

A Young Voter's Guide to the Special Election



The Honors Program presents ...

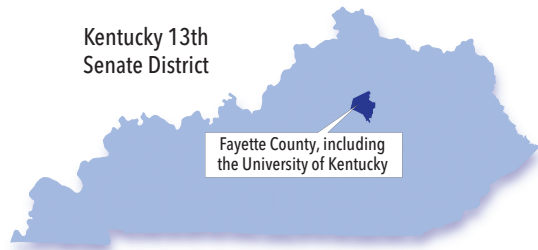
Gov. Steve Beshear called a special election for Dec. 10 for the 13th District state Senate seat, which became vacant when state Sen. Kathy Stein (D-Lexington) accepted a position as a Fayette Circuit Court judge and began work in family court.

The 13th District encompasses downtown Lexington and includes the University of Kentucky. The Lexington Herald-Leader called it "traditionally a staunch Democratic district" and noted that for last year's presidential election, it had 41,157 registered Democrats, 18,606 Republicans and 7,152 independents.

Republicans hold the majority of the 38 state Senate seats with 23, Democrats hold 13 seats, and 1 senator is an Independent. Vying for the vacant seat in the Dec. 10 election is a Democrat, a Republican and an Independent.

Whoever wins this election will complete Stein's term, serving until the end of 2016. This race is heating up as the pot begins to stir.

Kentucky 13th Senate District



Fayette County, including the University of Kentucky

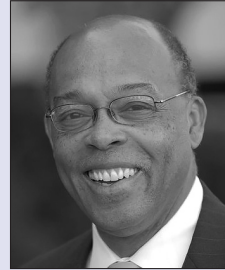


Kathy Stein

Kathy Stein, considered one of Kentucky's most liberal lawmakers in the state legislature, was for many years the only Jewish member in the General Assembly in Frankfort. She served in the House for 11 years, starting in 1997, then the Senate since 2009. Her role as a lawmaker ended on Oct. 14, 2013, when Gov. Steve Beshear appointed her as a judge.

The Lexington Herald-Leader called her "an outspoken defender of women, children, social justice and religious freedom." Senate Republicans failed in a redistricting plan to move her district 70 miles to the northeast.

Democrat



Reginald Thomas
www.Reggie4KY.com

Age: 60
Residence: Lexington
Education: Dartmouth College (B.A., government), Harvard Law School
Occupation: Attorney and professor

Reginald "Reggie" Thomas, the Democratic candidate in the special election, is an attorney and a professor of criminal justice and business law at Kentucky State University. He grew up in Lexington and graduated from Bryan Station High School.

He has served on the board of Commerce Lexington, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Actors Guild of Lexington and Friends of the Lyric Theatre, and president of a PTA and a little league association. As chair of the Kentucky Conference for Community and Justice, he says, he worked to defend the causes of Hispanic immigrants and promote fairness for members of the LGBT community. He now serves on the Lexington Convention and Tourism Commission.

He puts a dual focus on jobs and public education. He does not support charter schools and is concerned that colleges, particularly the University of Kentucky, get public funding to maintain affordable tuition. He wants to create incentives for new business corridors along Manchester and Jefferson streets in Lexington.

Independent



Richard Moloney
www.richardmoloneyforsenate.com

Age: 53
Residence: Lexington
Education: Lexington Community College (associate degree, business)
Occupation: Retired city commissioner

Richard Moloney, a lifelong Democrat who changed his affiliation to independent for the state Senate race, plays on the campaign themes of "the name you know, the man you can trust" and "an independent voice in these partisan times."

He served seven terms on the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, served two years as state commissioner of housing, building and construction, served as Lexington commissioner of environment and public works, and was chief administrative officer for the city of Lexington for two years.

Moloney cites his accomplishments as including increased green space in Lexington, better water and sewage systems, as well as more affordable housing. He wants Lexington to get "its fair share of state dollars," to see improvements on New Circle road, and to add more affordable veteran housing. Born deaf, Moloney would push for legislation requiring insurance companies to cover hearing aids.

Republican



Michael E. Johnson
www.bigmikeforsenate.com

Age: 54
Residence: Lexington
Education: Western Kentucky University and Kentucky State University
Occupation: Minister

Michael "Big Mike" Johnson, a former Democrat who won the Republican nomination, is an ordained minister who founded Hands On Ministry in Lexington and who has focused on civic education during legislative sessions.

He founded a Tea Party group in Lexington in an effort to get Democrats and Republicans to pay more attention to black voters, according to the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Over the last three years, he has worked in the state Senate "to educate and inform minority communities about government and how it operates," according to his campaign website.

Johnson's campaign focuses on family, education and jobs. He calls for welfare reform to reduce the number of single-parent homes and to stop "rewarding absent fathers and unwed mothers." On school choice, he says, "charter schools, vouchers, or homeschooling should be an option for all parents." He calls for the state government to simplify its tax code to help Lexington businesses grow.