

# ABOUT THE CENTER

***Because we live in an era of unprecedented change***, the need to anticipate and prepare for what lies ahead has become central to the work and the mission of government. Increasingly, knowledge and information are the tools that enable policymakers in every arena to glimpse the shape of things to come, seize opportunities as they arise and avoid costly mistakes.

To bring a future-oriented perspective to decisionmaking in the Commonwealth, the General Assembly created the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center in 1992. After careful planning and preparation by its Board of Directors, the Center was launched in mid-1993.

Unique to the U.S. public policy landscape, the Center strives to enrich understanding of trends and forces influencing the future of the Commonwealth and to lend a long-term perspective to policymaking. The work of the Center includes research, policy analysis, strategic planning, communications with all branches of government, and public outreach.

To ensure its independence and its ability to serve all branches of government, as well as citizens of the Commonwealth, the Center is governed by a balanced 21-member board. Four representatives from the executive branch and six from the legislative branch are joined by eleven at-large members, six of whom are appointed by the Governor and five by the Legislative Research Commission. Academics, business owners, and community leaders join together with policymakers to help shape the research agenda and facilitate the work of the Center.

***The Center's ambitious agenda is designed to increase knowledge about issues on Kentucky's horizon***, guide planning efforts throughout state government, and engage citizens and policymakers in preparing for the future. Initiatives include:

- *A biennial report on trends influencing the future of the Commonwealth.* The seventh edition, *Visioning Kentucky's Future: measures and milestones 2006*, incorporates an inclusive citizen vision, goals for realizing it, and measures of progress, as well as the results of a statewide citizen survey that asks Kentuckians whether they think we are making progress on these important goals.
- *Research into timely topics of importance to the state's future.* Recently published studies explore such issues as oral health and the future of postsecondary education. Current research projects are looking at maximizing student achievement through our investments in education.
- *Foresight.* With a circulation of over 8,000, this publication informs a broad audience of Kentuckians about the Center's work and features articles on a variety of issues, ranging from broadband access to Hispanic migration to Kentucky.
- *A statewide scanning program.* Scanning Kentucky engages Kentuckians in an effort to identify signposts of change. Scans are reviewed by Board members and top trends are published in the Center's quarterly publication, *Horizon*.
- *Public outreach.* Citizens and policymakers are kept up-to-date through speaking engagements and annual conferences. Center staff frequently present the findings and recommendations of studies to legislative committees, civic gatherings, and education groups. The annual conference usually attracts between 300 and 400 citizens and policymakers.

***To obtain more information about the Center, be placed on the mailing list, or request free copies of publications,***  
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