

Critically Important Election – November 5, 2019!!  
by Sheila A. Schuster, Ph.D.

All registered Kentucky voters will have the opportunity to go to the polls on **Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>** to elect all statewide offices, including that of Governor of the Commonwealth. Current Governor Matt Bevin is running for a second term and is being challenged by Democrat Andy Beshear, former Attorney General and son of Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear. The news media and political analysts see Governor Bevin using his close alignment with President Donald Trump and trying to make this race about national hot button issues – immigration, abortion and gun control. Challenger Andy Beshear is focusing on state issues – notably education as a champion for teachers, the pension, and health care.

Other statewide offices on the ballot include Attorney General and Secretary of State (no incumbent running in either race), as well as Auditor, State Treasurer and Commissioner of Agriculture (where there are incumbents seeking a second term). I have listed in the table below the website for each candidate so that you can do your own research into their backgrounds and positions on the issues. Here is a link to the Voter Guide produced by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) which publishes candidates' responses to their issue questions. [www.KentuckyElection.org](http://www.KentuckyElection.org)

This is not a legislative election year; all state House seats, one-half of the state Senate seats, and congressional seats will be on the ballot in 2020, when we go to the polls to elect the US President. There will be, however, two state House seats on this ballot to fill vacancies created by resignations. One is in the 63<sup>rd</sup> House District (parts of Boone and Kenton counties) which had been held by Rep. Diane St. Onge; the other is in the 18<sup>th</sup> House District (Grayson and part of Hardin county) for the seat previously held by Rep. Tim Moore. If you live in either of those districts, please check out the candidates who will be on the ballot.

The deadline to register to vote has passed, but you can confirm your polling place and get a sample ballot by going to: [www.GoVoteKY.com](http://www.GoVoteKY.com) If you are unable to vote on election day and need an absentee ballot, contact your local Board of Elections or County Clerk and follow their instructions.

**The critical thing is to VOTE!** Democracy is not a spectator sport, but one that demands that the people be engaged and be heard. In the last election, there were several House seats that were determined by fewer than 20 votes...and one seat was actually a **tie vote** that was settled by one candidate withdrawing, rather than to get into a prolonged legal battle. As political science professor Larry Sabato described it: "Every election is determined by the people who show up." Be one of those people!

<b>GOVERNOR</b>	<b>WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO</b>	<b>PARTY</b>
Andy Beshear – Louisville; Jackie Coleman - Harrodsburg	<a href="http://www.andybeshear.com">www.andybeshear.com</a>	Democrat
<i>Matthew Bevin</i> – Louisville; Ralph Alvarado – Winchester	<a href="http://www.mattbevin.com">www.mattbevin.com</a>	Republican
<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL</b>		
Gregory Stumbo – Prestonsburg	<a href="http://www.stumboforag.com">www.stumboforag.com</a>	Democrat
Daniel Cameron - Louisville	<a href="http://www.cameronforkentucky.com">www.cameronforkentucky.com</a>	Republican
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE</b>		
Heather French Henry - Louisville	<a href="http://www.Supportheatherfrenchhenry.com">www.Supportheatherfrenchhenry.com</a>	Democrat
Michael Adams – Louisville	<a href="http://www.michaelgadams.com">www.michaelgadams.com</a>	Republican
<b>AUDITOR of PUBLIC ACCOUNTS</b>		
Sherri Donahue – Frankfort	<a href="http://www.donahueforkentucky.com">www.donahueforkentucky.com</a>	Democrat
<i>Mike Harmon</i> – Danville	<a href="http://www.mikeharmon.com">www.mikeharmon.com</a>	Republican
<b>STATE TREASURER</b>		
Michael Bowman – Louisville	<a href="http://www.bowmanforkentucky.com">www.bowmanforkentucky.com</a>	Democrat
<i>Allison Ball</i> – Prestonsburg	<a href="http://www.ballforkentucky.com">www.ballforkentucky.com</a>	Republican
<b>COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE</b>		
Robert Conway - Georgetown	<a href="http://www.conwayforky19.com">www.conwayforky19.com</a>	Democrat
<i>Ryan Quarles</i> – Georgetown	<a href="http://www.ryanquarles.com">www.ryanquarles.com</a>	Republican

Name = Incumbent

Table prepared by Sheila A. Schuster, Ph.D.