

Passing Lane

Commentary on Life in Kentucky

Voters Set High Standards for State's Democrats, Republicans



Gov. Ernie Fletcher

THE large voter mandate for Governor Ernie Fletcher is an ominous warning to Kentucky's elected Democrats. If they fail to be responsive and reasonable in budget negotiations, reorganization issues, and efforts to eliminate waste and inefficiency in state government, Kentucky taxpayers could extract a heavy price on Democrat candidates when the November 2004 general election arrives.

There is also no tolerance for rampant patronage, the "good old boy" network, and putting political party before the Kentucky taxpayer. Republicans need to recruit highly qualified leaders and middle managers to operate state government. Kentucky's government needs to work more for the taxpayers and less for the political party in charge.

Since Republicans have pledged to "clean up the mess in Frankfort," hopefully they will be vigilant for outbreaks of political self-indulgence. Government leaders also need to inform and motivate the state's 30,000-plus employees. A good start would be a plan to improve communications between the executive branch and the merit employees who are serving taxpayers and implementing the goals and policies of the Fletcher administration.

Petulant Politicians (Part II)

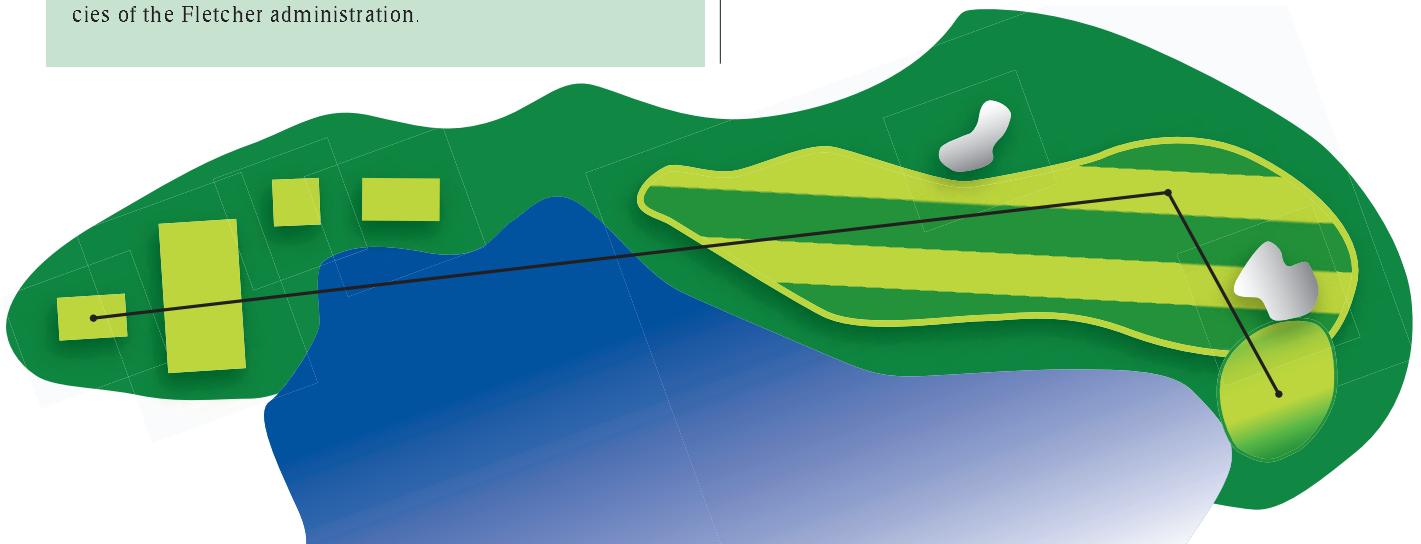
'Do unto others...'

NOW that the election is over and the governor's transition team is in place, I was hopeful that there would be a gracious Southern change of command. Sadly, this doesn't seem to be the case. Governor Patton is following the classic pattern of stuffing as many appointees as possible into non-merit positions in what many construe as an effort to obstruct Fletcher's plans to "clean up the mess in Frankfort."

In my dawning awareness of how truly juvenile politics can be, I see that sportsmanship is dead. Gone are the days of a handshake and wishes of better luck next time. Where is the concern amongst the Democrats for the working people they claim to represent?

Wouldn't it be a much classier and significant example if Governor Patton didn't look to place on Governor-Elect Fletcher the same sort of turnover difficulties he was rumored to experience when he first came into office? Patton doesn't seem to have learned much from his experience in this regard, unfortunately. Granted, he is cooperating to a greater degree than his predecessor Brereton Jones did with him. But, he is squandering an excellent opportunity to make a graceful exit and provide Kentuckians with some measure of pride in the fact that, win or lose, our leaders will continue to try to make Kentucky better, if only in the image that others see of Kentucky.

—Tim Hunt



Putting Around

6th Hole
Cardinal Club
Simpsonville, Kentucky

SOMETHING every golf course ought to have is a hole that affords golfers the temptation of greatness courted closely by misery. The sixth hole at the Cardinal Club is a classic example of this

risk/reward. The sixth hole is a par 4 measuring 349 yards (championship tee) and 311 yards (member tee). The hole offers golfers the opportunity to drive the green (reward) or lay up with an iron and be left with a short pitch. The risk factor comes in the form of a lake spanning the entire length of the right side of the fairway, as well as guarding the front of

the green. Also guarding the green on its left side is a large bunker and tall rough. If that were not enough, the fairway slopes generously toward the water and the green runs away from the player, putting a premium on accuracy. In addition, the prevailing wind is down, making golfers think twice about reaching for the driver.



Passing Lane

Commentary on Life in Kentucky

Wellness is Good Business

Lexington holds first-ever comprehensive wellness expo

OBESITY costs U.S. businesses between \$12.7 and \$30 billion a year for healthcare, sick leave, and life and disability insurance, according to recent studies in the *American Journal of Health Promotion* and the journal *Health Promotion*. The tab for headaches, back pain, arthritis, and other muscle and joint pain runs businesses more than \$60 billion a year in lost productivity, according to a study in the November *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA).

Three recent studies, three enormous price tags, and they don't even address the spiraling cost of health insurance, which jumped an average of 13 percent last year, according to the non-profit Kaiser Family Foundation.

Employers are combating these bottom-line busters with an array of measures from on-site weight management programs to benefit programs that help pay for health club memberships. An

inaugural event at the Lexington Center Bluegrass Ballroom on January 16-18 will help area employers and employees alike discover many other ways to not only fight the battle of the bulge but to move toward wellness.

Called the Ways of Wellness Expo (WOW), the event is the nation's first-ever, comprehensive wellness expo—a public exposition presenting information, demonstrations, and exhibits about a vast range of topics to help people achieve their wellness goals, and in doing so, enhance their lives.

Sorting through all these products and services to find what is right for you or your employees can be a daunting challenge. Helping people do just that is at the reason behind WOW.

One of the biggest obstacles along that path is a lack of information, says Randy Lovell, the event's promoter.

"That is where WOW comes in. This is the first chance people in Lexington and central Kentucky have ever had to find out in one place and at one time what they need to get started on their way to wellness."

For more information, visit www.wow-expo.com—*Debra Gibson is the owner of Copywrite in Lexington.*

To Dr. Burch: A Note of Thanks

THE editorial staff of *The Lane Report* would like to extend a note of sincere thanks to Dr. Gene Burch, DDS of Frankfort for allowing us to

use his beautiful photos in our "Inside State Government" story in the November issue of *The Lane Report*. Dr. Burch is an avid photographer who has

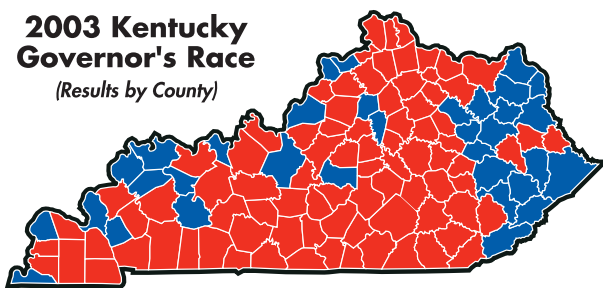
been snapping pictures our state's picturesque State Capital for over thirty years. He is the author of the coffee-table book, *Frankfort, Capital of Kentucky*, a culmination of 20 years of photographing spectacular views, memorable events and

familiar images of the Capital City. To see more of Dr. Burch's work or purchase his book or yearly calendars of Frankfort visit his website at www.geneburch.com.

—Tim Hunt

Map Mandate

2003 Kentucky Governor's Race
(Results by County)



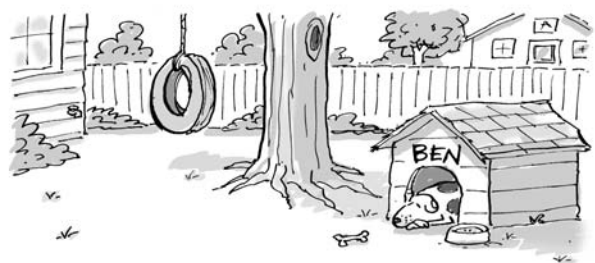
■ Republican Counties ■ Democrat Counties

DEMOGRAPHIC mapping of Kentucky's counties paints a clear picture of where Ernie Fletcher and Ben Chandler received support in their recent race for governor.

Fletcher carried most of the urban areas and larger cities. Chandler carried counties in Eastern Kentucky and along the western boundaries of the state.

The long-term ramifications seem to favor Republicans. Generally, counties carried by the GOP have static or positive population growth trends, while those carried by the Democrats have experienced long-term declines in population.

Life in Kentucky by Brad Velez



"I respect the guy even though I don't agree with him. You've got to admit, he wears the "that dog won't hunt" label with a lot of class!"