



## Message from KACo President Madison County Judge/Executive Reagan Taylor



**Dear County Colleagues,**

I am proud to share with you KACo's review of the 2021 Legislative Session. There is a lot to be proud about after an uncertain start to this session.

Back in November, when I joined KACo First Vice-President Amy Milliken at the table to testify on our priorities of transportation funding, broadband needs and jail funding before the Joint Local Government Committee, we were told then to keep expectations low during this pandemic session. Legislators continued to keep the annex closed to the public out of caution. They told all of us the best we could hope for was to keep funding levels steady without drastic cuts.

Fast forward to today. Kentuckians are the beneficiaries of all your hard work and constant advocacy as we prepare to transform our state with funding for broadband, county jails, water and wastewater, and more. Thank you for your advocacy with your legislators on behalf of county government both before and during the session.

Your contact with legislators is critical every year to the success counties achieve at the Capitol, and that was never more challenging than this session. County government is often misunderstood among those who have not served in it, so educating legislators on county government will continue to be a constant process. It is necessary for all of us to engage with House and Senate members so they better understand the impact their decisions have on our ability to serve our mutual constituents.

### **Gratitude**

Our board of directors was instrumental in that process as we convened each Friday for Board Briefings on that week's legislative action. This new weekly Zoom was very helpful to both board members and our advocacy staff to target our outreach to legislators and know in what direction our board felt we should move. Thank you to those members for your willingness to serve as we continue to expand your role in our advocacy work.

**President**

Reagan Taylor, Madison Co. Judge/Executive

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

David Livingston, Scott Co. Magistrate

**President-Elect**

Phil Sammons, Boyle Co. Magistrate

**Immediate Past President**

Gary W. Moore, Boone Co. Judge/Executive

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

Amy Milliken, Warren Co. Attorney

**Executive Director/CEO**

Jim Henderson



# Kentucky Association of Counties

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We are indebted to the affiliate executive directors and county officials who represented their associations each Monday during virtual meetings to track bills and keep each other informed. Advocacy is a team effort at KACo, with staff members from every department playing a role in the collective work. We thank them for their time and commitment to looking out for counties during every session. We appreciate the dedication of our contract lobbyist, Ellen Williams, whose influence and understanding of the relationships and process continues to be of great value to our mission.

## Looking ahead

A total of 880 bills were filed during session, with 595 from the House of Representatives, and 285 bills filed in the Senate. Our groundwork in anticipation of the 2022 60-day session began before they gavelled out March 30. Our work during this interim period will include identifying what our needs will be, to reach consensus and to begin educating legislators ahead of their January return to Frankfort. Because the biennial budget bills were reduced to one year instead of the traditional two-year cycle, we know one of the top priorities come January will be the various branch budget and revenue bills for 2022-24 with a return to a two-year budget.

We have a tremendous resource in each other as we look for best practices to guide our people through this pandemic challenge and beyond. Please don't hesitate to reach out to other county officials to see what they may be using that can help you respond to the needs in your community.

It has been my honor to serve as your legislative chairman. I want to thank my fellow KACo Executive Committee members: Boyle County Magistrate Phil Sammons, Warren County Attorney Amy Milliken, Scott County Magistrate David Livingston, and Past President and Boone County Judge/Executive Gary Moore for their attention and dedication to this important work.

If you have any questions or comments on this session or the next one, email [shellie.hampton@kaco.org](mailto:shellie.hampton@kaco.org) or [gracie.lagadinos@kaco.org](mailto:gracie.lagadinos@kaco.org).

I wish you all the best as we continue to lead our people toward better days in our great state.

Service above self,

Hon. Reagan Taylor  
Madison County Judge/Executive  
KACo President

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**Stronger Counties. Stronger Kentucky.**