

KENTUCKY FIRST AGENDA

**A KENTUCKY FIRST AGENDA TO LOWER COSTS AND
BUILD A STRONGER COMMONWEALTH**





**WILLIAM
HUFFMAN**

— KENTUCKY GOVERNOR —

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
The Kentucky First Vision	6
 SECTION 1: Make Kentucky More Affordable	 10
1. Lower Taxes for Working Families	11
2. Lower Energy Costs	15
3. Expand Affordable Housing	19
4. Support Small Businesses and Local Jobs	23
5. Raise the Minimum Wage	27
 SECTION 2: Build a Stronger Kentucky Economy	 31
1. Invest in Kentucky Manufacturing	32
2. Expand Workforce Training	37
3. Grow Rural Kentucky	42
4. Improve Roads, Bridges, and Broadband	47
5. Make Kentucky a Leader in New Industries	52
 SECTION 3: Protect Kentucky Families	 57
1. End Animal Cruelty	58
2. Strengthen Public Safety	63
3. Expand Mental Health Services	68
4. Improve Access to Health Care	72
 SECTION 4: Reform State Government	 77
1. Make Government More Efficient	78
2. Increase Transparency and Ethics	82
3. Modernize State Services	86
4. Put Taxpayers First	90
 SECTION 5: Invest in Kentucky's Future	 95
1. Support Excellent Public Schools	96
2. Expand Career and Technical Education	101
3. Protect Kentucky's Parks and Natural Resources	106
4. Keep Kentucky Competitive	111
 Conclusion	 116
References and Endnotes	118

INTRODUCTION

William Huffman is running for Governor with a clear mission: to put Kentucky first.

Kentucky is home to hardworking families, thriving communities, and limitless potential. Yet too many Kentuckians face rising costs, economic uncertainty, and a state government that can do more to deliver results. William Huffman believes it is time for a new generation of leadership, one that puts the people of Kentucky at the center of every decision.

The Kentucky First Agenda is built on a simple principle: when Kentucky families succeed, the Commonwealth succeeds. This agenda focuses on lowering costs, creating good-paying jobs, strengthening public safety, supporting small businesses, protecting animals from abuse, improving education, and making state government more efficient, transparent, and accountable.

As Governor, William Huffman will work to expand opportunity across every corner of Kentucky, from the mountains of Eastern Kentucky to the cities of Louisville and Lexington, from the Purchase region to the Commonwealth's rural communities. Every Kentuckian deserves the opportunity to work hard, build a successful future, and live in a safe and prosperous community.

The Kentucky First Agenda is more than a collection of policy proposals. It is a commitment to responsible leadership, economic growth, and practical solutions that improve the lives of Kentucky families. It is a vision for a stronger Commonwealth where government serves the people with integrity, opportunity is within reach for everyone, and the next generation inherits a brighter future.

Together, William Huffman and the people of Kentucky can build a stronger Commonwealth, because Kentucky always comes first.

MAKE
KENTUCKY
MORE
AFFORDABLE

LOWER TAXES FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Kentucky families deserve to keep more of the money they earn. As Governor, William Huffman will pursue responsible tax relief that helps working families, seniors, and small businesses while maintaining a balanced state budget.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Lower the tax burden on middle-class and working families.
- Support continued reductions in Kentucky's individual income tax when fiscally responsible.
- Expand tax relief for families with children.
- Protect Kentucky taxpayers by eliminating wasteful government spending before considering any tax increases.
- Simplify the state tax system to make it easier for families and small businesses to understand and comply with.
- Encourage job creation by maintaining a competitive tax climate for businesses that invest and create jobs in Kentucky.

William Huffman believes that government should spend taxpayer dollars wisely. By making state government more efficient, Kentucky can lower taxes, strengthen its economy, and ensure families have more money to save, invest, and spend in their local communities.

A stronger Kentucky begins with stronger family finances. Under the Kentucky First Agenda, taxpayers will come first.

LOWER ENERGY COSTS

Kentucky families should not have to choose between paying their utility bills and meeting their everyday needs. As Governor, William Huffman will work to lower energy costs while ensuring Kentucky maintains a reliable and affordable energy supply.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Support an affordable, dependable energy grid that keeps utility costs low.
- Invest in modern energy infrastructure to improve reliability.
- Encourage energy efficiency programs that help families lower monthly utility bills.
- Reduce unnecessary regulations that increase energy costs for consumers.
- Promote an all-of-the-above energy strategy that protects jobs and strengthens Kentucky's economy.

William Huffman believes affordable energy is essential to economic growth, strong businesses, and financial security for every Kentucky family.

EXPAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Every Kentuckian deserves access to safe, affordable housing. Rising housing costs have made it more difficult for families, first-time homebuyers, and young workers to achieve the dream of homeownership.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Increase the supply of affordable housing across the Commonwealth.
- Support first-time homebuyers through state housing initiatives.
- Encourage public-private partnerships to build more homes.
- Expand housing opportunities in both urban and rural communities.
- Reduce unnecessary barriers that slow responsible residential development.

William Huffman believes expanding housing opportunities will strengthen communities, support economic growth, and help more Kentuckians build lasting financial security.

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES AND LOCAL JOBS

Small businesses are the backbone of Kentucky's economy. From family-owned restaurants and local retailers to manufacturers and farms, these businesses create jobs and strengthen communities.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Reduce unnecessary regulations that make it harder to start and grow a business.
- Expand access to workforce training programs.
- Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation throughout Kentucky.
- Invest in infrastructure that helps businesses succeed.
- Promote policies that attract new employers while supporting existing Kentucky businesses.

William Huffman believes a stronger economy begins with empowering local businesses to invest, hire, and grow throughout the Commonwealth.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

Every Kentuckian who works full time should have the opportunity to earn a fair wage. As the cost of living continues to rise, working families deserve wages that better reflect today's economy.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Support a responsible increase in Kentucky's minimum wage.
- Help workers achieve greater financial stability.
- Encourage wage growth while supporting the long-term success of Kentucky businesses.
- Expand workforce development programs that prepare workers for higher-paying careers.
- Work with employers, labor leaders, and communities to promote sustainable economic growth.

William Huffman believes that a stronger workforce leads to a stronger Commonwealth. Raising wages responsibly can help families succeed while building a healthier Kentucky economy.

BUILD A
STRONGER
KENTUCKY
ECONOMY

INVEST IN KENTUCKY MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing has long been a cornerstone of Kentucky's economy. From automotive plants to food production and advanced manufacturing, this industry provides thousands of good-paying jobs and drives economic growth across the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Attract new manufacturing investment to Kentucky.
- Support existing manufacturers through pro-growth policies.
- Strengthen domestic supply chains and production.
- Expand industrial development across the Commonwealth.
- Encourage businesses to create and keep manufacturing jobs in Kentucky.

William Huffman believes investing in Kentucky manufacturing will create more jobs, strengthen local communities, and build a stronger economy for future generations.

EXPAND WORKFORCE TRAINING

Kentucky's workforce is one of its greatest assets. Every Kentuckian deserves access to the education and skills needed to succeed in today's economy, whether through college, apprenticeships, or career and technical education.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Expand career and technical education programs.
- Strengthen apprenticeship opportunities.
- Partner with employers to prepare workers for in-demand careers.
- Increase workforce development funding.
- Support lifelong learning and job retraining opportunities.

William Huffman believes a highly skilled workforce will strengthen Kentucky's economy, attract new businesses, and create more opportunities for working families.

GROW RURAL KENTUCKY

Rural communities are the heart of the Commonwealth. Every Kentuckian deserves access to economic opportunity, quality healthcare, modern infrastructure, and reliable public services, regardless of where they live.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Expand economic development in rural communities.
- Support Kentucky farmers and the agricultural industry.
- Improve access to healthcare in rural areas.
- Increase investment in rural infrastructure.
- Encourage businesses to invest and create jobs throughout rural Kentucky.

William Huffman believes rural Kentucky should have every opportunity to thrive, grow, and remain a strong foundation of the Commonwealth.

IMPROVE ROADS, BRIDGES, AND BROADBAND

Reliable infrastructure connects Kentucky's communities, supports businesses, and improves quality of life. Modern transportation and high-speed internet are essential to building a stronger Commonwealth.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Repair and modernize Kentucky's roads and bridges.
- Expand broadband access to underserved communities.
- Improve transportation safety across the Commonwealth.
- Invest in infrastructure projects that create jobs.
- Responsibly manage taxpayer dollars while modernizing public infrastructure.

William Huffman believes investing in infrastructure will strengthen Kentucky's economy, improve public safety, and prepare the Commonwealth for future growth.

MAKE KENTUCKY A LEADER IN NEW INDUSTRIES

Kentucky has the opportunity to lead the nation in advanced manufacturing, technology, logistics, healthcare, and other emerging industries. Innovation will help create the next generation of jobs and strengthen Kentucky's economy.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Attract businesses in high-growth industries.
- Encourage innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Invest in research and workforce development.
- Support the expansion of technology and advanced manufacturing.
- Promote Kentucky as a national destination for business investment.

William Huffman believes embracing innovation today will create new opportunities, stronger communities, and a more competitive Kentucky for generations to come.

PROTECT
KENTUCKY
FAMILIES

END ANIMAL CRUELTY

Animals deserve to be treated with care, compassion, and respect. Kentucky must take stronger action against abuse, neglect, and illegal animal fighting while supporting organizations that work to protect vulnerable animals.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Strengthen penalties for animal cruelty and neglect.
- Increase enforcement against illegal animal fighting operations.
- Support animal shelters and rescue organizations.
- Crack down on irresponsible breeding practices and puppy mills.
- Promote responsible pet ownership through education and community partnerships.
- Shut down all Animal Testing Facilities.

William Huffman believes that protecting animals reflects the values of a compassionate Commonwealth and that those who abuse animals must be held accountable.

STRENGTHEN PUBLIC SAFETY

Every Kentuckian deserves to feel safe in their home and community. Protecting public safety requires supporting law enforcement, preventing crime, and ensuring that first responders have the resources they need to keep communities safe.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Support law enforcement officers and first responders.
- Increase resources to combat violent crime and drug trafficking.
- Invest in modern public safety technology and equipment.
- Expand crime prevention and community policing initiatives.
- Strengthen efforts to combat the opioid and fentanyl crisis.

William Huffman believes that safe communities create stronger families, thriving businesses, and a better future for every Kentuckian.

EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mental health is essential to the health and well-being of Kentucky families. Too many Kentuckians face barriers to receiving the care they need, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Expand access to affordable mental health care.
- Increase the number of mental health professionals across Kentucky.
- Strengthen school-based mental health programs.
- Improve crisis intervention and suicide prevention services.
- Support programs that address substance use and addiction recovery.

William Huffman believes every Kentuckian should have access to quality mental health care, regardless of where they live.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Quality health care should be available and accessible to every Kentuckian. Families should not have to travel long distances or face unnecessary barriers to receive the care they need.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Expand access to primary and preventive health care.
- Strengthen rural hospitals and community health clinics.
- Improve access to women's health services.
- Support initiatives that reduce the cost of health care.
- Encourage partnerships that improve health outcomes across the Commonwealth.

William Huffman believes that healthier communities lead to a stronger workforce, stronger families, and a stronger Kentucky.

REFORM STATE GOVERNMENT

MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT

Kentuckians deserve a state government that works efficiently, spends taxpayer dollars responsibly, and delivers results.

Government should focus on providing essential services while eliminating waste, improving performance, and increasing accountability.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Reduce unnecessary government spending.
- Eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in state agencies.
- Modernize state operations to improve efficiency.
- Review government programs to ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively.
- Prioritize responsible budgeting while maintaining essential public services.

William Huffman believes government should work smarter, not bigger, ensuring every taxpayer dollar is spent wisely.

INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICS

The people of Kentucky deserve a government that is honest, transparent, and accountable. Public officials should always act in the best interests of the Commonwealth and uphold the highest ethical standards.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Strengthen ethics and accountability standards for government officials.
- Increase transparency in state government decision-making.
- Improve public access to government information.
- Strengthen oversight of state agencies.
- Promote integrity and public trust throughout state government.

William Huffman believes that restoring trust in government begins with transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership.

MODERNIZE STATE SERVICES

Kentuckians should have access to fast, reliable, and convenient government services. Modern technology can make state government more responsive while reducing costs and improving customer service.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Expand online access to state services.
- Modernize outdated government technology systems.
- Reduce wait times for permits, licenses, and public services.
- Improve cybersecurity across state agencies.
- Increase efficiency through digital government initiatives.

William Huffman believes state government should be accessible, efficient, and responsive to every Kentuckian.

PUT TAXPAYERS FIRST

Every tax dollar belongs to the people of Kentucky. State government has a responsibility to spend taxpayer money responsibly while protecting families from unnecessary tax burdens.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Keep taxes as low as responsibly possible.
- Prioritize balanced budgets and responsible fiscal management.
- Evaluate state spending to eliminate unnecessary costs.
- Ensure taxpayer dollars are invested in essential public services.
- Promote long-term financial stability for the Commonwealth.

William Huffman believes Kentucky taxpayers deserve a government that respects their hard-earned money and always puts the interests of the people first.

INVEST IN
KENTUCKY'S
FUTURE

SUPPORT EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every child in Kentucky deserves access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success in college, the workforce, and life. Strong schools are the foundation of a stronger Commonwealth.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Increase support for Kentucky's public schools.
- Invest in recruiting and retaining excellent teachers.
- Expand access to classroom technology and educational resources.
- Improve student achievement through evidence-based learning.
- Encourage greater parental involvement in education.

William Huffman believes that investing in education is one of the most important investments Kentucky can make for its future.

EXPAND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Not every student's path leads through a four-year college, but every student deserves the opportunity to build a successful career. Career and technical education prepares Kentuckians for high-demand, high-paying jobs across the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Expand career and technical education programs statewide.
- Strengthen partnerships between schools and employers.
- Increase apprenticeship and internship opportunities.
- Invest in workforce certification programs.
- Prepare students for careers in manufacturing, healthcare, technology, and skilled trades.

William Huffman believes every student should graduate with the skills needed to succeed in Kentucky's growing economy.

PROTECT KENTUCKY'S PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Kentucky's natural beauty is one of the Commonwealth's greatest assets. From state parks and forests to rivers and lakes, these resources should be protected for future generations.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Invest in Kentucky's state parks and outdoor recreation.
- Protect clean air and clean water across the Commonwealth.
- Promote conservation of Kentucky's natural resources.
- Support responsible environmental stewardship.
- Expand opportunities for outdoor tourism and recreation.

William Huffman believes protecting Kentucky's natural resources strengthens communities, supports local economies, and preserves the Commonwealth's heritage.

KEEP KENTUCKY COMPETITIVE

Kentucky must continue competing for jobs, investment, and innovation in a rapidly changing economy. The Commonwealth's future depends on attracting new businesses while supporting the industries that already call Kentucky home.

The Kentucky First Agenda will:

- Attract new businesses and private investment.
- Promote innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Maintain a competitive business climate.
- Support strategic economic development across every region.
- Prepare Kentucky for the industries and opportunities of tomorrow.

William Huffman believes a competitive Kentucky means more jobs, stronger communities, and greater opportunity for every Kentuckian.



CONCLUSION

Kentucky has always been defined by its hardworking people, strong communities, and unwavering determination to build a better future. From the Appalachian Mountains to the Jackson Purchase, from our family farms to our manufacturing plants, the Commonwealth is filled with people who work every day to provide for their families and strengthen their communities. They deserve a government that works just as hard for them.

The Kentucky First Agenda is built on one guiding principle: the people of Kentucky should always come first. Every policy in this agenda is designed to improve the lives of Kentuckians by lowering costs, expanding economic opportunity, strengthening public safety, improving education, supporting small businesses, protecting animals from abuse, modernizing state government, and preparing the Commonwealth for the future.

As Governor, William Huffman will lead with integrity, accountability, and a commitment to delivering results. His administration will focus on responsible leadership that puts families ahead of politics, encourages economic growth, protects taxpayers, and ensures every community has the opportunity to succeed. Whether someone lives in Louisville, Lexington, Bowling Green, Paducah, Pikeville, or a small rural town, every Kentuckian deserves to know that their state government is working on their behalf.

The Kentucky First Agenda recognizes that the challenges facing our Commonwealth cannot be solved overnight. Real progress requires thoughtful leadership, cooperation, and a willingness to make decisions that serve the long-term interests of Kentucky. By working together with local governments, educators, law enforcement, healthcare professionals, business owners, farmers, community organizations, and citizens across the Commonwealth, we can build lasting solutions that benefit every generation.

This agenda is also a commitment to responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Government exists to serve the people, not the other way around. Every decision made under a Huffman Administration will be guided by transparency, fiscal responsibility, and a dedication to making state government more efficient, effective, and accountable to the people it serves.

Kentucky's future is filled with opportunity. Our workers are among the hardest working in America. Our businesses continue to innovate. Our students are preparing to become tomorrow's leaders. Our farmers continue to feed our nation. Our first responders protect our communities every day, and countless volunteers strengthen neighborhoods through service and compassion.

Together, these strengths provide the foundation for an even brighter future.

The Kentucky First Agenda is more than a policy platform, it is a vision for the next chapter of the Commonwealth. It is a promise to create opportunity, strengthen families, protect communities, grow our economy, and ensure that every Kentuckian has the chance to succeed. It is a commitment to leadership that listens, serves, and delivers meaningful results.

The future of Kentucky will not be shaped by government alone. It will be built by the people who call this Commonwealth home. As Governor, William Huffman will work every day to earn the trust of those people by leading with honesty, respect, and a relentless focus on improving the lives of every Kentuckian.

Together, we can build a stronger economy, safer communities, better schools, a more efficient government, and a brighter future for every family across the Commonwealth.

Together, we will put Kentucky First.

REFERENCES

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Commonwealth of Kentucky. Kentucky.gov. <https://kentucky.gov>

Kentucky General Assembly. <https://legislature.ky.gov>

Kentucky Legislative Research Commission.
<https://legislature.ky.gov/LRC>

Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development. <https://ced.ky.gov>

Kentucky Department of Education. <https://education.ky.gov>

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. <https://transportation.ky.gov>

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.
<https://www.chfs.ky.gov>

Kentucky Department for Public Health.
<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph>

Kentucky Department of Agriculture. <https://www.kyagr.com>

Kentucky State Police. <https://kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov>

Kentucky Cabinet for Energy and Environment. <https://eec.ky.gov>

Kentucky Housing Corporation. <https://www.kyhousing.org>

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.
<https://fw.ky.gov>

REFERENCES CONTD.

Federal Government

U.S. Census Bureau. <https://www.census.gov>

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov>

U.S. Department of Agriculture. <https://www.usda.gov>

U.S. Department of Transportation. <https://www.transportation.gov>

U.S. Department of Education. <https://www.ed.gov>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.hhs.gov>

U.S. Small Business Administration. <https://www.sba.gov>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. <https://www.nhtsa.gov>

Additional Research Organizations

National Governors Association. <https://www.nga.org>

National Conference of State Legislatures. <https://www.ncsl.org>

Council of State Governments. <https://www.csg.org>

The Pew Charitable Trusts. <https://www.pewtrusts.org>

Brookings Institution. <https://www.brookings.edu>



WILLIAM HUFFMAN

— KENTUCKY GOVERNOR —