



Candidate Questionnaire

1. Fayette County saw a 4.6% increase in its unhoused population in 2026, on top of a 12% increase in 2025, and the Emergency Homeless Shelter Study projects we will need at least 500 additional beds by 2030. How will you support Lexington's unhoused residents? Do you support the study's recommendations? What is your position on HB 5, which bans street camping and allows for fines and incarceration for sleeping outside?

Homelessness is a complex challenge that requires practical, compassionate solutions. I support expanding shelter capacity, increasing transitional and supportive housing options, strengthening partnerships with service providers, and investing in prevention efforts that help people remain housed before they reach a crisis. I support many of the Emergency Homeless Shelter Study's recommendations, particularly those that increase capacity and improve coordination among providers. Regarding HB 5, I do not believe homelessness is solved through criminalization. While public spaces must remain safe and accessible, our focus should be connecting people to shelter, housing, mental health services, addiction treatment, and employment support rather than relying on fines or incarceration.

2. The 2024 Affordable Housing Needs Analysis found Lexington needs 20,000 additional affordable housing units. Facing rising home prices and rents that are increasingly out of reach, many feel pressure to seek more affordable housing further from their jobs and services. How do you define safe and affordable housing? What actions would you take to expand safe and affordable housing? How would you protect historically Black and working-class neighborhoods from encroachments and new development pressures? Name a policy you would support to address rising rental costs.

Safe and affordable housing means families can live in stable, well-maintained homes without being priced out of other necessities like food, healthcare, transportation, and childcare. Lexington must increase housing options at different price points, encourage mixed-income development, support rehabilitation of existing housing, and hold absentee landlords accountable for unsafe properties. I support policies that help long-time residents remain in their neighborhoods as investment occurs, including stronger code enforcement, neighborhood engagement in development decisions, and programs that prevent displacement. To address rising rents, I support incentives for developers who create and preserve housing that remains affordable for working families over the long term.

3. Nearly 1 in 5 Lexingtonians experience food insecurity. What kinds of actions would you take, or policies would you support, to strengthen access to food, build sustainable local food systems, and protect households that rely on SNAP from future political threats to funding?

I support a coordinated citywide food security strategy that helps local food banks, neighborhood pantries, schools, and community partners purchase food, expand mobile distribution, and respond quickly when families lose SNAP or other benefits. I also support using city-owned land and grants to expand community gardens, urban agriculture, and partnerships with local farmers so more fresh food reaches neighborhoods with limited grocery access. Food insecurity is not just about food; it is often a symptom of economic instability and financial stress on families. Lexington should track food access by neighborhood, invest in proven community partners, and advocate at the state and federal level against cuts to SNAP. Families should not lose access to food because of political decisions.

4. Gun violence continues to impact Lexington. Not only does it impact victims, but whole communities that are left to deal with its aftermath. What actions would you take to reduce community gun violence, and how would you support grassroots and survivor-led organizations working on prevention and healing, alongside or beyond the work of ONE Lexington?

Gun violence is a public health and safety issue. Lexington should fund prevention and healing with the same urgency that we fund enforcement. So, I support long-term partnerships with grassroots and survivor-led organizations doing violence interruption, youth mentoring, trauma recovery, conflict mediation, and family support to ensure they have a meaningful role in community-based solutions. ONE Lexington is important. The city should build on that work by supporting a broader network of community organizations. We need support for neighborhood leaders who are closest to the young people and families most affected by gun violence. I support expanding after-school programs, job training, mental health support, and rapid-response services for survivors and neighborhoods after shootings.

5. What do you think about state and federal officials forcing counties and cities to comply with their demands to partner with federal agencies? Do you believe local control and democracy still has a place in Kentucky communities that state and federal officials and agencies should honor?

Local control and local democracy still matter. State and federal governments have important responsibilities, and effective government requires local communities to have a meaningful voice in decisions that directly affect their residents. I support collaboration between local, state, and federal agencies when it serves the public interest, but I am cautious about mandates that remove a community's ability to address local challenges based on local needs.

and priorities. Effective government requires partnership, not coercion. As a councilmember, I would advocate for transparency, public input, and preserving Lexington's ability to make decisions that reflect the values and interests of the people who live here while remaining in compliance with the law.

6. Lexington has seen a troubling rise in pedestrian and cyclist deaths. What steps should the city take to improve safety and encourage alternatives to car travel, such as walking, bicycling, and public transit?

We cannot continue designing transportation systems that assume everyone drives everywhere. I support investing in safer sidewalks, better street lighting, protected bike facilities, safer crosswalks, traffic calming measures, and expanding Lextran service so residents have real transportation choices. We should prioritize improvements in areas with high rates of pedestrian and cyclist injuries and fatalities. These investments improve public safety, reduce congestion and air pollution, promote healthier lifestyles, and make Lexington more accessible for seniors, children, and people with disabilities. A truly connected city is one where residents can safely choose how they travel, not one where they are forced to rely on a car for every trip.

7. What 3 budget priorities should the city focus on in the coming years? What steps would you support to increase meaningful public input in the budget process, and what is your position on the \$152 million City Hall project at 200 West Vine?

My top three budget priorities are: 1) housing affordability and neighborhood stability, including rehabilitation of existing housing and stronger enforcement against neglected properties; 2) public safety, including violence prevention, mental health response, and support for community-based programs; and 3) transportation infrastructure, including sidewalks, street lighting, safer crossings, traffic calming, and public transit. To improve transparency, I would require plain-language project summaries, neighborhood meetings, published cost analyses, and public comment opportunities before major votes. The City Hall decision has been made. Rather than revisiting it, I want to focus on ensuring accountability while continuing to invest in the services residents rely on every day.

8. Where do you stand on city workers' rights to collective bargaining? What specifically would you do to promote a living wage, better workplace conditions, and support for minority-owned businesses?

I support collective bargaining rights for city employees. Public servants deserve a voice in their workplace. Strong wages, benefits, and workplace protections helped me build a stable middle-class life as a state employee, and city workers deserve the same. I support a living wage for city employees and city contractors, regular compensation reviews to keep pace with inflation, and investments in workforce development and employee retention. To support minority-owned businesses, I would expand outreach, simplify the procurement process, increase transparency around city contracting, and set measurable goals for participation in city-funded projects. Lexington is strongest when workers can support their families and small businesses have a fair opportunity to compete and grow.

9. Rising utility rates are a growing burden on Lexington households, and recent proposals for development and expansion of power-intensive data centers have caused alarm in the community. What actions should the city take to address high energy costs, support energy efficiency for residents earning low incomes, and proactively regulate data center development in Fayette County?

Rising utility costs are placing pressure on working families, seniors, and people on fixed incomes. I support expanding programs that help low-income households improve energy efficiency and lower monthly bills through weatherization and home improvements. On data centers, I support Lexington's cautious approach. Small data centers already operate here, but large-scale projects raise questions about energy use, water consumption, environmental impacts, infrastructure demands, public health, and the limited number of permanent jobs they create. I oppose large data centers, especially if they consume land that could be used for housing, parks, or other community needs. Any proposal should be communicated to the public and demonstrate a clear public benefit and never increase utility costs.

10. Lexington is a place that considers itself a city to grow and thrive within community, and one that prides itself on local policies and ordinances that ensure equal access and civil protections for all Lexingtonians. When such commitments are put under pressure, what will you do to continue to uphold Lexington ordinances that legislate equal treatment, fair and equal access, and nondiscrimination for all?

Lexington has a long history of extending equal protection and opportunity to all residents, including through its Fairness Ordinance, which prohibits discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. I will support and defend local ordinances that promote fair treatment, equal access, and nondiscrimination under the law. Every resident deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of who they are or where they come from. When local protections face challenges, I will advocate for policies grounded in fairness, transparency, and equal opportunity, while respecting the voices of Lexington residents and the city's authority to govern matters that affect our community.