



KFRW ELECTIONS

KFRW Political Newsletter

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER?

From the Editor: Debra Henley

Do you ever wonder what goes on after the elections are over? Days following the election, all of the hustle and bustle of campaign offices are now quiet. Voters can relax knowing they won't be getting those annoying phone calls, people knocking on their doors, or mailboxes filled with campaign literature. The excitement of watching the vote returns is over and the winner has been announced. All is quiet. Or is it?

NOT. At least for the winner and his chosen transition team.

THE TRANSITION: There are 12 weeks between when the elections are held and when the new governor starts conducting the state's business. During that time there is a lot of chaos going on behind closed doors. Transition teams are in place doing every job conceivable. They are working with the outgoing governor identifying office space, putting new staff in place quickly to take care of everything from ordering new stationary, to making personnel appointments, to developing briefing reports of state agencies and programs. One of the first areas to be addressed is determining the structure of the Governor's Office and the process for key staff recruitment. Because of the time frame, several key appointments are made immediately, including the chief-of-staff and secretary of the Governor's Cabinet.

INAUGURATION DAY: The inauguration day is held on the fifth Tuesday after the election. The celebration represents both the legal and ceremonial beginning of a new governor's term. The oath of office is the only activity required by law for inauguration. Ceremonial events surrounding gubernatorial inaugurations in Kentucky are rooted in both tradition and fiat. Since 1792, when Isaac Shelby became the first Governor of the commonwealth, the day has been a day of public celebration. Many of the traditions begun by Governor Shelby are carried on to this day. One of the longest standing traditions has been the welcoming of the new governor and spouse to the Executive Mansion by a delegation of Frankfort residents bearing country ham, beaten biscuits, and white cake. This tradition, followed for at least the past 100 years, is said to have started when an outgoing first lady left a baked ham, cake, and a platter of beaten biscuits on the dining table for the incoming first lady.



Committees are organized to work on the many activities. There is a worship service, a parade, the swearing-in ceremony and platform arrangements, a reception for the first family, a ball and grand march, a hospitality tent, decorations, credentials, press and publicity, programs, invitations, parking, traffic control, sales and commemorative item, arrangements for special guests, entertainment, food, and coordination of volunteers.

Inauguration day typically begins with a worship service. Afterward, tradition dictates that the parade begin at the east end of Main Street and wind through downtown Frankfort, across the Capital Avenue Bridge, and up to the Capitol. The parade includes floats, bands or marchers from the home counties of the incoming governor and lieutenant governor, horse-drawn carriages, participation by military units from Fort Knox, and flybys of Kentucky Air National Guard aircraft. By tradition the mayor of Frankfort and the Franklin county judge executive deliver welcoming remarks at the public inaugural ceremony. The new governor then presents an inaugural address, which sets the tone of the new administration and highlights the governor's vision for the future.

So while we relax at the end of the day, enjoying a favorite activity, watching a new t.v. show, or having a nice dinner with friends, Frankfort is a buzz with all of the coming and goings of people tasked with the many jobs of getting everything ready for the new governor.

Et incipit novam chapter



Parts reprinted from *Gubernatorial Transition Handbook*, Legislative Research Commission 2015

Pictures courtesy of the archives from Gov. Ernie Fletcher's inauguration

Translation for closing: And a new chapter begins



ARE YOU READY TO CAUCUS?

For the first time in history Kentucky will host a presidential caucus to choose its state's candidate for president. The caucus will be held on Saturday, March 5th between the hours of 10:00 a.m.—4:00p.m. People will be selecting their choice for President ONLY. The caucus is open to all Republican voters who have been registered on or before December 31, 2015. Voters will have to show identification like in other elections. Voters planning on voting by absentee ballot must make application on or before the third Friday in February 2016 to the Republican Party State Headquarters in Frankfort. Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters no sooner than the first Thursday following the candidate filing deadline. Application to vote Absentee Ballot will be available on the state GOP's website.

(Additional information regarding the caucus can be found on the RPK website rpk.org and click on *about*, and then on *rules*)

The first four states to hold their primaries/caucus will be in February with Iowa leading the pack on February 1st. Here are the current poll standings for those four states

IOWA:	NEW HAMPSHIRE:	SOUTH CAROLINA	NEVADA
Trump 24%	Trump 24.3%	Trump 25%	Trump 38%
Carson 23.5%	Carson 13%	Carson 22.7%	Carson 22%
Rubio 12.8%	Rubio 11.3%	Rubio 11%	Fiorina 8%
Cruz 12.3%	Cruz 9%	Cruz 10.7%	Rubio 7%

(Source: Realclearpolitics.com dated 11-17-15)



Political Term: Bellwether— A small entity whose characteristics happen to reflect that of the whole state or nation. The American state of Nevada is a bellwether state for presidential elections in that, with only one exception, it has voted the same as the whole country for a century.



Campaigns & Elections

Congratulations

The KFRW would like to congratulate all of the Republican candidates that won in the recent general election. We are looking forward to having a Republican governor in the state's highest office again. And while we didn't sweep the election, we did win 4 out of the 6 offices which is a great improvement and we'll get the other 2 next time.

Governor's Race:	Matt Bevin/Jenean Hampton
State Treasurer:	Allison Ball
State Auditor:	Mike Harmon
Commissioner of Ag:	Ryan Quarles

NOW, as we finish celebrating our new accomplishments we already are turning to 2016. It is very important that we win the Kentucky HOUSE so that our Governor has the support that he needs in both the House and Senate to make the changes to move Kentucky forward. We will also all be focused on getting a good conservative Republican president back in the White House.

Be sure to look at January 2016's Newsletter for campaign contact information so that your club can invite our candidates to come visit your area.

Campaign Hours: THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of our KFRW members who put in many many hours helping our candidates this election. Be sure to document the hours you put in on these campaigns and turn them in to your club's campaign chairman or club president. They will apply toward our next Achievement Awards.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

The new 2016 Legislative session will be starting up very soon and a few bills that have already been prefiled for this next year are as follows:

BR101: to exempt person, officials, and institutions with religious objections to same sex marriage from any requirement to solemnize, or to issue or record licenses for such marriages.

BR116: Require the postings of the preambles of the U.S. Constitution and the Kentucky Constitution in all public school classrooms. Allows teachers to choose placement.

BR126: Relating to medical coverage

BR135: To exempt persons, officials and institutions with religious objections to any marriage from any requirement to solemnize such a marriage

BR154: Related to Marriage; move marriage licensing and recording duties from county clerks to the state registrar of vital statistics; to exempt persons, officials, and institutions with religious objections to same-sex marriage from any requirement to solemnize such marriage

BR178: to amend Sec. 95 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to election of state officers—to hold elections of state wide constitutional officers in even numbered years, every 4 years beginning in 2024; provide transitional schedule; submit to voters for ratification or rejection.

BR197: relating to drone surveillance—create a new section of Krs Chapter 500 to define “Drone”; prohibit a law enforcement agency from using a drone to gather evidence or other information; provide exception; prohibit use of evidence obtained in violation; provide that the Act may be cited as the “Citizens” Freedom from Unwarranted Surveillance Act”

BR214: Preserving the right of Kentuckians to own and use firearms; invalidate and nullify all federal laws and regulations restricting ownership or possession of firearms; direct the General Assembly to take all appropriate action to safeguard Kentuckians’ rights to possess firearms in accordance with the second amendment to the Constitution of the United States and Sect. One of the Kentucky Constitution.

BR234: Amend KRS218A.1412 to include synthetic drugs in the offense of trafficking in a controlled substance in the first degree.

BR292: An act prohibiting the use of public resources for abortion services; to provide that public funds shall not be paid to any entity or affiliate of an entity that provides abortion services and to establish exceptions.

Newsletter Resources:

Republican Party of Kentucky (rpk.org)

Kentucky Legislative website (www.lrc.ky.gov)

2015 Gubernatorial Transition Handbook

Realclearpolitics.com