

FCNC Candidate Questionnaire for Willy Fogle, District 9 Candidate

1. Please describe your principal reasons for wanting to serve on the Council and your involvement with neighborhoods. What are the two highest-priority issues affecting neighborhoods in your district, and what solutions do you propose?

I seek to use my extensive proven experience serving on Lexington's Council previously for 9 years to benefit the 9th District. I helped establish or reestablish 17 neighborhood associations while I served on the Council—and was honored to receive the FCNC Neighborhood Hero Award. Our neighborhoods are our true strength! Public safety and traffic issues are cited most often as the concerns I hear from talking with so many people in the district. I will work with police and our neighborhoods to bring about greater communication, transparency, and enhanced public safety education to benefit the district. Our citizens deserve the right to feel safe where they live, work, and play. I support the Imagine Nicholasville Road project and will work the City's Traffic Engineers to address the unique traffic challenges in the district. In general, I will strive to be easily accessible to constituents! That is a definite priority.

2. Lexington has seen a significant need for affordable housing in recent years, especially for the most economically challenged; and the new 2020/21 budget proposes significant cuts in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund allocation and staffing. As Councilmember, what strategies would you offer for affordable housing?

I will fully support Lexington's Office of Affordable Housing, established in 2014 to help create affordable housing in our community. The office has made significant strides in that respect. I will also support the Affordable Housing Fund that provides safe, quality, affordable housing. Too many people in our community continue to face a housing cost burden, so much work remains to be done. The next City Council must ensure the administration and management of the program is where it should be for continued success.

3. The novel coronavirus and resultant economic downturn has had a disproportionate impact on Lexington's most vulnerable communities. In this time of economic emergency, what are your priorities for social services and for workforce and small business recovery?

I would certainly support a concentrated Workforce Development focus. We need a well-defined strategy and a comprehensive, strategic workforce plan. Career training and adult education is the path. Small business is the backbone of our community. Workforce development is an essential component of community economic development in any economic climate and is even more critical during the financial crisis we're experiencing today. Local government must work with local business leaders to build a 21st Century workforce and keep the pipeline of talent flowing. We should seek synergy with Commerce Lexington, UK, BCTC, Transylvania and others to ensure our workforce is sufficiently trained. We must also ensure our processes are streamlined to help small business avoid the burden of red tape. Our social service policy must be one that provides the essential funding to maintain the necessary safety net to protect the most

vulnerable members of our community. We are fortunate that Lexington is a very caring and compassionate city. But government cannot do it all. Maintaining strong public-private partnerships is key to properly funding these programs.

4. What do you believe are the most critical needs and most effective avenues for improving public safety in your district and in the city as a whole?

It is exceedingly difficult to attract businesses, home buyers or other investors to cities and neighborhoods that have significant crime or that are perceived as being unsafe. But neighborhood safety is about more than just the absence of crime. It is also about the opportunity for residents to build relationships with each other, enjoy vibrant public spaces, and have a shared trust with the government. If elected, I will seek to serve on the Council's Planning and Public Safety Committee where you have a more involved focus on Lexington's public safety situation. In addition, I will request to meet on a recurring basis with Lexington's Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Director of Community Corrections, and the City's Commissioner of Public Safety to ensure an open line of communication. I will also meet with neighborhood leaders, the Fayette County Neighborhood Council and constituents on an ongoing basis. It is imperative to lead, organize, collaborate, communicate and then deliver.

5. To what extent do you find Lexington's current zoning enforcement, code enforcement and building inspection adequate, and how would you propose to improve them? Do you support instituting rental licensing and inspection for Lexington in the near future?

I would support a comprehensive review of these respective efforts to examine if the present set-up, focus and workflow are effectively and efficiently serving the community. A periodic review is smart business. We certainly should put more teeth in ordinances if they are not as effective as they could be to ensure repeat offenders are discouraged from continuing to circumvent the intent of the policy or legislation. I am in favor of rental licensing and inspection, but it has to be self-supporting. We cannot continue to craft legislation and implement policies that we cannot properly and effectively enforce.

6. Council is currently reviewing an Accessory Dwelling Unit ZOTA, a change in the zoning ordinance to permit and regulate independent second dwellings, including units for rent, on single-family lots. Do you support the ordinance as currently proposed or in some other form? Do you find the proposed ADU zoning suitable for neighborhoods in your district? Should it be adopted city-wide or decided differently for different locations?

The current proposed ordinance still needs a lot of work. I do not feel the community has had sufficient opportunity for feedback at this point. That needs to occur first. But in brief, it needs to go before a board like the Board of Adjustment to be approved. City departments should have to sign off that the structure does have adequate parking, it does not increase storm water runoff to

neighbors, and it is suitable for the area where it is proposed. I believe it should be a Conditional Use in single-family zone areas.

7. Council is currently reviewing *business and revenue ordinances* to require registration, licensing, and hotel tax for short-term rentals like Airbnb. Do you support these ordinances? Do you recommend changing or adopting *zoning ordinances* at the same time, to allow short-term rentals in residential zones or restrict them?

Yes, short term rentals should be reasonably taxed and regulated. I feel Nashville has a sound, well thought-out ordinance that Lexington could use as an example for moving forward. We should ensure that a proliferation of short-term rentals in residential areas doesn't occur which would reduce the housing stock and potentially push up housing prices. Good neighbors are a real plus for our neighborhoods, but an abundance of temporary neighbors could create more problems than pluses.

8. What are the priority transportation and mobility needs in your district, including those of motorists, bus riders, cyclists and walkers, and how would you meet them?

The City's current Imagine Nicholasville Road project is certainly welcome by anyone who travels frequently on Nicholasville Road, a major travel corridor in the 9th District—and Lexington's busiest corridor. I am hopeful the results of the study will offer tangible solutions for alleviating many of the transportation challenges related to Nicholasville Road. I fully support the ongoing work of the Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, The Lexington Area MPO is a federally mandated planning organization that tracks population and transportation trends in Fayette and Jessamine County to develop mobility solutions for a more prosperous and sustainable region. They are planning decades ahead but few people in the community even realize there's already a 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan in place. I will work to educate constituents so that their input can continue to be incorporated into the planning.

9. How urgent or important today is historic preservation (HP) and protecting Lexington's historic places from demolition? What strategies would you recommend? Should the city restore funds for HP staffing and the studies required to identify both individual historic assets and districts that qualify for National Register listing, historic tax credits and local H-1 designation?

Historic preservation is crucial to retaining our City's heritage and history and gives our community its unique character. It has been shown that new buildings make sense for chain stores, but other businesses—such as bookstores, ethnic restaurants, antique stores, neighborhood bars, and especially small start-ups—thrive in old buildings. Unfortunately, to be realistic, based upon the City's current budget deficit and foreseeable economic forecast, the restoration of related funding for staffing and studies is unlikely in the near future. But overall, I support Lexington's historic preservation efforts.

10. What do you see as the environmental impact on our neighborhoods of an urban growth strategy focused on intensive infill and redevelopment? How do you assess our water and air quality, trees, greenspace, flood control, etc.) in this context?

I fully support Lexington's Comprehensive Plan which is updated every five years and the related review process which sets the direction for our future growth and development. Lexington enacted the nation's first urban growth boundary way back in 1958, restricting new development to the urban service area (USB). We were out in front in our thinking and we must continue to be. Our Comprehensive Plan provides a planning road map in a sense for controlling growth, development, and redevelopment. It is imperative that we continue to address our future land use needs sensibly and deliberately. We need to be flexible and focused and the Comp Plan does just that. Balance is essential to success. Most important, citizen feedback is vital to the overall process and development of each updated plan and more than 11,000 people contributed to the creation of the most recent plan. The Council and Planning Commission must continue to effectively manage our rapidly growing population while working to maintain the character of the surrounding horse farms that give this region its identity, the Comp Plan is an effective tool for accomplishing that goal. In addition, I strongly feel that the Fayette Alliance is a valuable community resource that we should look to for key input on this discussion.

11. Do you find that the 2018 Comprehensive Plan policies and processes clearly, fairly and effectively guide decision making on zone changes and development plans for your District and for Lexington as a whole?

Yes, for the reasons I outlined in my answer to the previous question.

12. What or where, in your view, are the "downtown" and "corridors" in Lexington most suited for intensive growth and development, within your District, and in the urban county as a whole? Similarly where is there "underutilized land" that would be most suitable for development? More generally, what are your land-use priorities for the neighborhoods in your district? What development is missing, and what is to be protected?

My priority as 9th District Councilmember, where there is limited land available for development, would be to ensure that any zoning or development application filed for the district is thoroughly and thoughtfully vetted and meets the current city requirements. Each situation is different and deserves consistent due process including the feedback of surrounding neighbors and neighborhoods. In general, I favor smart growth to preserve open space and farmland and natural beauty of Lexington and want to see more walkable neighborhoods with a strong sense of place with convenient transportation options and will strive to make developmental decisions fairly while encouraging community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.

13. What is your vision for preserving the integrity and character of our urban neighborhoods even as we protect Lexington's signature rural area?

Poorly planned growth can lead to unaffordable homes, frustrating traffic issues, and even lost farms. Lexington's leaders' ongoing challenge is to curb sprawl and encourage smart growth. Lexington is one of our nation's most desirable places to live and work. With our projected population growth in future years, there will be a need for new homes affordable across the income spectrum. Our expected growth is both a threat and an opportunity. If we handle the development of new homes intelligently, we can simultaneously improve our community on such fronts as investing in parks, bike lanes, sidewalks, better public transit, and other amenities. But we must continue to strongly encourage the right kinds of development. Our Comprehensive Plan remains the most logical tool for achieving our community's desired outcomes.

14. What key issues do you identify in revenue, expenditures, bonding, tax incentives, etc. in light of a long-term trend of LFUCG expenditures growing faster than revenue? What avenues for achieving a better balance look most promising considering not only the current economic crisis but thereafter?

Due to the budget shortfall Lexington faces, I believe an "everything is on the table" strategy must be the approach. We must make sure that every expense that is related to a dedicated revenue stream like solid waste and stormwater are being paid by that fund and not out of the General Fund. Every dollar spent must be scrutinized like never before. Our city is overly reliant on its occupational taxes, which limits revenue growth potential. I believe that if the expenditure is not essential in times like this, do not propose nor approve it. Lexington's tax revenue base is dependent on a thriving and sustainable local economy. My recommendations for helping the city promote and support economic development is to work with Commerce Lexington aggressively as applicable; to fully support Lexington's current Jobs Fund program; and to seek the ongoing input of the U.K. Gatton College of Business and Economics and other available resources.