



2012 Kentucky Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team (FBACT)

GET-OUT-THE-VOTE

July 26, 2012

ACTION ALERT: November 6th General Election

Issue: The November 6th General Election is just around the corner when voters will be able to cast votes in a number of local, state and federal elections. Kentucky voters will be electing members of the Kentucky General Assembly, members of Congress and President of the United States. Getting out the vote is crucial to maintaining, and growing influence with elected officials.

Impact: Elections are important and every vote counts! This year's election will feature a number of open General Assembly races. A primary focus of the 2013 General Assembly may be tax reform. At stake could be the sales tax exemption currently on agricultural inputs and possibly how state real property taxes are calculated, often referred to as House Bill 44. Because elected officials recognize the value of groups that are actively engaged in the electoral process they often seek out those groups when decisions must be made on important issues.

The May Primary Election turnout was just under 14 percent of Kentucky's nearly 3 million eligible voters participate. This means about one in ten voters decided which candidates moved on to the November Election. Turnout for general elections in presidential election years has consistently been in the 55-60 percent turnout, and with this year's competitive General Assembly races, turnout in some precincts may be even higher. Even though one urban county has one in six of Kentucky's registered voters, the remaining 86 percent of voters reside in rural Kentucky enabling them to have an impact on statewide races.

Getting eligible voters to vote is critical for success. The deadline to register to vote in the 2012 November General Election is October 9. Registered voters who will be unable to vote at their precinct can still cast their votes. Absentee ballots can be requested no later than October 30 and returned by mail before 6:00 PM on November 6. Registered voters can also vote early at their local County Clerk's office beginning on October 19.

Action: Each county will receive a packet of materials that can be utilized in a Get-Out-The-Vote campaign. Electronic versions of these materials will also be available on the Kentucky Farm Bureau homepage at kyfb.com under the Legislative Affairs tab. Leaders are encouraged to utilize the materials to produce local radio Public Service Announcements, write a letter to the editor, post flyers or put out voter brochures to encourage eligible voters to cast their vote on November 6. Below are some ideas to help make local Get-Out-The-Vote campaigns successful.

- Be informed. Find out what the campaigns will support or oppose.
- Get involved. You as an individual can work with candidates that support Farm Bureau values and policy positions. Volunteers are welcomed by campaigns to post signs, walk precincts and staff phone banks.
- Produce Public Service Announcements in early October so they will have the best opportunity to be aired.
- Place voter brochures and voter registration information at your local county Farm Bureau office in a visible location.
- Write a letter to the editor stressing the importance of voting in the upcoming election. Remember most local newspapers have deadlines for submission early in the week and *all* letters should be submitted by mid-October for publication.
- Get-Out-The-Vote flyers are a good way to get your message out at local gathering spots, colleges and universities, public facilities and local businesses.

Contact L. Joe Cain, Director of National Affairs and Political Education at (502) 495-7738 or by email at Joe.Cain@kyfb.com for more information or assistance in conducting a successful Get-Out-The-Vote campaign.