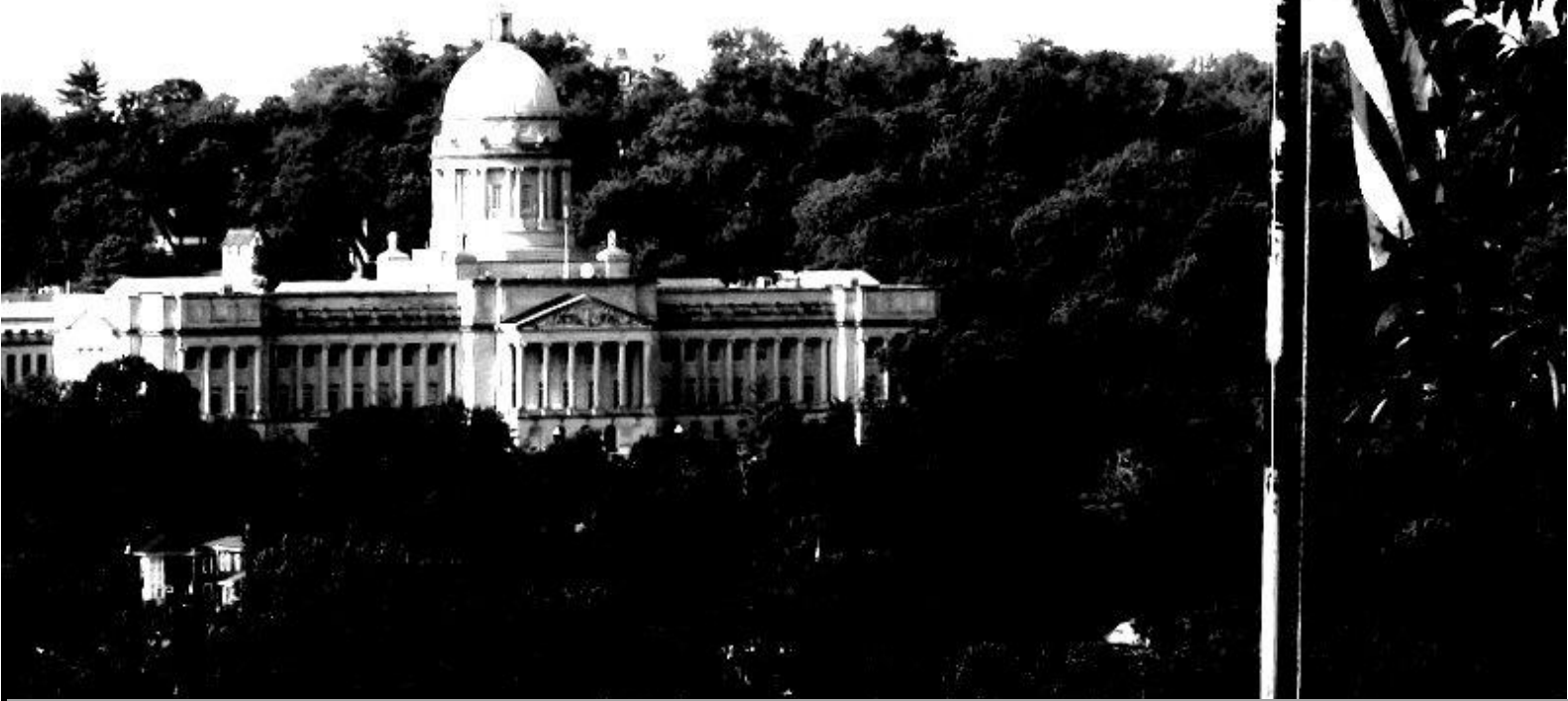


2012

LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA



THE KY COUNCIL OF AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS SERVES

15 AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

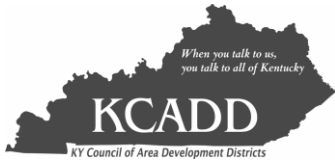
120 COUNTIES

418 CITIES

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2012 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

To our Legislative Delegation and Members,



KEY DATES

Legislative Breakfast

Thursday, February 9
Capitol Annex Cafeteria

Our premier annual event with over 100 KCADD members and our legislators.

First Day of Session

Tuesday, January 3

Last Day for New House Bills

Monday, February 27

Last Day for new Senate Bills

Wednesday, February 29

Last Day of Session

Monday, April 9

The KY Council of Area Development Districts was formed to take a holistic approach to fostering regional collaboration and progress by focusing on the concept that local governments, along with businesses and community leadership, can accomplish more by working together than individually. Further, the ADDs are designed to be the focal point of a necessary Federal-State-Local partnership for improvement of the quality of life in the Commonwealth. Contained in that effort is the elimination of, or certainly lessening of, parochialism; establishment of a forum to discuss and deal with common problems among counties and cities; provision of professional staff for units of government who individually cannot afford a staff; and to provide a vehicle for the delivery of services in a consistent manner where no other efficient system exists.

Spanning six decades, the ADD network is still going strong and is considered a large, powerful and diverse constituency given its composition of 15 ADDs serving all 120 counties and 418 cities.

Kentucky is known for its innovation, land use planning and generosity. We are also fortunate to have major, internationally-recognized corporations and this global footprint will hopefully help us weather potential future economic downturns when other states may fall into recession. Unfortunately, our state is also known for having poor public health, an escalating illegal prescription drug problem and an unsustainable state retirement system. It is vital that we address these issues, and many others, in order to maintain a dependable quality of life.

In the following pages, you will find the Council's legislative positions and priorities for the 2012 Session, representing the voice of Kentucky's ADDs, Local Governments and Citizen Members with the goal of producing a healthier, stronger climate for the Commonwealth.

We hope that you will take the time to understand how these issues affect Kentucky. We look forward to working with you on a common goal to help continue moving the Commonwealth forward.

Bobby Carpenter
KCADD Chair
Greenup County Judge Executive

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TRANSPORTATION

The Kentucky Area Development Districts (ADDs) have been involved in transportation planning for more than three decades.

As an integral part of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's (KYTC) road planning process, the Cabinet partnered with the fifteen Kentucky ADDs to establish a comprehensive transportation planning program utilizing local, regional and statewide input through a three prong process:

- Conducting a public involvement process and serving as a forum for public participation in the transportation planning process;
- Involving local officials in multimodal transportation planning through a structured transportation decision making process; and,
- Evaluating and prioritizing Unscheduled Projects List (UPL) projects for possible inclusion in the State Highway Plan.

As Kentucky's population continues to grow, so does congestion, traffic and wear and tear on our state and local roads and bridges. While significant strides continue to be made through the use of stimulus funds, Kentucky's economic health and global competitiveness are dependent on the state's and region's ability to perform proper planning efforts in transportation. Thru this ongoing investment in planning transportation infrastructure it will result in reduced congestion, improved safety and enhanced mobility for all users.

We urge the Legislature to:

- Formalize the value of the coordinated effort between KYTC and the ADDs, emphasizing public involvement in planning, by officially designating the ADDs as the RPOs in the Commonwealth. This designation will allow the ADDs to take the next steps in becoming the premier RPO program in the nation.
- Restore funding necessary to reinstitute annual county road updates. The estimated additional resources to maintain 1 FTE Regional Transportation Planner & ½ FTE GIS Transportation Technician for each ADD are approximately \$55,000 (or \$825,000 among the 15 ADDs).
- Allow the ADDs to take the Multimodal Planning component, incorporated into ISTE, TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU, to a higher level.

The ADDs propose to do this through the following:

Creation of multi-modal land use inventories through use of GIS technology; Addition of a Highway Safety element incorporating both public education and data analysis (incorporating GIS technology and following up with the convening of teams of experts to identify low cost solutions); and, Integration of cross-agency data, with emphasis on community and economic development, to integrate transportation and economic development planning in an effort to promote projects and address unrealistic expectations.

The estimated additional resources to maintain 1 FTE Multi-Modal Transportation Specialist & ½ FTE GIS Transportation Technician at each ADD are approximately \$120,000 (or \$1,800,000 among the 15 ADDs).

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WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

The success of companies, industries and states increasingly depends on an educated, flexible workforce, their access to new technology, and their ability to rapidly innovate. Business needs educated employees to grow and thrive. Plus, our businesses need the appropriate resources to invest in human capital and innovation that are fundamental to gaining a competitive advantage in the modern economy.

The most successful pathway to this competitive advantage is one based upon regionalism. The most historically successful model uses Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA) established predominantly along Area Development District boundaries. The KCADD believes that any workforce initiative must be based upon regional economies and use locally-governed and guided entities as the delivery mechanism.

We urge the Legislature to:

Use a portion of the Office of Employment and Training's Sector Strategy Funding, for data collection and Survey Information at the Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) level. Funding has been received locally thru the Appalachian Regional Commission to perform surveys on ARC counties, funds are needed to provide complementary data for non-ARC regions.

AGING SERVICES

Communities across the Commonwealth need both resources and technical support to ensure their policies, programs and services promote livable communities for all ages—communities that are good places to grow up and to grow old. We need to prepare our communities to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's older Kentuckians. The ADDs through their role in managing the state's

Area Agencies on Aging stretch resources to try and serve as many people as possible, but waiting lists for services continue to grow.

We urge the Legislature to:

Increase funding for Aging Programs and other supportive services to help older adults to remain living successfully and independently in their homes and communities.

The ADDs specifically ask the Legislature to sustain the capacity of aging programs by increasing total funding for these programs by at least \$25 million each year of the biennium to allow them to keep pace with projected population growth, price increases and escalating demand over the next two years.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

As the population grows, more demands will be placed upon our environment and the ability to maintain the proper level of infrastructure to protect public health. In 2000 only 65% of Kentucky's population had access to safe drinking water. With a bipartisan effort, the Legislature passed SB 409 that encouraged regionalization, consolidation, and partnerships among governmental agencies, and private parties when appropriate, with the goal of making potable water and wastewater treatment available to all Kentuckians through the maximization of financial resources and the conservation of natural resources of the Commonwealth.

Ten years later thru the cooperative planning of the ADDs Water Management Councils over 97% of Kentuckians have access to safe drinking water. Now we should use that successful model and apply it to wastewater planning.

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We urge the Legislature to:

Amend current statute (KRS 224A and KRS 151) to formalize the regional wastewater planning process intended by the original efforts initiated in the 2020 Plan in SB 409. The Water Management Councils already consider wastewater issues in their quarterly meetings, but if Kentucky is truly going to have a state-wide planning effort in wastewater (which effects economic development, infrastructure growth, public health and safety) we need to accurately promote the process through placing these requirements in KY law.

RETIREMENT REFORM

Kentucky's public employee retirement system has become one of the most expensive in the nation. Our local government's ability to meet financial demands because of increasing pension costs is crippling other community services. While revisions in 2008 helped provide temporary relief, Kentucky's local governments are poorly positioned to weather this continuing economic storm.

We urge the Legislature to:

Adopt legislation that creates a defined contribution or hybrid plan for all new public employees, while leaving existing employees in a defined benefit plan. We also ask for adjustments to the cost of living increases to retirees, implement reasonable changes to the health insurance benefit structure and, if necessary, support other legislative changes that would result in a test of the limits of the "inviolable contract" provision.

DRUG ABUSE

Prescription-drug and illegal drug abuse is taking a toll not only in lives, but also in increased crime, impaired driving, child abuse and neglect and jail and treatment costs.

A recent law-enforcement analysis concluded that prescription-pill trafficking could be causing an increasing number of overdose deaths in Kentucky. On average 82 people die monthly from intentional and unintentional prescription-drug overdoses.

The manufacturing of methamphetamine is also a significant public health and safety concern to Kentucky because of the crime associated with it, the hazardous waste left behind, the number of non-meth users who have to be treated for exposure, and the risk of explosions in meth production. Because of the cost associated with meth labs, meth is a significant detriment to the state's economy.

We urge the Legislature to:

Build upon Senator Jimmy Higdon's SB 47 that would require state oversight of pain management facilities and the requirement of any medical provider who prescribes narcotics to participate in the KASPER system.

In addition, the ADDs would support federal and state legislation to create an interstate compact for prescription drug monitoring and efforts to curb the growing meth problem in our communities.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY

Today's communications devices are wired, wireless, and integrated into a host of other electronics such as computers, automobiles and personal digital assistants that were nonexistent when the 911 system was developed over thirty years ago. Communications innovations are expected to continue. As communication systems, devices and regulations have moved beyond traditional phone lines, so have the technology, tools and resources needed to receive and respond to emergency calls.

The wireline customer base has been declining in Kentucky for several years while wireless customers have continued to grow.

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We urge the Legislature to:

Review the findings from the 911 report mandated by SB 119 and consider an act to modernize and improve the administration of Kentucky's 911 system through a statewide 911 board. Ensure all voice services contribute to the 911 system by providing parity in the quality of service and the level of 911 charges across voice communications service providers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The environment for economic development is changing at a rapid and dramatic pace as the forces of globalization become more prevalent. It is incumbent on Kentucky to develop an economic strategy in concert with the private sector that will result in global competitiveness, continued business growth and job creation.

Like investments in our transportation systems and schools, investment in clean water infrastructure is essential to economic growth. In addition to directly putting people to work, investments in water infrastructure highly stimulate other economic activity. Water projects depend on pipe, fittings, cement, aggregates, and other products. The U.S. Conference of Mayors estimates that every job created in rebuilding our water systems creates nearly 3.7 jobs elsewhere. The investments in water infrastructure also create lasting benefits by strengthening public health, safety, and our quality of life.

We urge the Legislature to:

Take a comprehensive look at the use and restrictions of Kentucky's industrial parks and

promote the increase in certification and utilization of Brownfield development. We also call on the KY Legislature to make a direct investment in clean water infrastructure projects in legislation to spur job creation and reinvigorate our economy.

PROPERTY TAXES

The property tax represents an important revenue source for local governments, but Kentucky's local governments rely on it less than local governments in most other states. Nonetheless, the property tax is the second largest source of local revenue in Kentucky.

We urge the Legislature to:

Take into consideration all tax structures that affect, or could possibly affect, local governments when contemplating any tax reform.

KY COUNCIL OF AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

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B. RUSSELL HARPER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR