



# COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE - Nov. 5



**Robert  
Conway**



**Commissioner  
Ryan  
Quarles**



No  
photo  
available

**Josh  
Gilpin**



## SECTION 1

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

<b>Education</b>	Bachelors Degree from the University of Kentucky	1) BS. Agri. Econ. - UK, 2) BS Public Service & Leadership - UK, 3) MS. Agri. Econ. - UK, 4) MA. Diplomacy & Int'l Trade, 5) Ed M. Higher Ed - Harvard, 6) Juris Doctor - UK, 7) ED.D. Higher Ed - Vanderbilt U.	
<b>Occupation</b>	Operations Manager for C and S Transportation (Lawrenceburg, KY) - Former Regional Manager for GE Capital	Commissioner of Agriculture; part-time farm hand at Quarles Farms	<b>Candidate chose not to participate.</b>
<b>Family</b>	Wife: Millie (37 years) Sons: Jason, Haley, Austin, and Tucker. One grandson: Cole Patrick	Father, Roger Quarles; Brother & Sister-in-law, Clint & Jackie Quarles; 1 nephew and 1 niece	
<b>Civic/Religious Involvement</b>	Elder/Choir Midway Pres. CH; G'town Choral Society/Com. Theater; G'town Jaycees, Cham. of Com., KY Motor Trans. Assoc. Youth sports coach.	Member of Southland Christian Church	
<b>Personal Interests</b>	Hunting, Fishing, avid University of KY Basketball Fan, Season Ticket Holder of University of KY Football and Cincinnati Reds.	Farming, dry-stone masonry, fishing, kayaking, shooting, anything outdoors	

## SECTION 2

## RESPONSES

<b>What do you see as the most important issue facing Kentucky agriculture?</b>	"The most important issue facing Kentucky agriculture is the loss of Kentucky's farmers to other vocations and the loss of the small Kentucky family farm. Kentucky has struggled to successfully transition away from the tobacco industry."	"Inconsistent farm income and a lack of agriculture literacy are the two biggest issues facing KY agriculture. Our farms need market access to increase prices and the consumer needs to better know where their food comes from. Progress has been made."	
<b>What innovation(s) do you propose to better market Kentucky-grown products?</b>	"I would like to expand the Kentucky Proud brand to incorporate more products from large and small family farms. I would like to see these products marketed to other states and other countries. Together we can do better."	"Under my administration, we have grown Kentucky Proud to over 8,000 members. We also created the "Buy Local" program that gets local food into our restaurants, schools and grocery stores. Also, I'm proud we have more Farmer Markets that ever, at 168."	
<b>What will you do to improve rural Kentucky and the vitality of the small family farm?</b>	"We need to find a way to reinvent Kentucky agriculture by incorporating hemp, medical marijuana, solar and green technologies into the agricultural sector. We need to educate and encourage a whole new generation of potential farmers."	"As Commissioner, I have systematically supported small farm initiatives, such as: our industrial hemp program, dedicating 50% of our tobacco settlement money for agriculture, and advocated for rural broadband internet. I know small farms because I grew up on one."	
<b>What would your top three priorities be if elected as Commissioner of Agriculture?</b>	"Incorporate hemp, medical marijuana, solar and green technologies into all of Kentucky's farms, regardless of size, and aid in the redesign of our rural and farm education programs."	"1. Increase on farm income by opening markets, both abroad and domestic, as I've done in the first term. 2. Promote Agriculture Education with my three mobile science units and continue to raise \$400,000 annually for 4-H and FFA. 3. Maintain Kentucky as the epicenter for industrial hemp."	



# COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

*Vote on November 5!*

Page 2 of 2

**Robert Conway**  
[conwayforky19.com](http://conwayforky19.com)

**Commissioner Ryan Quarles**  
[ryanquarles.com](http://ryanquarles.com)

**Josh Gilpin**  
 No website available

<p><i>What ideas do you have to strengthen Kentucky's horse industry?</i></p>	<p>"I would work hand-in-hand with the Kentucky legislature to work on tariff rates. I would also work with the state transportation industry to bring back many of the exiting trucking companies that have recently left the Commonwealth for neighboring states."</p>	<p>"Agriculture exports from Kentucky are up under my administration. Additionally, I helped open trade with China for our racing industry, which benefits all sorts of Kentucky farmers. I also led the first ever ag export mission to Canada in 2018."</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Candidate chose not to participate.</b></p> </div>
<p><i>What are your proposals to diversify Kentucky's agriculture industry?</i></p>	<p>"The state must work to move past the tobacco industry. It's been hard on our farmers for the last two decades. I am all for any alternative crops and the growth of any products that will bring this relief."</p>	<p>"Kentucky agriculture is more diverse now than ever, as I have routinely supported new alternative crops such as hemp, kenaf, hops and small ruminants like goats and sheep. I also chair the Ag Development Board and Ag Farmers Board that support diversification."</p>	
<p><i>After 4 years, what will your office have accomplished to improve life in Kentucky?</i></p>	<p>"The completion of my first term will feature a rebirth for this state's farmers. The state is filled with "for sale" signs as many of our farmers are exiting the industry. I will make farming a choice vocation again."</p>	<p>"In the next four years, my administration will continue the success of industrial hemp, connect consumers with our farm community, increase our KY Proud program, increase meat processing, and position Kentucky as an Ag-Tech hub of America."</p>	
<p><i>What strengths do you possess that make you the best candidate for this office?</i></p>	<p>"I have managed hundreds of employees and multi-million dollar company budgets. I also have an extensive farming background. I am the only candidate that possesses both of these needed traits. I am the most qualified candidate."</p>	<p>"As the incumbent who has the broad support of Kentucky's agricultural community, my strong working relationships with our farm organizations will allow my administration to continue to be effective. Being raised on a Kentucky farm is my greatest strength."</p>	
<p><i>Why would you be more effective in this office than your opponent(s)?</i></p>	<p>"I think that my business, management, and agricultural backgrounds make me the most qualified candidate, regardless of party affiliation."</p>	<p>"I grew up on a Kentucky tobacco and cattle farm, coming from a family that has farmed here since the 1780s. I have built the relationships needed to be effective in my first term and will continue to make Kentucky Proud."</p>	
<p><i>To know you more personally, what issue(s), unrelated to the office you seek, are you passionate about?</i></p>	<p>"I am passionate about education. I was the former chairman of the Scott County School Board and I know that the education of our state's youth is vital to its future."</p>	<p>"I am passionate about reducing food insecurity in Kentucky. Even though my job description does not include hunger, I have rewritten KY's food donation law, had 150+ refrigerators donated and started the Kentucky Hunger Initiative to combat food insecurity."</p>	

For more races across the Commonwealth of Kentucky, visit the Kentucky Candidate Information Survey at:

[www.votekentucky.us](http://www.votekentucky.us)