



Life In Brief

Current Title: Governor

Political Party: Democratic Party

Born: November 29, 1977

Birthplace: Fayette County, KY

Religion: Disciples of Christ

Ethnicity: White/Caucasian

Marital Status: Married

Education Summary:

- JD, University of Virginia School of Law, 2003
- BA, Political Science/Anthropology, Vanderbilt University, 2000

Family:

2 children

Work History:

- Former Attorney, White & Case Law Firm, Washington, DC
- Attorney, Stiles & Harbison Law Firm
- Attorney General, KY Office of the Attorney General, 2016-2019
- Governor of KY, 2019-present

Quick Summary

Moderate, legacy Democrat appeals to red state voters with emphasis on kitchen table issues and western KY roots; raised profile and forged key alliances as Attorney General

- Former private practice lawyer and son of former Governor Steve Beshear (D), who was in office 2007-2015

- Capitalized on popular dissatisfaction with incumbent Matt Bevin (R), who ranked among the country's least popular governors
- As Attorney General (AG), clashed with Gov. Bevin on teacher pensions; developed alliances with education groups key to his election
- Oriented his campaign around public education, pensions, health care, and jobs
- Avoids social issues that divide voters along partisan lines
- During the campaign, Beshear faced questions on how he would pay for his education proposals, including a \$2000 raise for teachers
- With his first months in office dominated by COVID-19 response, Beshear has mostly garnered praise for his press briefings and aggressive actions to slow KY's outbreak
- Beshear's priorities, including increased education funding and teacher pay, are on hold as state faces prospect of decreased revenue

Approach and Motivations

Red-state Democrat positions himself as a competent reformer more interested in serving the people than partisan politics

- Driven to run for governor's office by disdain for Bevin; called his administration "dangerous"
- Appeals to what he believes is a common desire for well-funded public schools, pensions, robust Medicaid benefits, and higher wages
- Seeks to push moderately progressive agenda through Republican-controlled legislature; hopes to frame issues in a non-partisan light to maximize his chances of success



Policy Position and Areas of Focus

Beshear’s campaign and early first term focused heavily on KY’s social services

Education: Major plank of campaign that is an immediate priority in Beshear’s first term

- Believes education is the key to a strong Kentucky workforce
- During the campaign, Beshear unveiled an education plan that called for reduced class sizes and expanded pre-kindergarten access
- Included pay raises for teachers and fully funded teacher pensions in his two-year state “education-first” budget proposal
- Proposed increasing funding for state higher-education system by 1% in FY 2021; system budget had been cut in previous years

Public Pensions: Securing retiree benefits and promoting new revenue sources

- As AG, won KY Supreme Court case over Bevin-backed pension reform law opposed by teachers; called the ruling “a landmark win”
- As Governor, promised to pay state’s required contribution to pension plans; KY’s two largest pension funds have suffered from underfunding and mismanagement
- Supports legalizing casino and sports gambling to raise money for cash-strapped pension systems; opposed by Republican legislators

Health Care: Protecting Medicaid benefits

- Has called health care a “basic human right”
- Supported KYNect, the Medicaid expansion program put in place by his father which

reduced uninsured population from 14% of state residents to 5%

- Ended Bevin’s Kentucky HEALTH plan, which would have placed stricter conditions, including work requirements, on Medicaid benefits, and rescinded coverage from nearly 100,000 people

Core Communities

Native Kentuckian boosted by his father, profession, and aligned interest groups

Kentucky Law: Former partner at major Louisville-based firm financially supported by attorneys in the state

- Former partner at Stites & Harbison law firm
- Current Kentucky AG Daniel Cameron (R) is also an alum of the firm; knew each other before taking office
- Kentucky-based attorneys donated over \$950,000 to the 2019 Beshear-Coleman ticket

Steve Beshear: Launching pad for political career; source of campaign and administration officials

- Gave Andy the name recognition and network to launch successful political career
- Chair of Andy’s AG campaign, Jared Smith, was his father’s former Deputy Finance Director
- Andy’s Secretary of the Executive Cabinet, J. Michael Brown, served as his father’s Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary

KY Teachers: Education-focused politician ran with a teacher on his ticket and is supported by state education organizations

- Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman is a former teacher and assistant principal



Andy Beshear

Governor of KY



- Supported by Jefferson County Teachers Association and the Kentucky Education Association

Organized Labor: *Fmr. Gov. Bevin's enemies threw weight behind worker-friendly Beshear*

- Unions fiercely opposed Bevin; Helped Beshear peel off support from Trump-friendly voters by focusing members on economic issues
- Made significant contributions to Beshear's campaigns and affiliated super PAC

Political History

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Relevant Financial Information

Beshear has enjoyed strong financial support from unions and teachers' groups

Biggest Interest Group Donors (career)

- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers: \$6,000
- United Food and Commercial Workers International Union: \$6,000
- International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers: \$6,000
- Jefferson County Teachers Association: \$6,000
- Kentucky Education Association: \$6,000

Biggest Corporate Donors (career)

- Ford Motor Company (Dearborn, MI): \$9,970
- Cemex Inc. (Houston, TX): \$4,000
- Cozen O'Connor (Philadelphia, PA): \$4,000

Biggest Individual Donors (career)

- Thomas Chester, coal operator, Green River Collieries LLC (Hanson, KY): \$7,000
- Keith Mitnik, attorney, Morgan & Morgan (Orlando, FL): \$6,000
- Frank Jones, owner, Recreonics (Louisville, KY): \$6,000
- Carol Farmer, retired (Midway, KY): \$6,000
- Antonio Magliocco, executive, Michters Distributors (New York, NY): \$6,000

Super PAC support

- Teachers unions contributed over \$1.1 million to Beshear-friendly Kentucky Family Values Super PAC

Political Donations

- Largest recorded political donation was to his own campaign in 2019 (\$20,000)
- Donated to several Democrats running for local and statewide office in KY between 2011 and 2015

Publications, Media and Speaking

Beshear generally engages with Kentucky-based media and addresses politically-engaged Kentucky audiences

Publications: *Occasionally publishes op-eds in local papers, the Washington Post, and on social media*

- Favorite Outlets: Washington Post, Lexington Herald-Leader, Courier-Journal (Louisville), Facebook
- Favorite Subjects: How Democrats can win in red states, combating child abuse, protecting the Affordable Care Act



Media: *Prior to COVID-19, Beshear’s media presence was mostly local and focused on his work as AG and campaign against Bevin; filmed anti-underage drinking ads for industry-funded Foundation for Alcohol Responsibility*

- Preferred Outlets: Local TV stations, Kentucky Public TV, Hey Kentucky!
- Favorite Subjects: Race against Matt Bevin, tenure as AG, priorities as governor, underage drinking
- Social Media Habits: Active personal account and official account; tweets written by Beshear on personal account denoted by ^AB signature

Speaking: *As a former AG and candidate for Governor, Beshear has mostly addressed political events and Kentucky-based interest groups*

- Favorite Subjects: Race against Matt Bevin, priorities as Governor, LGBTQ rights, education, tenure as AG
- Preferred Audience: State political events (e.g. annual Fancy Farm), friendly group rallies, KY business groups (e.g. Commerce Lexington Business Luncheon), unions

Professional Affiliations

- Member, Deacon, Beargrass Christian Church
- Volunteer, Family Scholar House
- Member, Louisville Chamber of Commerce Audit Committee

Awards

- Rising Star, Super Lawyers
- Nations Top Consumer Lawyer, Lawyer Monthly
- Forty Under 40 Award, First of Louisville, 2010

Family and Personal Background

Son of Kentucky Attorney General and Governor Steve Beshear (D) who was steeped in politics from a young age; strong religious background and continued church involvement

- Scion of longtime Kentucky political family; great-uncle Fred Beshear served in state legislature and introduced father Steve to politics and campaigns
- Wife, Britainy, is a community activist who focuses on disadvantaged women and children; Britainy and Andy have two young children
- Andy’s cousin Jenny Beshear Sewell is the former mayor of Dawson Springs, KY, where the family is from
- Steve drove around Kentucky with a campaign sign on his car; Andy grew up with politics and campaigning
- Steve urged Andy run for AG in 2015 as then-AG Jack Conway (D) approached his term limit
- Steve’s father, uncle, and grandfather were fundamentalist Baptist preachers; Andy and Britainy are deacons at Beargrass Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Owner of two dogs (Maddie and Winnie)
- Brother Jeff treats horses as a veterinarian in Virginia

Criticisms and Controversies

Scrutinized for work at Stites & Harbison and ties to big state fundraisers during run for AG; top deputy Timothy Longmeyer sentenced for corruption

Legal work and donor ties



- As Beshear ran for AG, some state observers questioned his ability to independently serve the state's citizens, noting his legal work for companies in disputes with the state AG
- Beshear also accepted donations from lobbyists and industry officials impacted by the AG's decisions
- Beshear asserted that as AG, he would base every decision on the law and serve Kentucky citizens as his only client

Association with Timothy Longmeyer

- Longmeyer served as Personnel Secretary in Steve Beshear's Administration; hired by Andy Beshear to be Deputy AG in 2015
- Sentenced to 70 months in prison for bribery; while in government, he secured contracts for a firm in exchange for over \$200,000
- Longmeyer forwarded bribe money to Democratic campaigns, including Andy Beshear's, through friends and family
- Beshear said he was "devastated" by the allegations; a federal investigation determined that Beshear was unaware of the scheme
- Announced that his office would file state charges and named a special prosecutor to handle them
- Promised to donate \$14,000 from his campaign account to government ethics watchdog Common Cause as compensation for taking tainted money

Contact Information

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