

David Nicholson KACo Remarks

Nov. 9, 2017

Good evening everyone and thank you.

I am David Nicholson, and it is indeed an honor and privilege to stand before you tonight as your new president of KACo.

I am honored to be not just the first KACo president from Jefferson County, but also the first Circuit Court Clerk to serve as KACo president.

At this time, I would like to introduce and thank some special guests here with us tonight: first my family. My son Samuel Nicholson, who is an attorney here in Louisville, and my sister in law Sharon Hall. My wife Debra and daughter Sara Michael, who is a sitting Jefferson County District Judge, could not be here as they are out of town this week.

Special thanks go to my fellow Executive Committee Members:

- Jim Henderson, Simpson County Judge/Executive
- Elbert Bennett, Caldwell County Magistrate
- Jody Jenkins, Union County Judge/Executive
- Bruce Todd, Henderson County Magistrate

I would also like to welcome the two new KACo Vice Presidents:

- First Vice President Gary Moore, Boone County Judge/Executive
- Second Vice President Reagan Taylor, Madison County Judge/Executive

Next, I would like to offer special recognition to Mrs. Ruby Brabo, my friend and NACo colleague from the King George County, Virginia, Board of Supervisors and the NACo South Region Representative. NACo President Roy Charles Brooks will join us tomorrow.

In addition, I would also like to thank my fellow Circuit Court Clerks, my fellow local officials, all the current KACo officers and Board members, and the KACo staff.

Finally, I would like to offer a big thank you to Brian Roy and Sonya Chesser. As you know, it takes a lot of hard work to put on an event like this Conference and we couldn't do it without them.

Let me take a minute to introduce myself. I am a lifelong resident of Jefferson County/Louisville Metro and was elected Jefferson County Circuit Clerk in 2006 and re-elected to a second term in 2012.

As you may know, the Circuit Court Clerk is a constitutional office that is part of the Kentucky Court of Justice.

Our office employs 324 deputy clerks who work in eight locations across the county, processing more than 150,000 new court cases and issuing more than 190,000 driver's licenses each year. The Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office serves the largest jurisdiction in Kentucky's unified court system and its only true urban court system, providing 24/7/365 service. My office has an annual revenue of more than \$29 million.

In addition, I am on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and serve as the subcommittee Vice-Chair of Courts and Corrections on NACo's Justice and Public Safety Committee policy committee.

Again, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead this terrific organization that is dedicated to serving all 120 counties of the great Commonwealth of Kentucky.

As your KACo president, it is my pledge that I will have a steadfast commitment to serving the entire Commonwealth, and I plan to travel the state to visit as many counties as possible during my term.

In addition, I plan to hold at least one quarterly board meeting in all four corners of the Commonwealth in 2018.

I have been an enthusiastic supporter of KACo and an active member for years. I am a firm believer in the KACo motto of Stronger Counties, Stronger Kentucky. As we are all well aware, many of our counties are facing major challenges today. Whether it is shrinking budgets or combating the opioid crisis, many of our challenges are similar to those across the state and nation.

A couple of months ago, I was honored to have been invited by the Governor to serve on a bi-partisan group to discuss the pension crisis. I have made many trips to Frankfort since then, and we have had many good, productive meetings and made significant progress.

That's why I am optimistic that if continue to work together in a collaborative fashion we can and will solve issues important to counties.

Having served in various leadership positions throughout my career, I value consensus-building and believe in excellence through collaboration.

I strongly support cross-agency collaboration, the sharing of our limited resources and innovative approaches such as public-private partnerships.

I like to continually challenge myself and my Team to think outside the box, to be people focused but performance driven. It is imperative that we offer the highest quality customer service to our citizens and to be good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, always striving to honor the public's trust in our office.

One of the core values of my Circuit Clerk's office that I will carry forward to this position is operating with integrity in an open, honest and transparent manner. I've learned over my career that people may

not always like what the facts are, but if you tell people the truth, they will respect you and then we can all work together to come up with a solution to the issue.

In closing, let me reiterate that it is indeed an honor to serve as the next president of KACo, and it is truly exciting to have the opportunity to lead this great organization at this time.

KACo is YOUR organization and if a member has a question, suggestion or concern they can contact me at any time day or night.

I am convinced that if we all will continue to work together in an open, honest and collaborative manner, I truly believe that the best days for Kentucky's counties lie ahead!

Thank you!

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