

Northern Kentucky *Vision 2015*

Shaping Our Future

Competitive Economy

Northern Kentucky will reinvent its economy to outpace the national economy and create new wealth in the region.

- Work to develop an economic competitiveness strategy that is fully integrated with Greater Cincinnati, leveraging the assets of both sides of the Ohio River.
- Focus our resources on targeted industry sectors with the highest growth potential for high-paying jobs – such as advanced manufacturing, financial, healthcare, business services, and technology.
- Make entrepreneurship and innovation defining qualities of our region.
- Create and implement a marketing plan centered around our region’s distinctive spirit, advantages, and unique value proposition – promoting this consistently to both internal and external audiences.
- Connect our region by creating an electronic public platform (e-community) for commerce, education, and communication that maximizes access and use of online opportunities and information.
- Align our college and university programs and resources to support our overall economic competitiveness strategy.

Educational Excellence

Northern Kentucky will exceed national education performance standards at every level.

- Provide high quality, affordable early childhood programs for all children.
- Challenge students with a rigorous curriculum necessary for furthering their education and career goals, and for strengthening our region’s workforce.
- Develop a nationally recognized “culture of contribution” – accomplished through service learning and full community engagement in schools.
- Exceed national standards for educator excellence in school systems that pay competitive salaries, reward performance, and require accountability.
- Make post-secondary education and adult training accessible and affordable to all.
- As a region, lead in connecting our children’s in-school and out-of-school development.
- Ensure all Northern Kentucky educational institutions have the financial resources and program alignment to reach these goals.

Livable Communities

Northern Kentucky is recognized internationally, nationally and regionally for its livability for all residents.

- Establish an integrated system of regional parks, green space, and tourist destinations – promoting new venue development throughout our riverfront, and the urban and rural parts of our nine-county region.
- Promote the development on an international community that attracts, retains, and celebrates people from diverse backgrounds, races, cultures, genders, ages, incomes, and family structures.
- Promote the development of a vibrant arts, cultural, and entertainment community – including a Northern Kentucky regional school of creative, visual, and performing arts.

- Conduct ongoing health and social assessments and implement a comprehensive regional approach to meet and fund those needs.
- Replace Brent Spence Bridge with an internationally acclaimed design.
- Enhance our quality of life by addressing our infrastructure and environmental needs for water, sewer, air quality, and transportation with a balanced approach to our region's growth.
- Expand our non-rail transit system and its use throughout our region to meet the needs of all residents – especially our workers, the elderly, and the disabled.

Urban Renaissance

Northern Kentucky will restore our urban core to a position of prominence.

- Increase the availability of new and rehab market rate housing by 3,000 units in 10 years.
- Create a catalytic development corporation to stimulate redevelopment of the urban areas.
- Increase home ownership rate and quality affordable housing options.
- Expand arts, retail, dining, and entertainment opportunities for people of diverse races, cultures, ages, abilities, incomes, and family structures.
- Provide greater access to and use of the Ohio and Licking rivers – accomplished through a network of parks and green space with walkways and bikeways that connect the river cities.
- Reduce crime and improve safety through collaboration among law enforcement agencies in the tri-state area.
- Ensure each neighborhood has a strong, active association that increases civic engagement.

Effective Governance

Northern Kentucky becomes a model for “networked governance” by retaining and enhancing the benefits of small government – including a sense of community, responsiveness and local voice – while identifying ways to deliver services more efficiently and effectively.

- Establish the Northern Kentucky Effective Governance Commission – maximizing the effective delivery of government services through research and analysis.
- Develop a fair, equitable, and flexible revenue system for local governments – removing competition for limited resources.
- Establish planning in all Northern Kentucky counties, united by a regional council of planning and zoning professionals.
- Transform the application, licensure and tax collection system to foster Northern Kentucky business retention, attraction and development.
- Eliminate outdated constitutional offices and convert certain partisan elections to non-partisan.
- Enhance communication between local governments and citizens, and establish one unified voice in Frankfort and Washington.

Regional Stewardship

Northern Kentucky will cultivate regional stewardship as a defining quality of our region.

- Increase the number of women, minorities, and young people in key leadership positions.
 - Expand leadership development opportunities throughout the region.
 - Build and sustain a culture of civic volunteerism and philanthropy.
 - Create a regional stewardship council to lead the implementation of *Vision 2015*.
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