**Graviss Joe Democratic Party State Representative 56**

• EDUCATION. In an age dominated by complex science and technology, how can we ensure that students receive adequate STEM educations?

Ultimately, it’s about priorities within the budgeting process to ensure adequate professional development of teachers and funding of education at the levels needed. Getting the individual schools involved to promote STEM classes and projects would help as well. Specifically, we need tax reform to find the revenue to fund the priorities versus just necessities.

• FOOD & WATER. How would you manage Kentucky’s agriculture so it provides healthy and affordable food grown in an ethical and sustainable way? What should government do to ensure access to clean water?

I think we need to celebrate the culture of agriculture and enforce laws and regulations to protect our soils and waters. Protecting the public good is one the key roles of government and that includes lifesaving water and water supplies.

• ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT: With nonrenewable resources on the decline in Kentucky, how do we create a sustainable Kentucky? What are your stances on: hydraulic fracturing, nuclear, and renewable energy sources? What are your views on climate change, and how would they affect your energy policies (if at all)?

Sustainable energy is the future. Many other countries are way ahead of us on this to our peril. I abhor hydraulic fracking. I’m open to studying new technology for safe and effective nuclear power but would rather rely on wind, water and solar to do the job now that technology exists to take care of us. And climate change is real in my mind and we must clean up our power and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible as fast as possible.

• ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY: How do you balance economic stability with environmental health and conservation?

Great question. I think the technology exists today that makes environmental health and conservation viable versus even 5 or 10 years ago and it keeps getting better as other countries lead the way on this. I think we need significant R&D into this and should incentivize our research institutions to vigorously pursue key goals in this area with the state sharing in the patent revenue and market share of any results based on their investment.

• SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY. How will you foster a culture that respects scientific evidence and protects scientists? What role(s) specifically, if any, should government play in stimulating innovative science and technology so we continue to benefit from them?

I believe we all must set the right example of what we respect, and towards each other. We should incentivize our research institutions to vigorously pursue key goals in this area with the state sharing in the patent revenue and market share of any results based on their investment.