

# CONNECTING THE DOTS

A Monthly Publication of the People's Campaign

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## Message from our Chairman

Greetings,

The People's Campaign is a political organization that is committed to social justice and changing politics and policy in ways that positively impact people. Efforts to pursue this type of change are often limited to 501(c)(3) organizations that are prohibited by federal law from endorsing and supporting candidates. Therefore, the political effort of such organizations consists of voter registration, voter information and voter turnout. Such initiatives, while certainly much needed and worthwhile, are much like a page filled with dots that form a clear picture only when they are connected.

Meanwhile, organizations with interests in opposition to the interest of the people are well funded and effectively communicating clear endorsements of the candidates of their choosing.

So, The People's Campaign fills a major hole in the democratic process by taking clear positions on people focused issues, such as public education and healthcare, and endorsing candidates, accordingly.

With that in mind, we hope that our monthly publication will help you Connect The Dots!

L. Clark Williams

Chairman/President

### July 18-21

Republican National Convention in Cleveland, OH

### July 25-28

Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, PA

### September 26

Presidential Debate at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

### October 4

Vice Presidential Debate at Longwood University in Farmville, VA

### October 8

Operation Turnout KY U.S. Senate Forum (Rand Paul - R v. Jim Gray - D) at Kentucky State University @ 2:30PM

### October 9

Presidential Debate at Washington University in St. Louis, MO



**THE PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN**

**October 11**

Last day to register to vote in Kentucky

**October 19**

Presidential Debate at University of Nevada - Las Vegas in Las Vegas, NV

**November 8**

Election Day



Clark Williams, Chairman



Taylor Smith, Editor

# Dis-Kynecting Kentucky

## Introducing the ACA & Kynect

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a law that has restructured the way our healthcare system and health insurance companies provide care, treatment and coverage to millions of Americans. The ACA was signed into law by President Obama on June 28, 2010, and since then, it has been relentlessly bombarded by republicans with attempts to repeal the law. However, millions of Americans have seen improvements in the care they receive as a direct result of the ACA.

The ACA was designed to bring improvements in accessibility, affordability, and quality for over 40 million Americans.

Some of the ways it achieves this are:

- Creating Health Insurance Marketplaces where low-to-middle income Americans can compare plans in order to get lower costs on insurance.
- Prohibiting insurance companies from dropping you if you become ill.
- Eliminates pre-existing conditions and gender discrimination as reasons to increase rates or decline coverage.
- Allowing young adults to remain on their parents plan until age 26.
- Creating an employer mandate that requires businesses with 50 or more full-time employees to provide coverage for their employees.
- Expanding medicaid to cover those who make up to 138% of the federal poverty level in states that opt in to expansion.

Under the ACA, every state had the option to create their own “Health Insurance Marketplace” or exchange, or opt out and allow the federal government to install their own marketplace, [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov). Under Governor Steve Beshear, Kentucky created it’s own exchange, Kynect. Through Kynect, with the guidance of navigators, you could compare prices and pick the plan that best fit your particular needs; you could also apply for cost assistance.

Kentucky’s health exchange was considered a national success

story by virtually everyone. Through Kynect, Kentucky saw the largest percentage decrease of any state in the number of uninsured people. The uninsured rate in Kentucky in 2014 was 9.8%, down from 20.4% in 2013. The medicaid expansion was particularly successful, as an additional 530,000 people in Kentucky (more than 10% of the population) have enrolled in Medicaid since the expansion took place in 2014.

Since Kynect has proven to be such an exemplary program for the ACA, and a model for other states to follow, then what incentives does Governor Matt Bevin have for dismantling it?

## Introducing KY HEALTH

Bevin's new plan, Kentucky Helping to Engage and Achieve Long Term Health (KY HEALTH) is expected to launch in 2017 if he gets the green light for a waiver by the U.S. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare. His proposal targets the population that gained coverage through the Medicaid expansion that occurred under Gov. Beshear (those at up to 138% of the federal poverty level).



## Connecting the Dots...

Bevin claims that the reason behind dismantling Kynect is that he felt that Kentucky would become bogged down with the costs of operating Kynect. But removing the state's own marketplace in favor of the federal exchange will cause an increase in assessment fees, resulting in an increase in the cost of coverage to Kentucky citizens. Another aspect of removing Kynect are the one time fees associated with doing so, which have been estimated to reach \$23 million. Add in the possibility of having to return up to \$57 million in federal grants, and removing Kynect will prove to be a very costly undertaking for the state and its citizens.

Also, the federal government currently fully subsidizes the Medicaid expansion in Kentucky, and in 2017, the state will assume 5% of the costs; 10% in 2020. Thus, the federal government will continue to pay the lion's share of the cost of coverage for hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians in the years to come. That is a tremendous investment on Kentucky healthcare that our own governor appears ready to reject.

Republicans in Congress have attempted to repeal the healthcare law more than 60 times, without success. Yet, by dismantling Kynect, Bevin is putting in place the federal exchange, [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov). This move

goes against traditional conservatism by choosing to expand the federal government's involvement in state affairs. So, it appears that Bevin's main motive regarding the healthcare of Kentuckians is to tear down progress made by Gov. Beshear and President Obama, even if he harms hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians in the process.

Hopefully, we have helped you Connect the Dots on Kentucky healthcare.