

# 2016 KENTUCKY CIVIC HEALTH INDEX™



**National Conference on Citizenship**  
Connecting People. Strengthening Our Country.



## ABOUT THE PARTNERS

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP

The National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC) is a congressionally chartered organization dedicated to strengthening civic life in America. We pursue our mission through a nationwide network of partners involved in a cutting-edge civic health initiative and our cross-sector conferences. At the core of our joint efforts is the belief that every person has the ability to help their community and country thrive. Learn more at [ncoc.org](http://ncoc.org).

### WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Western Kentucky University (WKU) prepares students of all backgrounds to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen-leaders of a global society. The University provides research, service and lifelong learning opportunities for its students, faculty, and other constituents. WKU enriches the quality of life for those within its reach. Learn more at [wku.edu](http://wku.edu).

### MCCONNELL CENTER

The McConnell Center, established in 1991, values three core principles: Leadership, Scholarship, and Service. The McConnell Center prepares Kentucky's top undergraduate students to become future leaders; offers civic education programs for teachers, students and the public; and conducts strategic leadership development for the U.S. Army. Through a variety of professional development conferences, lectures and seminars, the Center's Civic Education Program is designed to improve Kentuckians' understanding of their history, assist Kentucky citizens in developing a better understanding of the U.S. Constitution and American history, and encourage open and free discussion of perennial concerns that inform contemporary politics. Learn more at [McConnellCenter.org](http://McConnellCenter.org).

### KENTUCKY OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Alison Lundergan Grimes, Kentucky's 76th Secretary of State, is the Commonwealth's chief advocate for civic engagement. Through partnership with civics-oriented organizations on the local, state and national levels, the Secretary of State supports a variety of programs to promote greater participation in the democratic process, including civic education and legislative initiatives, slogan and essay contests relating to voting, and mock elections. The Secretary is passionate about improving Kentucky's civic health and working toward a more enthusiastic and informed electorate. Secretary Grimes believes that Kentucky can achieve its brightest future when Kentuckians embrace fully both their rights and obligations as citizens.





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# MESSAGE FROM THE AUTHORS

Five years ago, the Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility at Western Kentucky University joined with the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC), the McConnell Center at the University of Louisville, the Office of the Secretary of State of Kentucky, and a number of other partners to produce the first-ever *Civic Health Index* for Kentucky. It was a significant achievement, one that provided a sweeping picture of the civic health of the Commonwealth and its citizens.

Once again we benefit from wonderful partners who help to make this new report possible. The McConnell Center at the University of Louisville continues its commitment to civic education and leadership through its willingness to share the financial costs of this report with us. In addition, Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes and her office have committed significant time and resources to hosting 15 roundtable conversations at campuses across the state to strengthen civic health. Following those discussions, Grimes released a Civic Health Assessment, which further informed and challenged Kentuckians to advance civic learning and engagement in Kentucky. They have now helped in the printing and distribution of the report—ensuring it ends up in our many Kentucky communities where it can have a role in stimulating conversations about civic engagement. Finally, of course, we thank the good people at NCoC for their continued work in making citizenship and civic education priorities in Kentucky and across the country.

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## FROM KENTUCKY'S SECRETARY OF STATE

### Dear Citizens of Kentucky,

Our Commonwealth is at its best when every Kentuckian is engaged. The hard work of dedicated citizens has created stronger communities through civic, social, and political engagement. As your Secretary of State, I hold my responsibility as the Chief Advocate for Civic Engagement in high regard.

We have continued to partner with local and national organizations in an effort to achieve a more engaged Kentucky. I am proud to release the 2016 Kentucky Civic Health Index, the measure of the strengths and weaknesses of Kentucky's civic literacy and engagement. It is my hope that the information presented in this report will renew our collective commitment to a stronger, more participatory citizenry.

While we have made progress over the years, our work to ensure all Kentuckians are active in civic matters is not yet finished. When the Secretary of State's office and our partners released the 2012 Civic Health Index, we embarked on a mission across the Commonwealth to implore Kentuckians to get more engaged in their neighborhood, in their communities, and in Kentucky. There is no match to the determination and ingenuity of empowered Kentuckians, and I know they will rise to the challenge.

I am grateful for the tireless efforts of partners who have put in many hours to complete this report, and I look forward to seeing its impact. Together, I am confident we will usher in a new era of social connectedness and civic engagement. As we move forward with renewed commitment, we will achieve our Commonwealth's most vibrant, dynamic future.

Sincerely



Alison Lundergan Grimes



## INTRODUCTION AND COMPARISON

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This year we are delighted to issue this second report on civic health in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This report compares data from five years ago to today, but also focuses more narrowly on political engagement in the state.

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In the first section of the report, data show that there have not been any dramatic shifts in the civic health of Kentucky over five years. There are some strengths for which we can be proud and some weaknesses that deserve our attention.

We then present data on political participation and engagement among Kentuckians—from typical indicators of civic health, such as voter registration and turnout, to newer measures, such as online political/social activism. While Kentucky has performed fairly well on many indicators, the state lags behind in other indicators. It also is evident that important demographic groups (particularly based on race and age) vary in regard to political participation and engagement, leading to some critical conclusions and policy recommendations.

The conclusion summarizes these key findings and offers recommendations for strengthening the civic health of Kentucky.

### A Look Back to Compare

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There are several important comparisons to be drawn between the last *Civic Health Index* (CHI) and today, as key issues have changed since 2011. Notably, the issues of social connectedness and community engagement demonstrate slight shifts in the state's civic health. The current report also provides information about the results of new indicators since the last CHI, specifically examining the state and national data on confidence in public institutions.

#### Social Connectedness

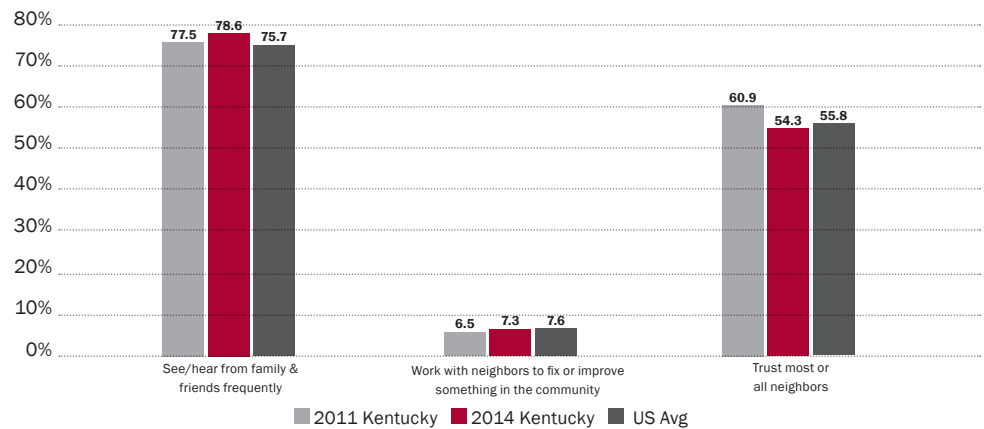
Social connectedness refers to the number of ties we have with family, friends, and community members—as well as the quality of those connections. Kentuckians continue to demonstrate social connectedness when it comes to communication with family and friends.

In terms of communication, Kentucky residents have increased their reporting of seeing or hearing from friends and family at least a few times a week, and the state has improved to 24th in the national ranking, compared to 43rd five years ago. In 2011, 77.5% of Kentuckians indicated hearing from friends or family a few times a week or more, compared to a 79% national average. In 2013, the state increased on this indicator to 78.6%, compared to 75.7% nationally. The data demonstrate that though the national average has decreased, Kentucky residents have increased their interactions with family and friends.

Kentucky residents demonstrate a slight increase in their interactions with neighbors. Such interactions often focus on working with neighbors to fix or improve things within the community. In 2014, 7.3% of residents worked with neighbors, compared to 7.0% in 2013 and 6.5% in 2010. This is a relatively steady increase for the state and also improves Kentucky's standing nationally (ranked 34th in 2014, 37th in 2013, and 46th in 2010). The process of discussing issues with others and then working collectively to address those issues can create a greater sense of investment, co-ownership of shared resources, and community pride.

Though neighborly interaction is rising, the state has experienced changes in terms of trust between neighbors. In the 2011 report, 60.9% of Kentucky residents indicated they trusted most or all of their neighbors. By contrast, only 54.3% of residents reported this level of trust in 2013. This decline places Kentucky's national ranking at 39th, compared to 25th only a few years prior. However, the data also indicate a slight national decrease among Americans when it comes to trusting their neighbors. In 2013, 55.8% of Americans trusted their neighbors, compared to 56.7% in 2011.

**Chart 1. Social Connection in Kentucky**



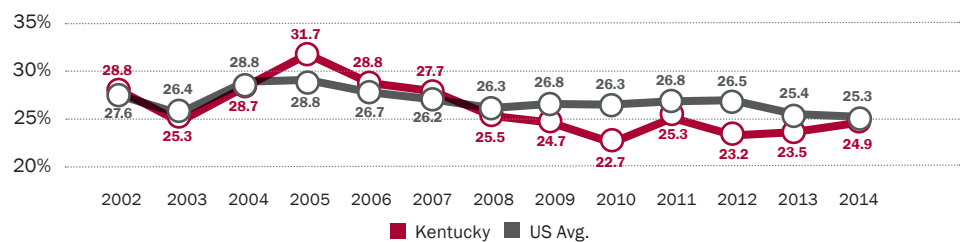
While there are clear strengths and weaknesses in regard to social connectedness, we re-affirm what we stated in the 2011 report: “Our goal as Kentuckians should be to increase individual and collective well-being through fostering social connectedness.”

## Community Engagement

Community engagement involves working with others to make a difference in our communities, and can include volunteerism and service. But the main goal of engagement is to provide a strong form of public participation that involves citizens as decision-makers, stakeholders, and problem-solvers of issues that impact their quality of life. In recent years there has been a change in engagement data in measures such as volunteering, charitable contributions, and group membership.

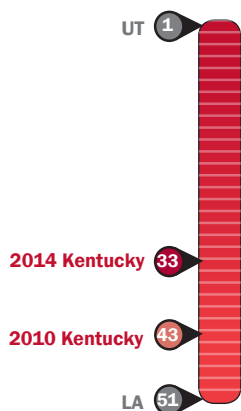
Volunteering has a significant impact on community needs and provides critical services to society. The 2011 Civic Health Index indicated that the level of volunteering in Kentucky peaked in 2005 at 31.7% and has been declining steadily. In 2010 the volunteering level was 22.7%, with only 25-44 year-old college graduates volunteering above the state average. This level ranked Kentucky 43rd in the nation. However, in 2014 an important change occurred with a small increase in volunteering among Kentucky residents—countering the previously declining trend. Kentuckians report a 24.9% volunteering level, with 25-54 year-olds with some college education volunteering above the state average—slightly widening the age range and education level for volunteering from the previous years. In 2014, the state ranking rose to 33rd overall.

**Chart 2. Kentucky's Volunteering Rates vs. US Averages (2002-2014)**

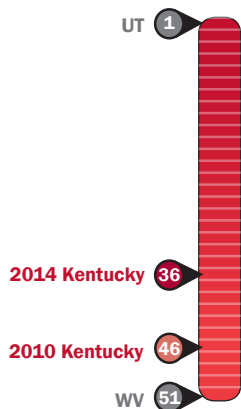


Furthermore, there was an increase in charitable contributions of \$25 or more—donations that allow organizations to maintain vital services for their communities. The percentage of Kentucky residents making such charitable contributions has increased from 45.6% (2010) to 50.2% (2014), improving the state's national ranking from 46th to 36th place. Additionally, group membership improved with 35.1% of residents indicating they belonged to at least one type of community organization, compared to 33.2% in 2011 and 25.9% in 2010 for the state. Such memberships can foster a sense of community, strengthen communication, and facilitate a wider exchange of ideas for collective problem solving. Though it may be too premature to make definitive conclusions, these indicators suggest a possible rebound in community engagement.

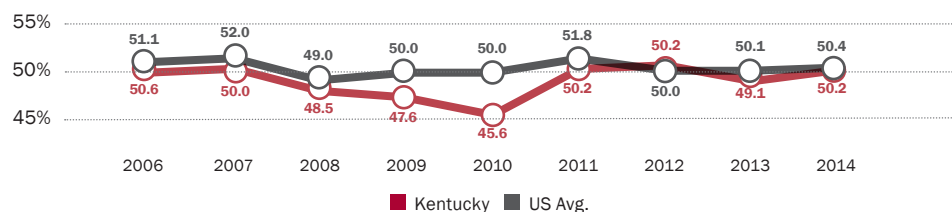
### VOLUNTEERING RANK



### CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS RANK



**Chart 3. Give \$25 or More to Charity in Kentucky vs US Avg (2006-2014)**



## NEW INDICATORS: Confidence in Public Institutions

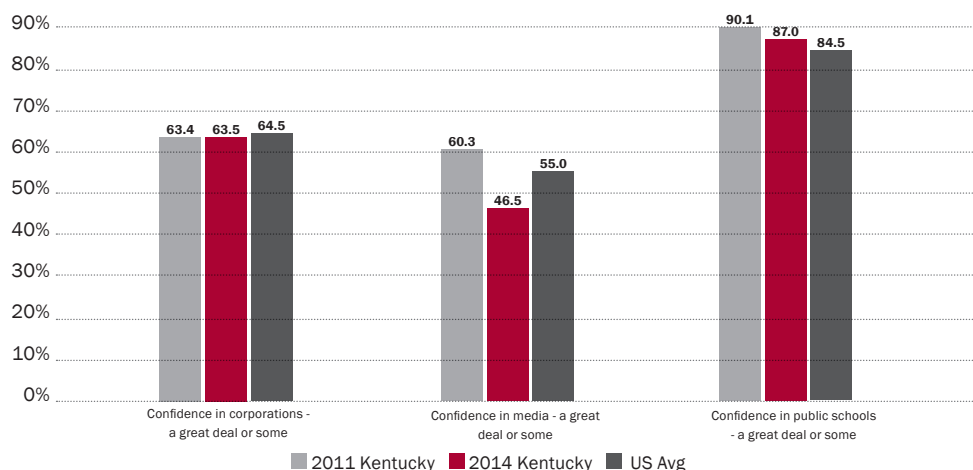
In this Civic Health Index, one of the new indicators of civic health is confidence in public institutions, focusing on three major institutions: the public school system, the media, and corporations.

In 2013, 87% of Kentucky residents reported being confident (a great deal or some) in the public school system, compared to a confidence level of 84.5% for U.S. residents overall. In 2011, Kentucky had a 90.1% confidence compared to 88% nationally—ranking it 20th in the nation. Overall, Kentucky residents demonstrate a higher confidence than the national average, with both males and females ages 16-54 and 75+ showing confidence at or above the state average.

Kentucky also shows 63.5% of residents are confident (a great deal or some) in corporations, compared to 64.5% nationally. At 65.1%, women reflect confidence at a higher level than both the state and national averages.<sup>1</sup> Residents ages 16-44 show at or above the state average. For Kentucky, confidence has remained relatively stable since 2011, when residents showed a 63.4% level compared to 62% national average; however, the state's ranking has dropped from 26th (2011) to 38th (2013).

Public confidence in the media is among the lowest ranking for this indicator among Kentuckians. Only 46.5% report that they are a great deal or somewhat confident in the media, compared to 55% nationally. Out of the 50 states and D.C., Kentucky ranks 48th in the U.S. in this indicator—ahead of only Utah (51st), Montana (50th), and New Mexico (49th). Women exceed both the state and the national average, with a level of 57.5% (compared to men, with a level of 50.3%). Confidence has also fallen since 2011, when 60.3% of residents were somewhat or very confident in the media—closely matching the national average of 62%.

**Chart 4. Confidence in Public Institutions in Kentucky**



One of the future issues to consider is the level of trust and confidence that Kentucky residents have with their neighbors and also with the major public institutions that comprise the community. Understanding what factors may influence Kentucky residents' confidence in public institutions could be a key component of assessing civic health.



## A FOCUS ON POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

<b>Voter Registration</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2014</b>
Kentucky	73.4%	66.9%	71.6%
US Avg.	67.6%	65.1%	64.6%

<b>Voter Turnout</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2014</b>
Kentucky	49.4%	46.8%	47.5%
US Avg.	47.8%	45.5%	41.9%

Voter turnout and registration tend to be lower in midterm, off-year elections. But in Kentucky local and statewide elections on the ballot continue to push registration and turnout slightly above the national average. The *2011 Civic Health Index* observed that in both 2006 and 2010 a number of competitive races drove turnout in some counties as high as 67%. In 2006, it was local elections driving the electorate. In 2010, the campaign of Tea Party candidate Rand Paul for the U.S. Senate increased turnout.

The trend continued in 2014 with midterm elections that pitted Republican incumbent Senator Mitch McConnell against two challengers: Libertarian David Patterson and Democrat Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes, the only woman holding a statewide office. The campaign attracted local and state coverage as well as national media attention. Kentucky registration and voting was up across all demographic groups.

### Voter Registration

Consistent with findings from the 2011 report, variables such as age, family income, race, and education are reliable predictors of voter registration. The older you get, the more likely you are to register. Young adults ages 18-24 had the lowest registration rate at 55.7%, but by the ages of 55-64 the rate peaks at 79.6%.

The level of registration goes up as family income increases. Families that earn less than \$35,000 register at 65.5%, while those with income over \$75,000 register at 80%.

Registration levels are just slightly different for White non-Hispanic (72%) and Black non-Hispanic (70%).

The level of education increases the likelihood a citizen will register to vote. Citizens with less than a high school education are the least likely to register at 60.4%. Those with a high school degree register at 68.3%; some college 79.5%; and bachelor and higher education register at 82.9%. The difference between the lowest level (less than high school) and the bachelor level of education is 22.5 percentage points.





## Voter Turnout

The 2014 midterm election continued the trend of Kentuckians voting above the national average. A competitive Republican primary and then the general election with Senator Mitch McConnell and challenger Alison Lundergan Grimes dominated the nightly news and saturated the airways with political advertisements. The general election campaign was the most expensive senatorial race in American history.

The turnout of 47.5% at the state level was above the national rate of 41.9%. Following the same pattern for voter registration, voter turnout varies by demographic factors. Men tended to outvote women, but just slightly at 49.2% and 46%, respectively.

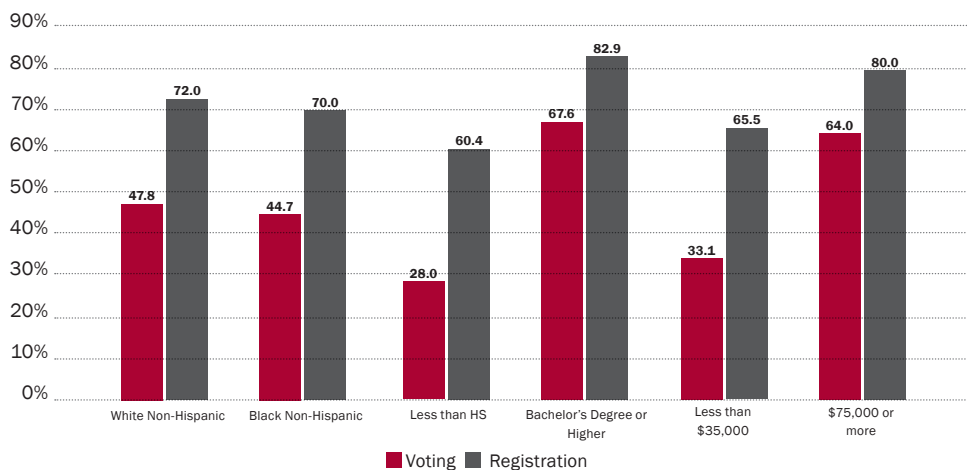
Young people (ages 18–24) tend to vote less than older adults (ages 75+). This is true for 2006, 2010, and 2014. In 2014, young people tended to vote less (24.9%) than older adults (64.4%). While the gap still exists between generations, young people narrowed the gap in 2014. In 2010, the gap between youngest and oldest was 50 percentage points. In 2014, the gap narrowed to 39.5 percentage points.

As family income increases, so does voting. In 2014, families earning less than \$35,000 voted at 33.1% while those with earnings over \$75,000 voted at 64%. That is an income-based disparity of 30.9 percentage points. The gap is widening. In 2010, the turnout gap between the lowest family income and the highest family income was only 19.5 percentage points.

In 2014, White non-Hispanics voted at 47.8% while Black non-Hispanics voted at 44.7%. For Black non-Hispanic voters, registration had a slightly greater impact on turnout, with 97% of registered Black non-Hispanics and 93% of White non-Hispanics voting.

The greatest predictor of political participation (registration and turnout) is still education. The higher the level of educational attainment, the greater the participation level. As education increases so does the level of voter turnout. For 2014, there was a 39.6 percentage point differential between the level of voting for those with less than a high school level of education (28%) and those with a bachelor's degree or higher (67.6%).

**Chart 5. 2014 Voting and Registration Rates by Demographic in Kentucky**



## Goal

In the 2011 *Kentucky Civic Health Index* report, the goal was to increase turnout in 2014 by a minimum of 10 percentage points across the state. That would have moved Kentucky from a ranking of 26th well into the top ten of state rankings with a turnout rate of 56.8%. The turnout rate of 47.5% fell short of that goal. The state is holding steady with a .7 percentage point increase. Perhaps a more reachable goal is to move turnout five percentage points to 53%.

## Political Action

“Political action” means participating in activities to influence the government and other public institutions. It is composed of four items: voting, discussing politics with family and friends a few times a week or more, contacting public officials, and buying or boycotting products to express political opinions or effect political goals. Not many people engage in political action beyond voting. This is true both at the national as well as at the state level. In Kentucky, 23.1% of the electorate report talking about politics with family or friends. Nationally, the rate is 27%. Contacting or visiting public officials on an issue is even lower with 11% in the state and 10.8% nationally. And 8.9% of the citizens in the state bought or boycotted a product or service compared to 12.8% at the national level.

Non-electoral participation is consistently low across all demographic groups. However, education plays a similar role here as it does in electoral participation. The higher the level of educational attainment, the more likely you are to engage in non-electoral behavior. Folks with less than a high school education talk about politics with family or friends at 12.4%; high school at 21%; some college 26.1%; and bachelor’s degree or higher 38.5%. Level of education also influences contacting or visiting public officials. For example, 5.6% of those with less than a high school education contact officials while 22.4% of those with college degrees contact officials.<sup>2</sup>

There is a racial divide too. White non-Hispanics are twice as likely to have contacted or visited public officials than Black non-Hispanics (10.9% and 5.1%, respectively). White non-Hispanics are also more likely to talk about politics with family and friends (24% and 15.3%, respectively).<sup>3</sup>



### Goal

In the *2011 Civic Health Index*, we wrote: “The snapshot of the politically active in Kentucky—white, elderly, educated, and upper income—does not adequately reflect the demographics of the state.” That statement remains as true today as it was four years ago. So, the goal is the same: “to bring marginalized groups into the community of politically engaged citizens, to create a healthy and engaged civic society, and to overcome the distinctions that divide us.”

## MOVING FORWARD

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The 2011 report identified many initiatives coordinated by colleges, interest groups, civic groups, fraternities, and sororities that were taking place to improve the civic health of the state. The efforts have been ambitious with voter registration drives, mobilization of marginalized populations, and civic education projects both in secondary schools and in higher education. As demonstrated in the data from 2010 to 2014, progress is slow but steady.

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However, there are still registration obstacles such as cut-off dates and inconvenient locations. The Secretary of State's office recognized that these obstacles combine to attenuate the rate of electoral participation, especially for marginalized groups. In March 2016, Kentucky joined 30 other states when Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes launched online registration for eligible voters (helping more than 30,000 new voters get registered in its first seven months). Voters can also use the new system to change their existing registration information. This effort can help make the process less cumbersome and more accessible. Secretary Grimes has also proposed a bill that would allow early voting without an excuse. Same-day registration should also be explored as a strategy to increase participation. In the nine states with same-day registration, voter turnout is usually seven points higher.<sup>5</sup>

There have been attempts to restore voting rights to all Kentuckians with past criminal convictions that have not been successful.<sup>6</sup> However, new legislation is beginning to address this issue and allows felons the opportunity to submit for expungement five years after probation or at the end of their sentence.

While there have been several unsuccessful attempts to restore voting rights to Kentuckians with past criminal convictions, new legislation signed into law by Governor Matt Bevin in April 2016, signals significant progress. House Bill 40 allows felons the opportunity to submit for expungement five years after probation or at the end of their sentence. There are still certain restrictions - the criminal must be non-violent, the crime must not be sexual in nature, and an expungement fee of \$100 is required - this law is a step toward enfranchisement of about seven percent of the Kentucky population not allowed to vote due to felony charges.

Recognizing the critical role of education for its citizens, the state legislature initiated the Work Ready Kentucky Program. The budget provides \$25 million over the next two years to fund tuition scholarships for high school graduates seeking an associate's degree. This program is aimed at community colleges, but also funds tuition scholarships for associate degree programs at universities. The budget also provides \$15 million for high school students pursuing dual-credit courses. Economic incentive programs like these make education more accessible and affordable for many Kentuckians. A better-educated citizenry guarantees the economic well-being of the community and ensures an engaged electorate.

## CONCLUSION

While this report includes a wealth of data about the civic health of Kentucky, the following findings stand out:

- In many ways, the civic health of Kentucky has not changed significantly over five years. While Kentucky may not excel in any particular area, it generally sees civic health indicators on par with the nation. The real question for state and community leaders and for all citizens is whether such average rankings are acceptable.
- The new indicator about trust in institutions is interesting and deserves more attention. We need to know the connection between trust in our public institutions and the type of community and political engagement needed for a thriving democracy. In particular, the distrust of the media (which report on politics) may be a cause or symptom (or both) of the political apathy that often plagues our democracy - a political apathy that was reflected in the extremely low voter turnout in Kentucky in 2015.
- Political participation and engagement have remained steady over the last five years. On the one hand, we are pleased there has not been any decline. On the other hand, the Commonwealth continues to lag behind other states in some key indicators. We continue to be concerned about the demographic divides in regard to participation and engagement—specifically the lower participation and engagement of young people and African Americans.

From these findings, we make the following recommendations:

- **Statewide campaign for voting.** We have seen how voter registration and voter turnout in Kentucky generally has been strong in the years since our last report—though certainly the Commonwealth can do better. But voter turnout in the 2015 cycle was very disappointing. According to the Kentucky Secretary of State's website, only 30.6% of those registered proceeded to vote in the 2015 general election.<sup>7</sup> That means, for example, that Governor Matt Bevin was elected by receiving just a little over half a million votes—only about 16% of registered voters (and even less of a percentage of the adult population in the state). Certainly we expect more of our democratic processes. We urge state and local governments to focus time, energy, and funds to educating citizens about the importance of the electoral process. At the state level, Secretary Grimes' efforts to implement online registration can help improve participation and additional efforts should be explored to expand voting in the state. Concerted efforts must be made to increase voting among younger people and African Americans."
- **Restore voting rights for citizens.** As we noted in the previous section, thousands of Kentuckians are denied their right to vote as a consequence of a felony conviction. These men and women—disproportionately African Americans—have completed their sentences but remain less than full citizens. They too deserve to have a voice in the representative government of the state and in their communities. Our democracy lives up to its ideals when everyone has access to the ballot.
- **Educate, educate, educate.** We end with a recommendation that we carry over from our previous report. As the data indicate, the more educated the population, the more it expresses important dimensions of civic health—from voter registration and turnout to contacting representatives and from informal political conversations with family and friends to online social and political activism. If we are going to be committed to cultivating our democracy, then we must be committed to education—from P-12 through higher education. In this regard, drastic cuts to higher education over the last decade and the accompanying rise in tuition have been barriers to expanding higher education. The recent promise of free community college education in Kentucky is one move in the right direction, and we encourage further developments along those lines.



## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Based on Current Population Survey pooled data from 2010, 2011, and 2013.
- <sup>2</sup> Based on Current Population Survey pooled data from 2010, 2011, and 2013.
- <sup>3</sup> Based on Current Population Survey pooled data from 2010, 2011, and 2013.
- <sup>4</sup> Brians, Craig L. and Bernard Grofman, "Election Day Registration's Effect on U.S. Voter Turnout," *Social Science Quarterly*. 2001, Vol. 82, Number 1.
- <sup>5</sup> "Felony Disenfranchisement in the Commonwealth of Kentucky," A Report from the League of Women Voters of Kentucky, October 2006, [static.prisonpolicy.org/scans/lwvky/Felony\\_Dis\\_Report.pdf](http://static.prisonpolicy.org/scans/lwvky/Felony_Dis_Report.pdf)
- <sup>6</sup> "Kentucky Governor Creates New Process to Help Restore Voting Rights to 170,000 Citizens," Brennan Center for Justice, New York University of Law, November 24, 2015.
- <sup>7</sup> *Turnout Statistics*, Kentucky State Board of Elections, <http://elect.ky.gov/statistics/Pages/turnoutstatistics.aspx>, accessed April 25, 2016.

## A WORD ABOUT RECOMMENDATIONS

NCoC encourages our partners to consider how civic health data can inform dialogue and action in their communities, and to take an evidence-based approach to helping our communities and country thrive. While we encourage our partners to consider and offer specific recommendations and calls to action in our reports, we are not involved in shaping these recommendations. The opinions and recommendations expressed by our partners do not necessarily reflect those of NCoC.

This report should be a conversation starter. The data and ideas presented here raise as many questions as they answer. We encourage government entities, community groups, business people, leaders of all kinds, and individual citizens to treat this report as a first step toward building more robust civic health in Kentucky.

## TECHNICAL NOTE

Unless otherwise noted, findings presented in this Report are based on NCoC's analysis of the Census Current Population Survey (CPS) data. Any and all errors are our own. Volunteering estimates are from CPS September Volunteering Supplement, voting estimates from 2014 November Voting and Registration Supplement, and all other civic engagement indicators, such as discussion of political information and connection to neighbors, come from the 2013 CPS Civic Engagement Supplement.

Using a probability selected sample of about 150,000 occupied households, the CPS collects monthly data on employment and demographic characteristics of the nation. Depending on the CPS supplement, the single-year Kentucky CPS sample size used for this report ranges from 398 to 593 (civic engagement supplement) to 1,330 (volunteer supplement), and to 1,363 (voting supplement) residents from across Kentucky. This sample is then weighted to representative population demographics for the district. Estimates for the volunteering indicators (e.g., volunteering, working with neighbors, making donations) are based on US residents ages 16 and older. Estimates for civic engagement and social connection indicators (e.g., favors with neighbors, discuss politics) are based on US residents ages 18 and older. Voting and registration statistics are based on US citizens who are 18 and older (eligible voters). When we examined the relationship between educational attainment and engagement, estimates are based on adults ages 25 and older, based on the assumption younger people may be completing their education.

Because multiple sources of data with varying sample sizes are used, the report is not able to compute one margin of error for Kentucky across all indicators. Any analysis that breaks down the sample into smaller groups (e.g., gender, education) will have smaller samples and therefore the margin of error will increase. Data for some indicators are pooled from multiple years (2010-2013) for a more reliable estimate when sample sizes for certain cross tabulations may have been small. Furthermore, national rankings, while useful in benchmarking, may be small in range, with one to two percentage points separating the state/district ranked first from the state/district ranked last.

It is also important that our margin of error estimates are approximate, as CPS sampling is highly complex and accurate estimation of error rates involves many parameters that are not publicly available.

# CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

## State and Local Partnerships

NCoC began America's Civic Health Index in 2006 to measure the level of civic engagement and health of our democracy. In 2009, NCoC was incorporated into the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and directed to expand this civic health assessment in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the US Census Bureau.

NCoC now works with partners in more than 30 communities nationwide to use civic data to lead and inspire a public dialogue about the future of citizenship in America and to drive sustainable civic strategies.

## STATES

### Alabama

University of Alabama  
David Mathews Center for Civic Life  
Auburn University

### Arizona

Center for the Future of Arizona

### California

California Forward  
Center for Civic Education  
Center for Individual and  
Institutional Renewal  
Davenport Institute

### Colorado

Metropolitan State University of Denver  
The Civic Canopy  
Denver Metro Chamber Leadership  
Campus Compact of Mountain West  
History Colorado  
Institute on Common Good

### Connecticut

Everyday Democracy  
Secretary of the State of Connecticut  
DataHaven  
Connecticut Humanities  
Connecticut Campus Compact  
The Fund for Greater Hartford  
William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund  
Wesleyan University

### District of Columbia

ServeDC

### Florida

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship  
Bob Graham Center for Public Service  
Lou Frey Institute of Politics  
and Government

### Georgia

GeorgiaForward  
Carl Vinson Institute of Government,  
The University of Georgia  
Georgia Family Connection Partnership

### Illinois

McCormick Foundation

### Indiana

Indiana University Center on Representative  
Government  
Indiana Bar Foundation  
Indiana Supreme Court  
Indiana University Northwest  
IU Center for Civic Literacy

### Kansas

Kansas Health Foundation

### Kentucky

Commonwealth of Kentucky,  
Secretary of State's Office  
Western Kentucky University  
McConnell Center, University of Louisville

### Maryland

Mannakee Circle Group  
Center for Civic Education  
Common Cause-Maryland  
Maryland Civic Literacy Commission

### Massachusetts

Harvard Institute of Politics

### Michigan

Michigan Nonprofit Association  
Michigan Campus Compact  
Michigan Community Service Commission  
Volunteer Centers of Michigan  
Council of Michigan Foundations  
Center for Study of Citizenship at Wayne  
State University

### Minnesota

Center for Democracy and Citizenship

### Missouri

Missouri State University  
Park University  
Saint Louis University  
University of Missouri Kansas City  
University of Missouri Saint Louis  
Washington University

### Nebraska

Nebraskans for Civic Reform

### New Hampshire

Carsey Institute  
Campus Compact of New Hampshire  
University System of New Hampshire  
New Hampshire College & University  
Council

### New York

Siena College Research Institute  
New York State Commission on National  
and Community Service

### North Carolina

Institute for Emerging Issues

### Ohio

Miami University Hamilton Center for  
Civic Engagement

### Oklahoma

University of Central Oklahoma  
Oklahoma Campus Compact

### Pennsylvania

Center for Democratic Deliberation  
National Constitution Center

### South Carolina

University of South Carolina Upstate

### Texas

The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life,  
University of Texas at Austin

### Virginia

Center for the Constitution at James  
Madison's Montpelier  
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

## ISSUE SPECIFIC

### Latinos Civic Health Index

Carnegie Corporation

### Veterans Civic Health Index

Got Your 6

### Millennials Civic Health Index

Mobilize.org  
Harvard Institute of Politics  
CIRCLE

### Economic Health

Knight Foundation  
Corporation for National & Community  
Service (CNCS)  
CIRCLE

## CITIES

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### Atlanta

Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta

### Chicago

McCormick Foundation

### Kansas City & Saint Louis

Missouri State University

Park University

Saint Louis University

University of Missouri Kansas City

University of Missouri Saint Louis

Washington University

### Miami

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Miami Foundation

### Pittsburgh

University of Pittsburgh

Carnegie Mellon University

### Seattle

Seattle City Club

Boeing Company

Seattle Foundation

### Twin Cities

Center for Democracy and Citizenship

Citizens League

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

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Author of *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*

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