

Gov. Beshear: Kentucky ranks among 2026 top states for doing business

Kentucky has ranked in the top 20 every year of Beshear-Coleman administration

Submitted by
the Governor's
Communications Office

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 5, 2026) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that Kentucky has yet again earned a strong ranking in Area Development magazine's Top States for Doing Business. This year, Kentucky took 13th place nationally, and the state has ranked in the top 20 every year of this administration.

“We work hard every year to attract great companies and create more good-paying jobs for our people while keeping our cost of doing business competitive,” said Gov. Beshear. “This recognition for the sixth year in a row reflects that Kentucky has the workforce, infrastructure, and speed-to-market needed to continue attracting businesses from all around the world.”

Kentucky took top spots in several categories contributing to the overall Top States for Doing Business ranking including:

- 4th in Labor Cost

- Competitiveness (Workforce, Talent and Innovation);
- 10th in Site Readiness Programs (Sites, Utilities and Infrastructure);
- 10th in Permitting and Development Predictability (Government Responsiveness and Project Execution);
- 8th in Regulatory Environment (Government Responsiveness and Project Execution);
- 10th in Overall Cost of Doing Business (Cost, Tax and Long-Term Operations);
- 6th in Energy Costs (Cost, Tax and Long-Term Operations); and
- 10th in Climate Risks and Resilience (Cost, Tax and Long-Term Operations).

The annual ranking measures how states perform across the factors that matter most to corporate location and facility-investment decisions. For 2026, Area Development surveyed 50 leading site consultants across 20 location factors, ranging from workforce and site readiness to energy, infrastructure, permitting, taxes and operating costs. States were

ranked by the number of consultant mentions in each category, with results weighted according to the relative importance of those factors in Area Development's annual site selection surveys.

The 2026 analysis from Area Development groups the 20 location factors into four broad dimensions of state competitiveness: Workforce, Talent and Innovation; Sites, Utilities and Infrastructure; Government Responsiveness and Project Execution; and Cost, Tax and Long-Term Operating Risk.

Area Development is a leading publication covering corporate site selection, facility planning and economic development. Its audience includes executives responsible for corporate location and investment decisions, site selection consultants and other professions involved in the development of manufacturing, distribution and other major facilities.

To read the complete 2026 Top States for Doing Business report, visit [AreaDevelopment.com](#).

com.

Kentucky's investment and job creation furthers what has been the best six-year period for economic growth in state history.

Since the beginning of his administration, Gov. Beshear has announced nearly 1,400 private-sector new-location and expansion projects totaling over \$54 billion in announced investments, creating more than 71,000 jobs. This is the highest investment figure secured during the tenure of any governor in the commonwealth's history and \$31 billion more than the next highest total.

Gov. Beshear has announced some of the largest economic development projects in state history, which have solidified Kentucky's position as a national leader in automotive and energy storage system battery production: Ford Motor Co.'s nearly \$3 billion, 2,200-job commitments in Louisville, as well as its \$2 billion, 2,100-job project at the Kentucky 1 plant in Hardin County; Shelbyville Battery

Manufacturing's \$712 million investment, creating 1,572 jobs in Shelby County; and Toyota's \$1.3 billion investment in Scott County, among others.

In February, the Governor announced Kentucky once again set an all-time record for products shipped globally, with \$51.6 billion in exports in 2025, representing a 7.65% increase over 2024.

Unemployment rates fell in all 120 counties between December 2024 and December 2025.

The Governor's administration also secured the largest General Fund budget surplus and Rainy Day Fund. In 2023, Kentucky recorded over 2 million jobs filled for the first time ever and has stayed above that number ever since.

In addition, Kentucky has secured rating increases from major credit rating agencies Fitch Ratings, S&P Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Service.

Earlier this year, Site Selection magazine

ranked Kentucky in the top five nationally and second in the South Central region for economic development projects per capita in its 2025 Governor's Cup rankings. In June, Area Development magazine awarded the commonwealth a Silver Shovel designation in its 2025 Shovel Awards, which highlight states for attracting high-value investment projects that will create a significant number of new jobs in their communities.

Gov. Beshear also announced a new initiative, called New Kentucky Home, to increase economic investment, attain and attract talent, and increase tourism across the state.

Information on Kentucky's economic development efforts and programs is available at [NewKentuckyHome.ky.gov](#). Fans of the Cabinet for Economic Development can also join the discussion at [facebook.com/CEDkygov](#), on [Twitter @CEDkygov](#), [Instagram @CEDkygov](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Looking back to Oct. 8, 2018

Written by Christy Hoots

The following information was entered into the Oct. 8, 2018, edition of The Ledger Independent:

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Bigfoot evidence shared at MCPL

Bigfoot was a topic of discussion at the Mason County Public Library on Saturday.

Charlie Raymond, founder of the Kentucky Bigfoot Research Organization, said his organization's mission is to prove the existence of Bigfoot without killing them.

“I believe that they'll one day go extinct,” Raymond told the crowd at the library. “There are sightings of Bigfoot from all over the country. Theodore Roosevelt wrote about an encounter.”

According to Raymond, hair samples have been collected and found to be from an “unknown primate”

“Native Americans called them Sasquatch,” he said.

Raymond said he believes Bigfoot is a yet to be discovered hominid that some also believe could be paranormal.

“There are more than 300 reports of sightings in Kentucky, but no reports of injuries from them,” he said. “They typically have brown, black, grey or white hair. They're muscular with broad shoulders, no neck, a hooded nose and ape/human-like features. They're highly intelligence, but not harmful. They walk with a glided motion.”

Raymond showed guests several pieces of evidence of Bigfoot's existence, including a video from the

1960s that showed something that looked like Bigfoot walking across rocks and turning to look at the camera.

“He turns his upper torso, because we believe they have stiffer necks and can't turn just their heads, which is why it turns the whole upper torso,” Raymond said.

Other evidence shown included recordings with what Raymond believes to be a Bigfoot yelling out. He compared one clip to an owl.

“You can hear the owl in the first clip and in the second clip, you can tell the sound is completely different,” he said.

Another piece of evidence shown was a video of something crawling on the ground.

“One of the reasons we believe Bigfoot hasn't been recorded yet is due to their ability to hide from humans. They can step

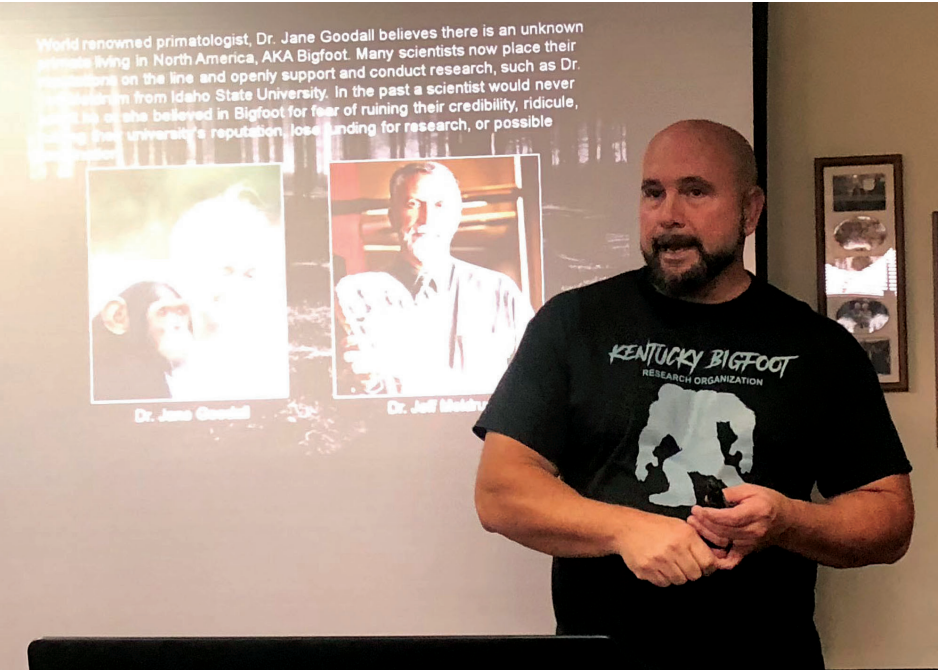


Photo by Christy Hoots
Charlie Raymond, founder of Kentucky Bigfoot Research Organization, presents evidence of Bigfoot sightings during a talk at the Mason County Public Library on Saturday.

quickly behind a tree or the younger ones will drop down into high grass and crawl away on their stomachs.”

According to Raymond, in the video, it is not a deer

or another animal crawling, but he believes it to be a Bigfoot.

Raymond said there are several sightings reported on his website and he has asked that anyone who has

a sighting of their own to report it.

More information on Bigfoot and the research organization can be found by visiting [kentuckybigfoot.com](#).

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12,000+ Kentuckians register to vote in September

Independents still fastest growing bloc

Submitted by the
Commonwealth of
Kentucky Office of the
Secretary of State

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Oct. 2, 2026) – Secretary

of State Michael Adams announced that in September, 12,380 Kentuckians registered to vote, the highest monthly total since 2024. Voters who

are Independents or align with third parties again out-registered Democrats and Republicans.

“Polls across the country show tightening races. In Kentucky, too, voters who do not affiliate with Democrats or Republicans will decide whether Democrats or Republicans win our elections,” Adams said.

In September, net registration rose by 7,323, with 5,057 voters removed: 3,626 who were deceased, 876 felony convicts, 420 who moved out of state, 39 adjudged mentally incompetent, 61 duplicate registrations, and 35 who

voluntarily de-registered.

Republican registration accounts for 48 percent of the electorate, with 1,626,732 voters. Republican registration grew by 2,227 voters, a .14 percent increase. Democratic registration accounts for 41 percent of the electorate, with 1,373,500 voters. Democratic registration rose by 2,486, a .18 percent increase. There are 388,992 voters registered under other political affiliations (mostly independent), making up 11 percent of the electorate. “Other” registration jumped by 2,610, a .68 percent increase.



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