

PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATE FORUM



or implement in your position?

- Improve efficiency, reduce wait times, and make services easier to understand and access.

#6 Where do you see Carlisle/Nicholas County being in five years?

- A strong, connected community supported by dependable and organized public service.

#7 What do you think is the top issue within this community?

- Keeping services running smoothly while supporting the needs of our community.

#8 What can you tell the constituents that will make them want to vote for you?

- I will work hard, stay consistent, and treat every person with respect.

#9 The younger generation is the future of the community, what advice would you give them if they were thinking to run for a county office position?

- Get involved, learn your community, and don't be afraid to step up and serve.

#10 What do you think you can do to improve the office you are running for that would be a benefit for this community?

- Focus on organization, communication, and customer service improvements.

#11 With this being a farming and elderly community, and with a low-

income tax base what would you like to pursue for the community to make this community stronger and better to attract businesses, residents, to help with bringing in things to keep our younger generation to remain within the community.

- Ensure services are simple, accessible, and helpful especially for those who rely on them most.

#12 With numerous issue with the water throughout the community, how would you work with water districts, to get grants and to help improve the water infrastructure.

- While not directly managed by this office, I support efforts that improve our community.

#13 Would you be willing to help get grants to have a Splash pad for the children? What steps would you take to help pursue one.

- I support projects that improve quality of life and will help where I can.

#14 What grants are you aware of that you feel the community needs to work together as a whole for the greater good of the community?

- I believe in working together to support opportunities that make Nicholas County stronger.

Thornsburg's Answers

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candidate reach across party lines, and work together with others of another political party, in order to achieve a common goal?

- I am willing to work across all party lines to achieve the goal in question.

#5 If you win, what would you like to change or implement in your position?

- I'm not interested in change; I just want to ensure that families are served with compassion and care.

#6 Where do you see Carlisle/Nicholas County being in five years?

- A positive thriving community with more opportunities for small businesses.

#7 What do you think is the top issue within this community?

- Building a future for all our children along with a good drug prevention program.

#8 What can you tell the constituents that will make them want to vote for you?

- I will be available 24/7, compassionate with families and willing to help with issues outside of the coroner's office.

#9 The younger generation is the future of the community, what advice would you give them if they were thinking to run for a county office position?

- I would encourage them to have a passion for the position they are interested in and be honest and treat everyone equally.

#10 What do you think you can do to improve the office you are running for that would be a benefit for this community.

- I'm not aware of anything as of now, but I will meet the challenge as it arises.

#11 With this being a farming and elderly community, and with a low-income tax base what would you like to pursue for the community to make this community stronger and better to attract businesses, residents, to help with bringing in things to keep our younger generation to remain within the community.

- Give an opportunity for more local businesses.

#12 With numerous issue with the water throughout the community, how would you work with water districts, to get grants and to help improve the water infrastructure.

- I will be willing to help in any way I possibly can to help.

#13 Would you be willing to help get grants to have a Splash pad for the children? What steps would you take to help pursue one.

- Yes, we need something for the children, I would be willing to help in any way to make it happen.

#14 What grants are you aware of that you feel the community needs to work together as a whole for the greater good of the community?

- At this moment I'm not aware of any grants, as being new to this position, but I'm willing to participate in any way.

Renee Brown, Democratic Candidate for Nicholas Co. Clerk

#1... With the state of the world today, and such divisiveness in the realm of politics, what do you say to the voters who are thinking of switching political parties? Dem to Rep or Rep to Dem?

- The County Clerk's office should never be about party lines. It's about serving every resident fairly, efficiently, and respectfully.

#2... What can you as the candidate bring to the table that your fellow candidates cannot?

- A strong commitment to organization, communication, and putting people first-ensuring every interaction is smooth and helpful.

#3... For the incumbent,

what are your strengths that allow you to hold onto your current political position? What are your weaknesses?

- I respect those who have served. My focus is on moving forward with energy, accessibility, and strong customer service.

#4... How can you as a candidate reach across party lines, and work together with others of another political party, in order to achieve a common goal?

- This role serves everyone. I will treat all people with respect and focus on doing the job right.

#5 If you win, what would you like to change

Primary Election is May 19, 2026



Tommy Crawford, Republican Incumbent Candidate for District 4 Magistrate

#1... With the state of the world today, and such divisiveness in the realm of politics, what do you say to the voters who are thinking of switching political parties? Dem to Rep or Rep to Dem?

- I think at the local level politics are not as decisive as they are at the national level. Politics exist, but you have to have the ability to work with others, to establish a common goal and that's to move this county forward. As far as party lines go, I would tell you to align yourself with the party that most likely reflects your core values and your faith.

#2... What can you as the candidate bring to the table that your fellow candidates cannot?

- Experience...I've been involved in city government in an official position as Asst. superintendent, fire fighter, Asst. Chief and Chief for many years. I have served on numerous boards in the county and the city. I'm currently serving as Magistrate 4th district, approaching 4 years. I've been a public servant my entire adult life. My church, I

have attended and served for the last 35 years. I've dealt with tight budgets both personally and publicly. I have been able with the dedication of my partner to operate a successful business for the past 30 years. If elected I will continue to serve this county with humility.

#3... For the incumbent, what are your strengths that allow you to hold onto your current political position? What are your weaknesses?

- Like I said in the previous question, my experience is my greatest asset. You have to have the ability to compromise where you can, and the courage where you can't. as far as a weakness, sometimes I can be impatient, and sometimes can be a little naïve at times about public opinion.

#4... How can you as a candidate reach across party lines, and work together with others of another political party, in order to achieve a common goal?

- I think the present Fiscal Court has reached across party lines on many issues. It's not really what is better for you on an issue, but what's best for the county.

#5 If you win, what would you like to change or implement in your position?

- Magistrates in Nicholas County are elected by the constituents of their district, which is constitutionally mandated. They serve at the pleasure of the Fiscal Court which is our governing body. Our primary duties are overseeing county finances, approving the budgets and enacting local ordinances. If elected you give me the ability to influence county government through these duties. As far as implementing change, you're giving me

the blessing to represent you and your concerns, with any new issues that may arise. I thank you for your trust and ask for you continued support.

#6 Where do you see Carlisle/Nicholas County being in five years?

- With the re-opening of Willowbrook Healthcare, that took the foresight of the last Fiscal Court which decided to purchase the license to operate the facility and the grit and determination of the present Fiscal Court to assure it happened. It has been a long journey but well worth the wait. Bringing home many residents to be closer to their families, while allowing the county and facility to create jobs that will boost our local economy. Also the opening of Harrison Harvesting/Bourbon Barrel Beef, US 68, Wendt's Wildlife & Zoo, Sterling Health, The Sterling Gypsy, Jacket Elite Athletics, El Jacilito, Broadway & Main, 2 new Dollar Stores, Marathon, Save A Lot which all have been a blessing to both the city and the county. Hopefully with leadership from county and city, this progression will continue. We are also thankful for the businesses that have been established for years. Also the joint partnership with Bourbon/Nicholas Industrial Park, we will be able to start filling it with new employees and businesses.

#7 What do you think is the top issue within this community?

- I think one of the top issues in this community as well as nationally is the core values of faith, family and community. Strong families produce strong communities.

Social media continues to try to drive a wedge through as by division, even at the local level. I was taught from childhood that if you can't say something good about our brothers and sisters, don't say anything at all. Most of the people in this county live here because they want to, one of the prime reasons, it is a great place to raise a family. Some of our new community members come from places that don't recognize these values and have relocated for that very reason. I'm thankful for the most part, we are a community that endorses these values.

#8 What can you tell the constituents that will make them want to vote for you?

- I've tried to be a good listener and respond appropriately to all the concerns of my constituents. If they have a problem, I try to get it addressed as soon as possible. I've always tried to make the decisions that always benefits Nicholas County and if elected I will be the same person, to all concerned that I've always been.

#9 The younger generation is the future of the community, what advice would you give them if they were thinking to run for a county office position?

- I would encourage all of them to do what their conscience and God would lead them to do. I was once one of those younger generation myself. I've tried to be a good example and service to our community has been one of my top priorities. I've also learned many times that is not always an easy experience. If your not ready to

make tough, controversial decisions, I wouldn't advise it. Also you have to realize you might have to compromise where you can, and if you can do this, jump in with both feet, because you will be the next public servants.

#10 What do you think you can do to improve the office you are running for that would be a benefit for this community.

- Be informed as you possibly can on all issues that confronts you, because an informed decision is always the best decision. Training and knowledge is your greatest asset. I know we've had some responses about the incentive/pay program which has been in effect since 1999, in my opinion it is a benefit to having properly trained magistrates. It allows you to receive training in all areas of county government, whether it be the roads program, grant applications, special funding, keeping up with Kentucky legislation that affects our county or networking with other county magistrates, county judges all over the state. Many great ideas have come home to our county because of networking with other county officials.

#11 With this being a farming and elderly community, and with a low-

income tax base what would you like to pursue for the community to make this community stronger and better to attract businesses, residents, to help with bringing in things to keep our younger generation to remain within the community.

- Tourism has brought many opportunities to our county, through new ways to attract businesses and people to this area, by offering personal experiences to all who visit. We have a great tourism program headed by Gladys ShROUT and Pam Randolph. A great example of this is Wendt's Wildlife & Zoo. They have been an awesome partner and a great boost to our local economy. Tourism ties in to all our local businesses-people come visit, they spend money to eat, places to stay, fuel and many other benefits. Also with Lake Carnico improvements it has also become another local economy boost. As we continue, growth through established businesses and hopefully will continue to develop more job opportunities through the new businesses and the new industrial park.

Crawford's Answers cont. on pg. 15

NOTICE

Harmoni Towers is proposing to construct a 164-ft Monopole telecommunications tower facility located at the north corner of Moorfield Rd and Cane Run Rd, near 3233 Moorefield Road, Carlisle, Nicholas County, Kentucky 40311. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 260062451PR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (617) 715-1822.

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PROCLAMATION ARBOR DAY

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is graced with diverse forests that extend from the hardwood forests of the east to the cypress sloughs of the west; and WHEREAS, Trees are a sustainable resource providing significant environmental, economic, social, and human health benefits to Kentuckians; and WHEREAS, Over one-third of Kentuckians live in a community actively managing their urban forests, spending over \$12.4 million dollars on this asset; and WHEREAS, Kentucky's forest products are a \$19 billion dollar green industry employing over 59,000 people; and WHEREAS, Trees enhance our air quality, purify our water resources, protect our soil, supply a source of renewable energy, and provide valuable wildlife habitat; and WHEREAS, Forests improve our health and offer a place of recreation and solace; and WHEREAS, Trees and healthy forests enhance the quality of life for all Kentuckians,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Hamilton, Nicholas County Judge Executive, hereby proclaim April 3, 2026 as

ARBOR DAY

In the state of Kentucky, I urge all citizens across this great Commonwealth to participate in the observance of this day by planting a tree. Our reward and that of future generations will be a more beautiful Kentucky, whose health and well-being are sustained by this great natural resource-our forests.

Steve Hamilton
Nicholas County Judge Executive

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Bourbon County/Nicholas County Joint Economic Development Authority will receive sealed bids for the Bourbon Co./Nicholas Co. Regional Industrial Park-Mass Grading project at the office of the Nicholas County Judge Executive, Nicholas County Court House, 125 East Main Street, Room #1, Carlisle, KY 40311 until 10:00 AM EST on Monday, April 13, 2026, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The successful bidder shall provide performance and payment bonds, proof of insurance and licenses as specified.

Project plans and specifications will be available from Lynn Imaging, 328 Old Vine St, Lexington, KY 40507 & www.lynnimaging.com. A non-refundable payment for printed documents and/or free digital download will be required for each set of bid documents.

The Bourbon County/Nicholas County Joint Economic Development Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids received.

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INVITATION TO BID

The Nicholas County Extension District is soliciting sealed bids for lawn and landscaping care of the Cooperative Extension Service Livestock Barn facilities for 2026. The contractor will supply all equipment and materials necessary to perform the job.

The scope of the work includes:
• Removal of trash prior to mowing;
• Weedeat around ham barn and livestock barn buildings, walks, and landscaping
• Mowing the lawn once per week
• Cleaning of clippings from walks, drives, and the parking lot
• Annual trimming of hedges; pruning of trees and bushes
• Maintenance of landscaping to include weeding and mulching for fall and spring

Written bids must contain at least proof of insurance. All bids must be received in the offices of the Nicholas County Cooperative Extension Service at 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 10th, 2026.

Bids will be opened on at the Nicholas County Extension Office at the following District Board Meeting. The Nicholas County Extension District Board will award the contract based on the lowest and/or best bid received and the District Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids SHOULD IT DEEM IT TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE Nicholas County Cooperative Extension District Board. BIDS RECEIVED AFTER the scheduled closing time for the reception of bids will be returned unopened to the bidder.

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification. Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING

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Notice is hereby given that the Bourbon County/Nicholas County Joint Economic Development Authority will receive sealed bids for the Bourbon Co./Nicholas Co. Regional Industrial Park- Mass Grading Project at the office of the Nicholas County Judge Executive, Nicholas County Court House, 125 East Main Street, Room #1, Carlisle, KY 40311 until 10:00 AM EST on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The successful bidder shall provide performance and payment bonds, proof of insurance and licenses as specified.

A Pre-Bid meeting for all prospective Bidders will be held at the office of the Nicholas County Judge Executive, Nicholas County Court House, 125 East Main Street, Room #1, Carlisle, KY 40311, on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 10:00 am, local time. Prospective prime Bidders are NOT required to attend.

Project plans and specifications will be available from Lynn Imaging, 328 Old Vine St., Lexington, KY 40507 & www.lynnimaging.com. A non-refundable payment for printed documents and/or free digital download will be required for each set of bid documents.

The Bourbon County/Nicholas County Joint Economic Development Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids received.

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INVITATION TO BID

The Nicholas County Fair Board is now accepting bids for lawn care services for the 2026 mowing season.

Scope of Work Includes:
• Weekly mowing of all property outlined below
• Bi-Weekly Weed eating/trimming

We are seeking reliable and consistent service to help maintain the appearance and safety of the fairgrounds throughout the season.

Bid Submission Details:
• Please include pricing
• Deadline for submission: April 14th, 2026 at 4 p.m.
• Written bids must contain proof of insurance.
• Sealed bids can be dropped off at the Nicholas County Judge Executive's Office located at 125 East Main Street, Carlisle, KY 40311.

The Fair Board reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.



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