree in English from Indiana University Southeast and a graduate degree in communications from Seton Hall University. She lives in Louisville.

**GAY DWYER****CONSULTANT**

With more than 40 years of involvement in the legislative arena, Gay Dwyer currently serves as a contract lobbyist. Her clients include General Motors, H&R AgriPower, Commonwealth AgriEnergy, Paducah & Louisville Railway, and Century Aluminum.

She retired from her position as senior vice president of government affairs with the Frankfort-based Kentucky Retail Federation at the end of 2019, after leading the lobbying activity for that trade association and its affiliates for more than two decades.

She previously worked for West Kentucky businessman Jim Smith (now deceased), representing his interests with state lawmakers. Earlier in her career, she served as assistant to then-House Speaker Bobby Richardson.

Dwyer also has been active in Kentucky politics, serving as state campaign chair for both former state Sen. David Boswell in his race for Agriculture commissioner and former Gov. Paul Patton when he ran for lieutenant governor (before candidates for governor and lieutenant governor were required to run as a slate).

A native of Daviess County, Dwyer is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and currently lives in Versailles.





**MARISA TAYLOR FAWNS**

KENTUCKY JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

Maresa Taylor Fawns has served as chief executive officer and lobbyist of the Kentucky Justice Association since 2003.

Fawns joined KJA in 1992, after previously having served as deputy executive director and director of public affairs.

Before joining KJA, Fawns worked in electoral politics and in the Kentucky attorney general's office.

She formerly served as president of the Kentucky Society of Association Executives and of the National Association of Trial Lawyer Executives. She currently chairs of one of NATLE's working groups.

She also is the secretary of the Board of Directors of Seven Counties Services, a community mental-health center that offers services in the Louisville region.

As part of her duties as lobbyist for KJA, Fawns works in Frankfort throughout the year with elected officials on both sides of the aisle to ensure all Kentuckians have access to a jury trial through the Seventh Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

She grew up watching her mother, the legendary lobbyist Judy Taylor, as she made her way as one of the first female lobbyists in Kentucky.

Fawns is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University.



**LORI HUDSON FLANERY**

NEW DIRECTIONS

Prior to joining New Directions as its president and CEO, Lori Hudson Flanery served as the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Finance secretary, responsible for the state's facilities, network, procurement, accounting, tax revenue collection and administration, debt issuance and management. She previously had been deputy secretary of that cabinet.

Her previous professional experience includes executive or legal positions in state agencies focused on economic development, utility regulation, executive branch ethics, and affordable housing. She served as a commissioner in the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development.

Lori serves as a trustee for the Gheens Foundation and is a board member for the Kentucky Nonprofit Network, the Center for Nonprofit Excellence, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati Advisory Committee, and several other banking, finance, and housing entities.

New Directions is a dynamic community-development corporation, specializing in affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization in the Louisville area for 50 years, and, for the last several years, saving and rejuvenating a once-heralded, full-time childhood education center located in west Louisville, now a Head Start facility.

Flanery lives in Louisville.



# Congratulations Iris Wilbur Glick

VP, Public Policy & External Affairs >>>>>>>>

At GLI, we already know that Iris is a Notable Woman. Whether it's supporting our business community, voicing our region's concerns, or advocating for legislation that improves how business gets done, Iris knows what matters. Congrats!



**[GLI]** GREATER LOUISVILLE INC.  
The Metro Chamber of Commerce





**SUSANNA FRENCH**

## KENTUCKY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Susanna French has played many roles in party politics in the commonwealth. She is Kentucky's national committee-woman for the Democratic National Committee and is an elected member of the Kentucky Democratic Party's State Central Executive Committee.

She also chairs the KDP's Fundraising Committee of the National Federation of Democratic Women, the grassroots constituency voice of women in the Democratic Party. She previously served as first vice president and as southern regional director of the party.

French is the vice chair of the Board of Directors of Emerge Kentucky, an organization that trains Democratic women to run for elective office.

Now, French serves as chair of the Marshall County Democratic Party and also has held the role of vice chair.

She has served as the sponsor for the Marshall County High School Young Democrats and has been heavily involved in local, statewide and national campaigns.

For 14 years, French was a paralegal in the 42nd Judicial District Commonwealth Attorney's office in Marshall and Calloway counties.

French lives in Benton.

**IRIS WILBUR GLICK**

## GREATER LOUISVILLE INC.

Iris Wilbur Glick joined Greater Louisville Inc., the Metro Chamber of Commerce, in 2016 and serves as the vice president of public policy and external affairs. In her role, she works on public policy and legislation at the local, state and federal levels to help advocate for the region's business community.

In addition, Glick oversees communications, public relations and inclusion strategies for the chamber.

Prior to her role at GLI, Glick was a political operative for nearly a decade, working on campaigns and committees supporting gubernatorial, Senate and presidential races.

Glick currently serves as a board member of the Louisville Forum and of Volunteers of America Mid-States.

She is a recipient of the 2020 Young Professionals Association of Louisville Award and the national 2020 Women Serving Women Campaign Award from Women in Government Relations for her work in advancing state and federal legislation supporting pregnant workers.

Glick is originally from Rineyville and is a graduate of the University of Louisville. She lives in Louisville.

**LAURA LEIGH GOINS**

## LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

Laura Leigh Goins serves as deputy chief of staff for media relations for Kentucky House Speaker David Osborne and coordinates communications efforts for the House Majority Caucus.

Goins has more than two decades of experience working with the legislative branch and has been actively engaged in Kentucky politics since childhood, even serving a stint as director of the House Caucus Campaign Committee.

A native of Hardin County and resident of Franklin County, Goins is heavily involved in her community and enjoys volunteering at her children's school with the PTO and the School-Based Decision-Making council, as well as for various nonprofits.

She is a former chair of the United Way's annual fundraising campaign; received the Special Mission Recognition Pin from the United Methodist Women; and was honored with the Club Woman of the Year Award by the Frankfort Younger Woman's Club.

Goins is a graduate of both Leadership Kentucky (2008) and Leadership Frankfort (2004).

A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Goins has a double major in journalism and political science.

She and her husband, Keith, have two children, Campbell Hayes and Davis, and an extremely energetic English springer spaniel named Knox.

**PENELOPE 'PENNY' GOLD**

## RETIRED

Now retired, Penny Gold spent 14 years as CEO of the Kentucky Society of CPAs. In that role, Gold revitalized the society's legislative program to improve public tax policy and improve Kentucky's business climate. Gold also worked to modernize accounting education at all levels by expanding the society's educational scholarships and adding a range of new publications and programs.

She also served on a variety of college, state and national advisory boards.

Before joining KyCPA, Gold served for more than a decade as executive director and chief lobbyist of the Kentucky Justice Association, working to protect the legal and constitutional rights of all citizens.

Earlier in her career, Gold served as chief executive assistant and legislative liaison for the Kentucky Cabinet of Public Protection and Regulation, and as director of federal programs for Jefferson County government.

Currently, Gold serves on the Planning and Zoning Board for the town of Longboat Key, Florida and on the Park Community Credit Union Board of Directors.

Gold holds a bachelor's degree in political science from C.W. Post College in New York, and a master's degree in government from St. John's University in New York.





**PAMELA GOODWINE**

**KENTUCKY COURT OF APPEALS**

Judge Pamela Goodwine is the first African American woman to serve on the bench in Fayette County and currently serves on the Kentucky Court of Appeals. She was elected to the appeals court in 2018.

After enduring two family tragedies and overcoming a life-threatening illness, she persevered to earn her undergraduate and juris doctorate degrees from the University of Kentucky.

She practiced law at Wyatt from 1994 until her appointment to the bench. A trial judge from 1999 to 2018, she was elected chief regional circuit judge for Fayette County in 2016.

Prior to her tenure on the bench, Goodwine chaired the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and also served as a commissioner on that body.

Goodwine has earned numerous awards for dedicated service to the legal profession and community, including being inducted to the UK Carol Martin Gatton College of Business Alumni Hall of Fame in 2000, being named Fayette County Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer in 2001, and being awarded Trial Judge of the Year in 2012.

She also is a certified fitness instructor.

She has been nominated for the Masters of Judicial Studies program at Duke University, which will begin next year.

Goodwine lives in Lexington.



**LINDA GORTON**

**CITY OF LEXINGTON**

Linda Gorton, who has dedicated her adult life to serving her community as a registered nurse, public servant and volunteer, is in her second year as mayor of Lexington, the state's second-largest city.

As the longest continuously serving member of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, Gorton has been involved in almost every major advancement made by Lexington's government in the 21st century. While on the LFUCG council, Gorton served four years as vice mayor.

She has served on a number of boards, including the Friends of the Dog Park, Bluegrass Council Boy Scouts, RadioEye, UK-LFUCG Arboretum, and the Emergency Medical Advisory Board.

Gorton is a consensus builder who has addressed some of the community's most difficult decisions.

Currently, she is focused on keeping citizens safe in a global pandemic and on restarting the city's economy. Her conservative management of the city budget has kept Lexington on a sustainable path toward economic recovery.

In the wake of recent protests concerning racial equality, Gorton placed a moratorium on "no knock" warrants, expanded the use of body-worn cameras to include all police officers, and empaneled a commission to target next steps toward justice.

Gorton and her husband, Charlie, a retired major general in the U.S. Army, have two children and five grandchildren.



Congratulations *Michelle Sanborn* for being named to The Kentucky Gazette's Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government 2020!!

Children's Alliance is grateful for your leadership.



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**KATHY GROOB**

## NOVEMBER STRATEGIES

Political and business consultant, Kathy Groob is a founding partner of November Strategies and of ElectWomen, which she founded in 2009.

Groob attended Thomas More College and is the author of “Pink Politics: The Woman’s Practical Guide to Winning Elections.”

She served as a Fort Mitchell city councilmember and ran for state Senate in 2008. Her campaign inspired hundreds of women to become involved in politics, and she created a bi-partisan network of campaign volunteers and supporters.

Groob is a former board member of Emerge Kentucky, an organization that trains Democratic women to run for office, and she served eight years as vice president of marketing and new business for Paul Hemmer Companies.

Today, Groob works as a public policy and strategic adviser to organizations and companies. She also advises political campaigns. Working with candidates and elected officials across the commonwealth, she has a track record of experience and success in fundraising and winning elections for state and judicial office.

As a popular speaker, Groob has toured the country, speaking to numerous organizations on leadership, global affairs and the challenges women face. She also has served on numerous non-profit boards.

Groob lives in Covington.

**BONNIE HACKBARTH**

## FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY KY

Bonnie Hackbarth is vice president of external affairs at the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and is the foundation’s registered lobbyist.

She has 35 years of experience in managing communications, community relations and government affairs in a variety of high-profile settings.

Prior to joining the foundation, she served in senior communications roles in the White House Office of Consumer Affairs, the U.S. Senate, the Federal Trade Commission, and for 18 years at Guthrie-Mayes Public Relations in Louisville.

As part of her current role, Hackbarth helped create and is the staff lead for the Coalition for a Smoke-Free Tomorrow, which comprises more than 220 organizations dedicated to reducing tobacco use and exposure to tobacco-related emissions.

In recent years, she has helped the coalition achieve significant, statewide policy gains, including a tobacco-free schools law, an increase in the minimum legal age from 18 to 21 for purchasing tobacco products, the largest excise tax increase on cigarettes in the history of Kentucky, and a the first state excise tax on vaping products.

Hackbarth holds a bachelor’s degree in communications and public relations from Washington State University, and has done graduate work in public administration at George Washington University.

She lives in Louisville.

**BECKY HARILSON**

## LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

Becky Harilson was born and raised in Louisville. Her parents established within Harilson and her siblings a deep love of both their German heritage and Clay County Appalachian roots.

She attended Seneca High School and the University of Louisville. Her interest in politics started at an early age, when she watched the national conventions of both parties, and her grandmother and mother work in Republican-women politics.

After marrying Bill Harilson and moving to Lexington, where she raised three sons, she volunteered on many campaigns, and served as the president of the Kentucky Federation of Republican Women.

In 1989, her 30-plus years of service to the Senate Republican Caucus began. Five years later, then-Republican Leader John D. Rogers named her chief of staff. She has served in that role in the minority and the majority and in 2000 was named chief to the first Republican Senate President in Kentucky history, David L. Williams. She currently guides the Republican super-majority caucus under President Robert Stivers.

Over the years, she has developed a reputation for being strong, honest, caring, and a hard-working straight shooter. These attributes served her well in her two stints as co-director of LRC during searches for new LRC directors. When she isn’t putting out fires in the Capitol Annex, she enjoys her three grandchildren, Ella, Campbell and Preston.

**CASSIA HERRON**

## KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

Chair of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Cassia Herron is a native of Richmond who has lived in Louisville for most of her adult life.

She is a community development professional and advocate with more than 10 years of experience working on projects at the intersections of community and economic development, and food and the built environment. She has a unique perspective on these issues as they relate to West Louisville.

In addition to working with KFTC, Herron is a member of the Community Farm Alliance, and she works with New Roots as the farmer liaison with the Smoketown Fresh Stop market.

As a budding entrepreneur, Herron has a growing interest in renewable energy and sustainable development, and has professional expertise in community engagement, grant-writing, policy development and strategic planning.

She provided consistent and sustained leadership to the Empower Kentucky campaign, and she’s provided leadership in KFTC’s work for collective liberation and inclusivity in the steering committee and through her work with the executive committee.

Herron is a graduate of the University of Louisville and has a masters of urban planning from the University of Michigan.





**ELISABETH JENSEN**

KY EQUINE EDUCATION ALLIANCE

Workforce development and immigration are the key issues that inspired Elisabeth Jensen to take on the role of executive vice president of the Kentucky Equine Education Alliance in 2018.

KEEP's lobbying and grassroots network is the economic advocate of Kentucky's horse industry. During her tenure, KEEP has formed a partnership with Kentucky Workforce Chamber to establish an Equine Workforce Talent Pipeline, formalizing apprenticeships, internship programs, and pathways for employment across the state.

In 2000, Jensen co-founded The Race for Education, a scholarship foundation that provides educational opportunities and after-school programs to school children. The program managed federal grants, such as Assets for Independence and 21st Century Learning Center grants, and was recognized by the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives in 2008 for its work with young people on financial literacy. The organization has awarded nearly \$7,000,000 in scholarships since its inception.

Jensen participated in Emerge Kentucky in 2011 and was encouraged to run for office. She was the 2014 Democratic nominee for Congress in the Sixth District and was the alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2012.

She lives in Lexington, and currently serves on the Fayette County Rural Land Management Board and the Old Richmond Road Neighborhood Association.



**ANDI JOHNSON**

COMMERCE LEXINGTON

As vice president, Andi Johnson is the chief policy officer and director of regional engagement for Commerce Lexington, the city's chamber of commerce.

Earlier this year, Johnson was named one of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives' "Top 40 under 40."

Prior to joining Commerce Lexington in 2013, Johnson worked for five years as the Republican Party of Kentucky as communications director and political director.

From 2004-2007, Johnson worked in Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher's administration as an executive assistant for the Office of Lt. Gov. Stephen Pence and later as the deputy communications director for the Governor's Office of Local Development.

She began her career in politics as a staff assistant for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell from 2003-2004.

She also is a member of the Kentucky Association of Economic Development.

Johnson holds a B.A. in political science from Georgetown College and an M.A. in diplomacy from the University of Kentucky's Patterson School for Diplomacy and International Commerce.



**Congratulations  
Gay on being  
recognized as one  
of 2020's Notable  
Women**



**KENTUCKY  
RETAIL  
FEDERATION**





## BETSY JOHNSON

### KAHCF/KCAL

Betsy Johnson is president and executive director of the Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities-Kentucky Center for Assisted Living, the largest trade association in Kentucky that represents long-term care providers.

Johnson has more than 25 years of combined government and private sector experience addressing complex issues impacting the health-care sector.

At KAHCF/KCAL, she provides an array of services for the members, including policy and government advocacy in Frankfort and Washington D.C.

Prior to joining KAHCF/KCAL, Johnson was a member at Stites & Harbison, where she represented a diverse group of health-care clients, including providers, commercial payers and Medicaid MCOs.

From 2008-2010, she served as the commissioner for the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Department for Medicaid Services.

In 2003, while an attorney at the Kentucky Department of Insurance, she argued and won a U.S. Supreme Court case challenging Kentucky's "Any Willing Provider" statute.

She earned her J.D. from Temple University School of Law in 1994. She received her B.A., with distinction, in political science from the University of Kentucky in 1991.

Betsy has two daughters, Eve and Mary, who both attend the University of Kentucky.



## NIMA KULKARNI

### KY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Rep. Nima Kulkarni was elected in 2018 to represent District 40 in the House of Representatives, making her the first Indian immigrant elected to the General Assembly in its history.

She has dedicated her time as a public servant to the most vulnerable, focusing on working families, small businesses, public education, human rights and equal justice.

In 2019, Kulkarni served as the only Democratic legislator on the Public Assistance Reform Task Force. She was the first Kentucky lawmaker invited to join the Asian American Leadership Delegation program to Japan, one of only six legislators from across the country. She was the first woman from Kentucky named a New Deal Leader.

In 2010, Kulkarni established Indus Law Firm, where she focuses on corporate, employment-based, and family-based immigration law. She has served on numerous boards, including the Community Foundation of Louisville, Kentucky Science Center, Louisville Public Media, and Fund for the Arts. She is a co-founder of the Human Rights Section at the Louisville Bar Association, which was named Section of the Year in 2017.

Kulkarni also established the New Americans Initiative, a nonprofit dedicated to immigrant and immigration-related issues in the Louisville community.

She holds an MBA in entrepreneurship and a BA in English literature from the University of Louisville. She also holds a JD from the Antioch-UDC School of Law.



## MICHON LINDSTROM

### POLITICAL JOURNALIST

Michon Lindstrom is a freelance political journalist, with years of experience in broadcast reporting.

She began covering Kentucky politics in January 2018, when she joined Spectrum News 1 as a producer for "Pure Politics." She went on to anchor, produce and report for the show in August 2018.

She served as a political reporter for Spectrum until September of this year.

As host of "Pure Politics," Lindstrom covered the Kentucky General Assembly state government, interviewed key policy makers, and served as the main anchor and analyst for live, election-night coverage.

Lindstrom also appeared as a panelist on "Comment on Kentucky," a weekly public affairs program airing on KET.

Prior to coming to Kentucky, Lindstrom was the statehouse bureau chief in Springfield, Illinois for WAND-TV, where she covered the Illinois General Assembly for two years.

Lindstrom graduated from Southern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in electronic news journalism, and she went on to obtain her master's degree in public affairs reporting from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Lindstrom lives in Louisville with her two cats.



## ELIZABETH GRIFFIN MCCOY

### PLANTERS BANK

Elizabeth Griffin McCoy is the chief executive officer of Planters Bank in Hopkinsville. Planters Bank is comprised of 13 locations in Western Kentucky and Montgomery County, Tennessee.

Under McCoy's leadership, Planters Bank has grown significantly over the last 20 years, with assets totaling more than \$1.3 billion as of September.

Currently, McCoy serves on a number of boards that affect public policy, including the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis' Board of Directors, as chair of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees Investment Committee, as well as its finance and audit committees. She is on the Gatton College Business Partnership Foundation Board and the Gatton College of Business Economics Dean's Advisory Council.

A CPA, McCoy serves on several other boards and committees, including the Hopkinsville Industrial Foundation and the South Western Kentucky Economic Development Council. McCoy served as past chair for the Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors and has been involved in numerous civic duties in the community as well.

In 2018, McCoy was awarded the Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award from Women Leading Kentucky. Originally from London, McCoy graduated from the University of Kentucky Gatton School of Business, where she received her MBA. She lives in Hopkinsville with her husband, Hal, and their son.





**MELISSA MOORE MURPHY**  
FAYETTE DISTRICT COURT

Judge Melissa Moore Murphy is the district court judge for Division 4 of Lexington's District 22.

In her judicial capacity, she oversees felony preliminary hearings, criminal misdemeanors, small claims matters, forcible detainers, and juvenile public offenses.

Murphy obtained her bachelor of arts in political science and history in 1998 from the University of Kentucky, and her juris doctor in 2001 from the UK College of Law.

Over the years, she has served the Lexington-Fayette County community in many ways, including as an attorney for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.

She serves on the Chrysalis House Board, Lyric Theatre and Cultural Arts Center Board, GreenHouse17 Board, and several public school site-based decision-making councils.

Murphy has been inducted into the Atherton High School Hall of Fame in Louisville, was named a McCracken County Alben W. Barkley Distinguished Citizen in 2007, was selected as the Distinguished Leader for the 2015-16 Commerce Lexington Leadership Lexington Class, and received the 2019 NAMI Volunteer Excellence Award.

She is married to Danny Murphy Jr. and is the mother of three amazing children.



**MARY NOBLE**  
KENTUCKY STATE GOVERNMENT

On Dec. 10, 2019 Gov. Andy Beshear appointed then-Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Mary Noble as the first woman to serve as secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet.

As cabinet secretary, Noble oversees all state prisons, youth detention centers, Kentucky State Police, law enforcement training, state medical examiner, drug control policy, and liaisons with the Department of Public Advocacy.

Additionally, the cabinet distributes over \$120 million in grant funding annually.

During her 10 years of service on the Kentucky Supreme Court, Noble served as deputy chief justice and was the first woman to preside over an oral argument before the court.

Before being elected to the state's high court to represent the Fifth Supreme Court District, Noble was a Fayette Circuit Court judge for 15 years. She began practicing law in Mt. Sterling in 1982.

A former high-school English teacher, Noble also chaired the Family Court and Juvenile Court Rules committees, which drafted Kentucky's first procedural rules for both courts when they were established.

Noble received a bachelor's degree in English and master's degree in psychology from Austin Peay State University. She earned her juris doctor from the University of Kentucky College of Law.



*Congratulations!*  
**Kristin Baldwin**

The NKY Chamber congratulates our VP of Public Affairs & Communications on being nominated as one of the **Notable Women in KY Politics and Government 2020**





**SANNIE OVERLY****OVERLY & JOHNSON**

As a lawyer, civil engineer and former state representative, Sannie Overly brings a wealth of personal and professional experience to Kentucky politics.

Overly was elected in 2008 to the Kentucky House to represent the 72nd District, which includes Bourbon, Bath, Nicholas and part of Fayette counties. While in office, she was elected House majority caucus chair, becoming the first woman in House leadership in the history of the commonwealth. She was also a candidate for lieutenant governor in 2015 and was elected unanimously in 2016 to serve as chair of the Kentucky Democratic Party.

Overly also served on the boards of the Bourbon County Hospital, Historic Paris-Bourbon County, the Bluegrass Conservancy and was a member of the Paris-Bourbon County Chamber of Commerce.

Overly was raised on her family's Millersburg farm in Bourbon County. She graduated from the University of Kentucky, earning a degree in civil engineering. After UK, she worked for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and earned her J.D. cum laude at the University of Louisville's Brandeis School of Law.

In addition to consulting with Democratic campaigns, including this year's U.S. Senate campaign of retired Lt. Col. Amy McGrath, Overly practices law and lives in Paris, with her husband and their two daughters.

**MICHELLE SANBORN****CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

Michelle Sanborn is the president of the Children's Alliance, an association of more than 35 child-welfare and behavioral-health service providers, caring for at-risk children and families across the state.

In addition to her work with the Children's Alliance, Sanborn is an adjunct faculty member at Western Kentucky University and currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Council on Accreditation.

Sanborn joined the Children's Alliance in 2006, when she successfully led children's advocacy efforts as the director of public policy. Prior to joining the alliance, she served as director of the Division of Protection and Permanency for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In addition to her leadership and advocacy experience, she has years of experience working directly with children and families. She previously served as director of the Home of the Innocents' Therapeutic Loving foster-care program and also held several positions with the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children Metro Region Foster Care program.

She worked at the Wellspring House and Louisville's Youth Alliance, where her passion for advocacy and speaking out for Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens originated.

She earned her master's degree in social work at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. She lives in Elizabethtown with her husband, Marc, and their daughter Emily. Their daughter Sarah attends Northern Kentucky University.

**ANETHA SANFORD****HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF KY**

Anetha Sanford recently was named CEO and executive vice president of the Home Builders Association of Kentucky, a statewide trade organization comprised of 5,000 member companies representing the housing and construction industry.

In this role, Sanford serves as the chief lobbyist for the housing industry, establishes key relationships with leaders of state government in both the legislative and executive branches, and carries out the legislative and regulatory policy of the association.

Sanford is an accomplished professional, with over 19 years of progressive experience in government relations and association management, specifically in the real estate industry.

Previously, Sanford served as the vice president of government affairs for the HBAK, a position she had held since 2014. In that role, she directed housing and building-industry policies and objectives involving local, state and federal government affairs.

A native of Bowling Green, she received a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University.

Sanford currently serves on the Board of Directors of The Hearing and Speech Center, is involved in Junior Achievement of the Bluegrass and is the Kentucky volunteer as the Family Empowerment Representative for Rettsyndrome.org.

**SHEILA SCHUSTER****ADVOCACY ACTION NETWORK**

Dr. Sheila Schuster is a licensed psychologist and mental-health advocate who has spent more than four decades working in Frankfort to improve services for persons living with mental illness and other disabilities, and to increase access to health care across Kentucky.

Schuster leads the Advocacy Action Network, an umbrella organization that addresses health care, mental health, social justice and disability issues.

She chairs Kentucky Voices for Health, the Kentucky Mental Health Coalition and the 874K Disabilities Coalition. She also leads the Behavioral Health Technical Advisory Committee to Kentucky's Medicaid program.

Schuster has taught at the University of Louisville as an adjunct professor of psychology. She was the first executive director of the Kentucky Psychological Association and represents that organization as a federal- and state-government liaison.

Her advocacy efforts to improve the quality and availability of health care, including mental health services, in the commonwealth have been recognized with her induction into the University of Louisville College of Arts & Sciences Hall of Honor, the University of Kentucky College of Public Health Hall of Fame, and the awarding of an honorary doctorate of public service degree by Spalding University.







## CELEBRATING NOTABLE WOMEN IN KENTUCKY POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

We're proud to celebrate the women across Kentucky who are leading on the most critical issues facing the Commonwealth today. These women are moving Kentucky forward and we especially commend those who are fighting to advance rural broadband access.

By encouraging the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) to help break down barriers to broadband expansion through its ongoing pole attachment proceeding, these leaders recognize the impact the PSC can have on increasing connectivity for students, business owners, and farmers across the Commonwealth:

“ The PSC’s current utility pole proceedings are an important step in ensuring broadband access to all Kentuckians. The PSC has the opportunity to reduce the barriers to broadband deployment by streamlining the currently complex and costly utility pole attachment guidelines and ensuring a fairer distribution of costs, which would connect more homes, businesses, and schools across Kentucky to the internet.”

*Kim Banta, State Representative,  
63rd District*

“ I am writing to urge the Public Service Commission (PSC) to put into place policies -through its ongoing pole attachment proceedings - that will provide increased broadband access to not only the citizens of the 18th district that I represent, but all Kentuckians. The PSC has the opportunity to help make reliable broadband access for more Kentuckians a reality.”

*Samara Heavrin, State  
Representative, 18th District*

“ Members of the General Assembly, including myself, are working hard to increase broadband accessibility across the entire Commonwealth, but we need the PSC’s help. The PSC is currently in the unique position to assist thousands of Kentuckians connect to broadband by addressing the currently complex and costly process of building out broadband on utility poles.”

*Ruth Ann Palumbo State  
Representative, 76th District*

“With Kentuckians across the Commonwealth operating their day-to-day lives from home, businesses need to connect remotely to their customers; seniors, veterans, and others need access to telehealth and online government services; and - of special interest to me as an educator - teachers and students need to adapt to the new online learning reality. The PCS is currently in the unique position to help thousands of Kentuckians connect to broadband by addressing the currently complex and costly process of building out broadband on utility poles.”

*Regina Petrey Huff, Education Committee Chair, Kentucky House of Representatives*

Learn more at: [ConnectTheFuture.com/Kentucky](https://ConnectTheFuture.com/Kentucky)



**SHANNON SMITH****AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION**

Shannon Smith, the state government relations director for the American Heart Association in Kentucky, is responsible for driving AHA's public policy agenda at the state and local level, while also working to support the AHA's federal priorities.

Smith's advocacy efforts mainly focus on critical public-health issues, such as reducing tobacco use, improving access to healthy foods, setting early-care and education standards, ensuring safe and equitable complete streets for all users, and passing comprehensive smoke-free policies to promote safe and healthy work environments.

She recently was appointed by the governor to serve on the state Board for Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and is co-founder of FEED – Fayette Eating, Education and Delivery Backpack Program, a non-profit that extends financial resources and volunteer support to Fayette County Public Schools, providing weekend bags of food to children in need.

She has volunteered with the Lexington Rescue Mission for a decade.

Before joining the American Heart Association, Smith spent 17 years in government affairs with Bird Consulting Group.

Shannon earned a bachelor of science degree in communications and biology from the University of Pikeville, and resides in Lexington with her husband, Seth, and daughters, Alexandra and Adelynn.

**CARA STEWART****KENTUCKY VOICES FOR HEALTH**

Cara Stewart joined Kentucky Voices for Health in June. As director of policy advocacy for KVH, Stewart develops working relationships with substance-use disorder, behavioral health, and supportive housing providers. She participates in local and statewide coalitions and with state agencies to advocate for policies related to SUD and BH services, including housing.

Most recently, Stewart was chief of staff for the Kentucky House Democratic Caucus, and she also worked with Legal Aid of the Bluegrass and the Kentucky Equal Justice Center. While at KEJC, she played a large role in Kentucky's success in rolling out the Affordable Care Act and was interviewed by state and national media, including the New York Times, NPR and The Wall Street Journal.

Gov. Steve Beshear appointed Stewart to the Kentucky Healthcare Improvement Authority Board, and she served on the Kentucky Bar Association's Committee on Child Protection and Domestic Violence. Last year, she was named the Families USA Health Advocate of the Year, and in 2014, she won the KBA's Young Lawyer Service to Community Award, among other awards.

Born and raised in Floyd County, she is a graduate of Pikeville High School, Berea College and Salmon P. Chase College of Law.

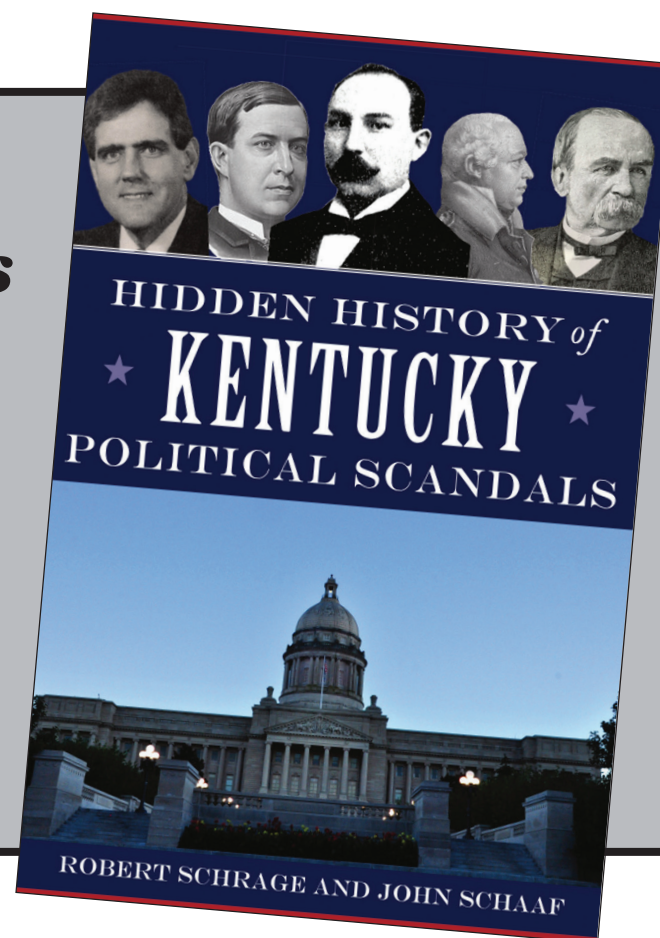


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brings together stories of crime, racial violence, infidelity, and murder from Kentucky's early days to modern times, including Civil War corruption, massive theft from the State Treasury, gubernatorial assassination, and big city bosses, leading to more recent episodes of BOPTROT, Richie Farmer, and Tim Longmeyer.

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**STEPHANIE STUMBO**

GOSS SAMFORD

Stephanie Stumbo's public service roots run deep, built around the belief that government and policy should make a difference in the quality of people's lives.

As far back as 2001, Stumbo was named the Woman of the Year for her achievements and service to Kentucky's women and children.

An experienced, knowledgeable and skillful advocate, Stumbo's influence crosses partisan lines and extends across – and beyond – the commonwealth. She values the relationships gained through her years of service in Frankfort.

A highly respected leader of multiple agencies spanning three gubernatorial administrations, Stumbo shaped policies affecting a variety of industries and broke ground by establishing the Kentucky AmeriCorps program and being the first woman appointed to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. She is a former executive director of the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

Stumbo brings nearly 30 years of experience to Frankfort and Washington D.C. to Goss Samford, where she has a solid track record of client successes as director of government relations. Her insights and strategic approach makes her a valued ally for those she represents.



**ELLEN YONTS SUETHOLZ**

KY PUBLIC PENSION COALITION

Ellen Yonts Suetholz is the coordinator for the Kentucky Public Pension Coalition, an affiliate of the National Public Pension Coalition. She is also a registered lobbyist with Working Strategies 2 for various labor unions in Kentucky.

An attorney, Suetholz started her career as a prosecutor in Louisville and later became a staff attorney at the Kentucky Labor Cabinet, where she was assigned to assist in wage-and-hour enforcement and investigations.

She then worked with her husband, Dave, at their union-side labor law firm, which had offices in Louisville and Cincinnati, and served more than 70 unions in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio.

Politics run deep in Suetholz's family: She formerly worked in the law office of her father, former state Rep. Brent Yonts, and her mother, Jan Yonts, is the current mayor of Greenville.

She has a bachelor's degree in agriculture business from Murray State University as well as a law degree from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law.

Ellen lives on a working farm in Henry County with her husband and twin daughters, Phoebe and Fiona.



Congratulations to The Kentucky Gazette's Notable Women in Politics & Government 2020

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**TINA TEEGARDEN****BRACKEN COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Bracken County Judge-Executive Tina Teegarden was born in Cynthiana and currently lives in Brooksville.

In 1997, she was hired as finance officer in the Bracken County judge-executive's office. She ended up working with four judge-executives and developed relationships at the local, state and federal levels.

In 2018, she was elected Bracken County judge-executive herself, and she took office in January 2019, with the goal of creating jobs, building industry and expanding tourism.

She supports expanding resources for the Bracken County Senior Center and the Bracken County Animal Shelter.

She teamed with the county tourism director to expand tourism, worked to improve dispatch communications, and to repair and improve county roads. She works with the industrial authority in attracting business, including a new business that is under construction in the Bracken County Industrial Park – the first to be built in the park since its inception in 1986.

She currently serves on the Kentucky County Judge Executive Association's Executive Board, and as vice-chair of the Buffalo Trace Area Development District Board. She is a member of the boards of Hospice of Hope, Bracken County Cooperative Extension, Bracken County Board of Health, and the Licking Valley Community Action Program.

**TRACEY THURMAN****CONSULTANT**

Tracey Thurman has a record of bipartisan public service and began her career in marketing for Commonwealth Credit Union. During her tenure, CCU expanded advertising and experienced statewide growth that led it to become the state's largest credit union.

She then worked as a communications assistant in the office of Gov. Paul Patton, and a few years later, became the first executive director of the Kentucky Propane Education and Research Council. During her tenure at PERC, she developed partnerships with Schwan's Frozen Foods and Mammoth Cave National Park to add propane-powered vehicles to their fleets, among other accomplishments.

In 2000, Thurman won a seat on the Frankfort City Commission, becoming the youngest woman elected to the body in Frankfort's history. On election night, she and her husband, Garnett, shared the news they were expecting their first child, Grayson Thurman.

Later, Gov. Ernie Fletcher appointed Thurman a deputy commissioner.

She left state government service to become an administrative officer for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, and Mayor Jim Gray appointed her director of the Division of Waste Management and Recycling, the first woman in this job, which she holds today.



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**FRAN WAGNER**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

Fran Wagner is a long-time volunteer for the League of Women Voters. She has served in numerous capacities with the league, including as president of the Louisville League and currently as president of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky.

In that role, Wagner works to ensure fair elections and increased voter participation, and this year, under her leadership, the league is highlighting the need for fair legislative boundaries, which will be redrawn after population data from the U.S. Census are released.

She graduated from The Catholic University of America with a bachelor's degree in politics and from the University of Louisville with a master's degree in history.

Her professional career included two phases. First, she taught history to middle- and high-school students at a number of schools, and she served as director of development at St. Francis School in Goshen.

Her second career was as a fund-raising consultant to numerous charities and social service agencies throughout the United States.

Wagner is a long-time resident of Louisville, where she and her husband, Mick (now deceased), raised their two children. She is the very proud grandmother of five grandchildren.



**GERINA D. WHETHERS**

**KENTUCKY STATE GOVERNMENT**

Gerina D. Whethers has provided more than 17 years of service to the commonwealth, including in her current role as secretary of the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet. There, she has developed innovative policies and procedures to protect the health and well-being of more than 29,000 state employees.

As secretary, Whethers serves on the Kentucky Retirement Systems Retiree Health Plan Committee, among other responsibilities.

Before Gov. Andy Beshear named her secretary, Whethers served as director of Senior Protection and Mediation for the Office of the Attorney General, recovering more than \$2.7 million in goods and services for consumers.

She further served four years in the attorney general's office as executive director of Victim Advocacy.

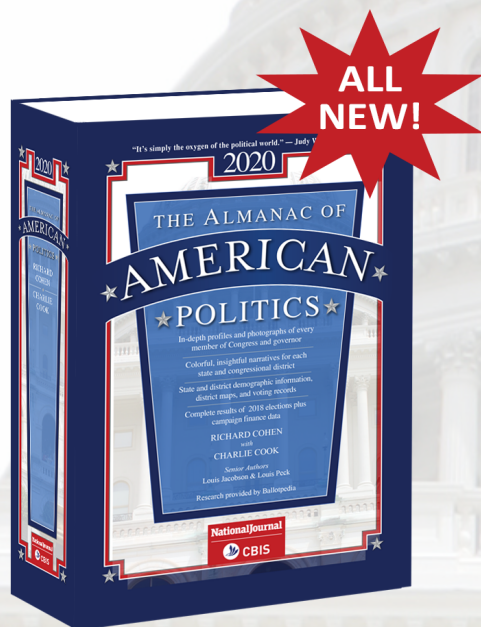
Whethers also served in Jefferson County as assistant county attorney for the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Unit.

Whethers received her bachelor of arts degree in political science from the University of Louisville and juris doctorate from the U of L Brandeis School of Law.

Among her community activities, Whethers is a member of the NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Emerge Kentucky, Susan G. Komen, and St. Stephen Church. She is also a board member of Gilda's Club Kentuckiana.



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**LAURA WHITE-BROWN****CITY OF MOREHEAD**

Laura White-Brown is the mayor of the city of Morehead.

Elected at the age of 29, White-Brown was sworn into office in 2018 as the first female mayor of Morehead as well as the youngest mayor of the city.

Prior to being elected mayor, she was employed by Harold White Lumber, her family's business, as the export logistics coordinator. As such, she spent a lot of time traveling to China for trade shows and for customer-relations activities.

She began her career as a regional area agent for the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service's Nutrition Education Program.

A native of Morehead, White-Brown earned a bachelor of arts degree in health promotion from Morehead State University and is currently finishing her master's degree in family studies at the University of Kentucky.

White-Brown was named a fellow in the inaugural class of the Appalachian Regional Commission Leadership Institute. She currently serves on the Kentucky League of Cities Board of Directors as well as the Kentucky AgriTech Board of Advisors.

She also is a marathon runner, and she and her husband, Gabe Brown, have two children.

**SANDRA WILSON****PADUCAH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Sandra Wilson is president of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce and is serving her fourth term as a Paducah city commissioner.

An active volunteer, she has served as chairman of the board for the chamber, the Paducah Economic Development, and the Paducah-McCracken County Industrial Development Authority.

She has served on the board of the Carson Center since before it was built and now serves on its executive committee. She is a member of the Paducah Rotary Club, where she received the Paul Harris Award.

On a state level, she served as chair of the Kentucky Manufacturers Association and currently serves on the boards of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Kentucky. Wilson chaired the Paducah Chamber's annual community-issues trip to Washington D.C. for several years and was honored by the chamber as Volunteer of the Year for this service.

A Calloway County native and graduate of Murray State University, she worked for a year at then-Paducah Community College as public relations director before joining Westvaco (Wickliffe Paper Mill). She worked at the paper mill for 26 years, including 22 years as public affairs manager.

Wilson is married to Ed Wilson, and together they share three children and four grandchildren.



In FY 2020 the Kentucky Lottery generated sales of over \$1.2 billion. From this number, \$272.2 million was earned for the Commonwealth.

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**Kentucky Lottery Corporation  
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position  
For the year ended June 30, 2020 (dollars in thousands)**

Total operating revenues	<u>\$ 1,203,442</u>
Prize expense	801,241
Payments to retailers	71,045
Draw game and iLottery vendor expense	15,473
Instant ticket costs	<u>10,706</u>
Total direct costs	<u>898,465</u>
Operating revenues net of direct costs	<u>304,977</u>
Operating expenses	<u>33,090</u>
Operating income	<u>271,887</u>
Non-operating revenue (expense)	
*Payments to the Commonwealth of Kentucky	(272,223)
**Other non-operating revenue	<u>577</u>
Total non-operating expense	<u>(271,646)</u>
Change in net position	<u>241</u>
Net position at beginning of year	<u>18,431</u>
Net position at end of year	<u>\$ 18,672</u>

\* Payments to the Commonwealth of Kentucky include both payments made and payments accrued for transfer to the Commonwealth as of June 30, 2020.

\*\*The Corporation has adopted GASB Statement 72, which requires investments to be presented at fair value, resulting in an increase in income of approximately \$241, when compared to the historical cost method.

The above financial information was derived from the annual audited financial statements. The financial audit for the year ended June 30, 2020 was performed by Harding, Shymanski & Company, P.S.C. A copy of the complete annual report can be obtained at [kylottery.com](http://kylottery.com) or by writing: Kentucky Lottery Corporation, PR Dept., 1011 W. Main Street, Louisville KY 40202 or by calling (502) 560-1677. The Kentucky Lottery has provided the above information in accordance with KRS 154.130(6).

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