**Raymond Josie Democratic Party State Representative 31**

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

For me, this is a bigger question about educational equity and the future of public education. I don't hear complaints about wealthy students lacking STEM opportunities. We are in a moment when our schools are at risk of privatization and segregation, both of which would lower the quality of education. I've committed my life to creating opportunity through education. As a former middle school teacher who now coaches high-poverty students at the University of Louisville, and who grew up getting free lunch in JCPS and is now raising two preschoolers, I know the challenges that young people face. Strong STEM education is part of a strong education period. That requires fully-funded schools, well-compensated teachers, families lifted out of poverty through living wages and healthcare coverage, and an equitable, integrated school system.

• 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?

• 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)?

Climate change is real and man-made. It may be too late to reverse it but it is not too late to take steps to significantly reduce its impacts on future generations. We must shift to renewable energy sources as quickly as possible, creating new opportunities in industry with the potential to revitalize declining areas.

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

Balancing them implies that they are in opposition. I do not believe this to be true. Environmental health IS public health, and an unhealthy population is more costly and less productive. There is inequity here too; less healthy areas are home to poorer people. There is incredible economic opportunity in clean energy. As Appalachia led on coal, Appalachia can lead on solar and wind and other renewable energy sources. Kentucky is ready for new industry that benefits both people and the planet.