

# Diane Lawless

## 1. Yes

Our farmland is the “factory floor” of the agriculture, tourism and equine industries as well as our “brand”, to preserve this treasure that provides both economic support and essential products to our community is imperative. The current worldwide problems with food safety, fuel prices, and food shortages we have a glimpse into the future of our community if we don’t protect our farmland.

Fayette County’s equine facilities and farm production resources have significantly increased since the Rural Service Land Management plan was adopted in 1999. I support a process by which key stakeholders such as the Fayette County Farm Bureau and Kentucky Thoroughbred Association quantify a new PDR goal and would respect their decision.

## 2. Yes

The Land Bank is a start to ensuring we grow responsibly and with proper infrastructure for a healthy city while preserving our farmland.

I think the Land Bank should be run like the PDR program, giving opportunity for citizen input and to ensure the best possible use of the money for worthy projects such as affordable housing and sustainable development projects.

## 3. Yes

Ensuring adequate infrastructure such as sanitary and storm water systems is one of the most essential charges of our local government, thus as a council person I would support the proposed user fee increase. Pollution and flooding does not stop at the county line, Fayette County must be a responsible neighbor in the region.

## 4. Yes

“Saving the Bluegrass” is as much about our productive fields as our beautiful horse farms and brand. As the number two county in KY for cash farm receipts, Fayette County’s agriculture business experience should be equal to that of Napa Valley and I think it justifies the creation of a Commissioner of Agriculture position to oversee all aspects of our agriculture industry.

## 5. Yes

Public participation and transparency will be required components of any infill or TIF project in order to receive my support on the Council. I would also support an ordinance to create a board much like the PDR Board to administer the Land Bank and require public participation, assurance of adequate infrastructure, and transparency into process.

# Eric Thomason

## 1. Yes

One of Fayette County’s most important, if not *the* most important, resources is the rural landscape that surrounds Lexington. It is vital that we preserve this landscape for not only the equine industry but agriculture in general as part of Lexington’s long-term sustainability program.

The 50,000 acre threshold provides Lexington with an easily attainable goal in the very near future; especially in light of the recent protection of more than 20,000 acres within Fayette County. Once this goal is met, it is important that we look at the program and determine how it can best serve the needs and future interests of the community (further conservation, watershed protection, agricultural needs, etc.).

## 2. Yes

I support the landbank as a way for the community, at all levels, to determine priorities in terms of development, especially in the urban core. Local business should be at the heart of our economic development strategy and I feel the landbank program should take a microeconomic approach by fostering small, local businesses to provide future entrepreneurs with affordable locations to set up shop.

## 3. Yes

The Council has a vital role to play in the Consent Decree through its allocation of the funds needed to make the necessary repairs to fully be in compliance. Furthermore, the Council must routinely examine the fee structures associated with our stormwater and sanitary sewer systems to provide the necessary funds for routine and adequate maintenance. As a caveat, I fully support the capacity assessment aspect of the consent decree as the only means of ensuring that infrastructure surpasses need.

## 4. Yes

To fully promote agri-tourism by 2010, Council needs to work actively to provide a permanent home for the Farmer’s Market downtown and in other areas throughout the city. The Farmer’s Market draws more people regularly to the downtown core than any other event that weekly takes place. Finally, the 2010 games will be the largest agri-tourism event yet in Fayette County so it is vital that we be as fully prepared to host these games as possible in the hope of attracting the games and the patrons attending back to Lexington in future years.

## 5. Yes

Throughout the past decade a number of plans have been developed based on hours of public input (College Town Plan, Downtown Master Plan, Infill/Redevelopment Steering Committee Recommendations, Streetscape Masterplan, etc.). It is important that Council fully implement these plans through ordinance in order for the public input garnered on the front end to be realized. Finally, LFUCG’s charter needs to be altered so mayoral appointments to the boards and commissions that make many of the decisions as part of the above listed plans must undergo more thorough approval to ensure that the needed expertise is found on these boards.

# Troy Lacefield

Write-In Candidate

## 1. Yes

Only if you can truly guarantee that the farm that go into PDR will be preserved, then I will support the program. PDR will not stop development from coming to the county edge as its now happening in Jessamine County or what we are seeing beginning to happen in Scott County, Clark County and Woodford County.

## 2. Yes

I think the idea of a landbank is an interesting one worthy of support. My number one priority would be the building of more affordable housing for low-income and middle – income families and more livable housing for students as well.

## 3. Yes

As the democratic -elected representative, legislator body of Fayette County this should be one injunction duty of the Council.

## 4. Yes

With a permanent home for the farmer market and the promotion of local growth produces in the area store.

## 5. Yes

Without honesty; democracy is pointless. Without transparency and a sense of ownership a community cannot survive or thrives.

1. Do you support continuing local funding for the LFUCG Purchase of Development Rights Program? If yes, why do you support funding for this program? If no, explain. Do you think the current goal of acquiring easements on 50,000 acres of Fayette County farmland is adequate or should be increased?
2. Fayette County has over 8,000 acres of land inside the Urban Service Boundary available for infill redevelopment projects. Recently, Mayor Newberry and the Urban County Council allocated over \$2 million to establish a landbank in which these funds will be used to purchase land and buildings to create larger parcels of property for redevelopment. Do you support the creation of a landbank? If yes, what kinds of projects should receive priority for funding? If no, explain.
3. Over 70% of streams in Fayette County are impaired or polluted due to its sub-standard sanitary sewer and stormwater systems. Do you think the Council has a role to play in ensuring that the EPA Consent Decree is implemented? If yes, explain the nature of the Council’s role. If no, explain.
4. Fayette County agri-business and agri-tourism generate over \$3 billion for the regional economy each year. Do you think these industries rate in the “top 5” in Fayette County? If yes, how should the Council promote agri-business and agri-tourism for the 2010 World Equestrian Games and beyond. If no, explain.
5. Do you feel that more public participation and transparency is needed in local planning processes for infill projects and in particular those developments applying for Tax Incremental Financing? If yes, how will you improve the process as an Urban County Council Member? If no, explain.