



# SURVEY RESULTS



**Pennyrile Future Survey  
Executive Summary and Responses  
Regional Economic Growth Strategy for the Pennyrile Region**

*Prepared for the:*  
**West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board and the  
Pennyrile Area Development District**



**July 2010**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: KENTUCKY SURVEY RESULTS

After conducting an open-ended survey with the intention of gathering and analyzing concerns of the affected communities and citizens of the Pennyrile region, suggestions pertaining to certain issues were repeatedly raised. With nearly 200 participants, the topics of **tourism**, **education**, **workforce**, and the **community itself**, present both concerns and approval from members of the community.

### Tourism

A plethora of the responses reflect that tourism is a pertinent aspect of the Pennyrile region. The expanse itself consists of plains, lakes, rivers, and caverns, which altogether create an area with abundant potential for tourism. Although many aspects of the Pennyrile region leave the community in discord, one facet that raises widespread concurrence is the beauty of the land. In fact, the land itself is seen as the most “unique” aspect of the region as compared to other communities. Similar to the land itself, the location also makes Pennyrile a region that has potential for increased tourism. The community agrees that it is an area that is rural, but also has easy access to the metropolitan area. It therefore exhibits “*the best of both worlds*”. With the contributing factors above, Pennyrile attracts a good amount of tourism, but the setback lies with the opinion that this area is not using its full potential to draw in even more tourists. Numerous survey takers believe that the problem lies in the lack of restaurants, shopping and hotels in the area. *Fifteen* responses specifically state that the dilemma is tied to a ban on the sale of alcohol that is likely holding back certain counties economically. All else aside, the marketing of the region needs improvement, both in “*promoting and marketing the city itself, as well as the available jobs and tourism*” in Pennyrile.

### Education and Workforce

Another area of concern and praise lies with the education and workforce of the community. The best way to sum up the overall feeling of education in the region is that “*there is a lot of undeveloped potential in the area.*” Although there is a small discrepancy in whether or not Pennyrile has a good education system, the large majority agrees that the education system is poor. According to the survey, *five times* more people reflect that there needs to be change and improvement to the system. Those that feel that the education system is good are generally referring to the facilities and focus on the students, not the outcome of the students’ actual education and skills. The overwhelming consensus is that the students are sent into the workforce with a lower level of education than is ideal to benefit the community.

Similar to education, members of the community find a problem with the skills training of the workforce. There is an overall lack of technical schools and technical training to craft



workers to be more beneficial to society. The lack of a four- year university is another factor that inhibits a higher education and skill level. Although found to be under educated and lacking technical skills, according to the survey, the workforce in this area is seen as *“willing and trainable”* as well as *“loyal and dependable”*. This *“eager quality”* that the Pennyrile citizen is believed to imbibe leaves room for a great deal of potential for the workforce of this region.

Hindering the potential of the workforce in Pennyrile, inhabitants believe that there are not enough *“good jobs”* for residents of the region to strive for. Geographically, Pennyrile has a number of natural resources (*coal, water, and lumber*) that help the community survive economically. Coal, being seen as one of Pennyrile’s biggest assets, is also seen as a hindrance on the community. The focus on coal is blamed for the lack of interest in new industry in the community. *“Coal has given many young men good jobs with excellent pay but has taken away the incentive to obtain an education”*. There is also a lack of tax incentives for new industries to want to reside in the region. With better tax incentives and a better economy, possibly created by the allowance of alcohol in dry counties, community members believe that new industries will show an interest in being located in Pennyrile.

## Community and Government

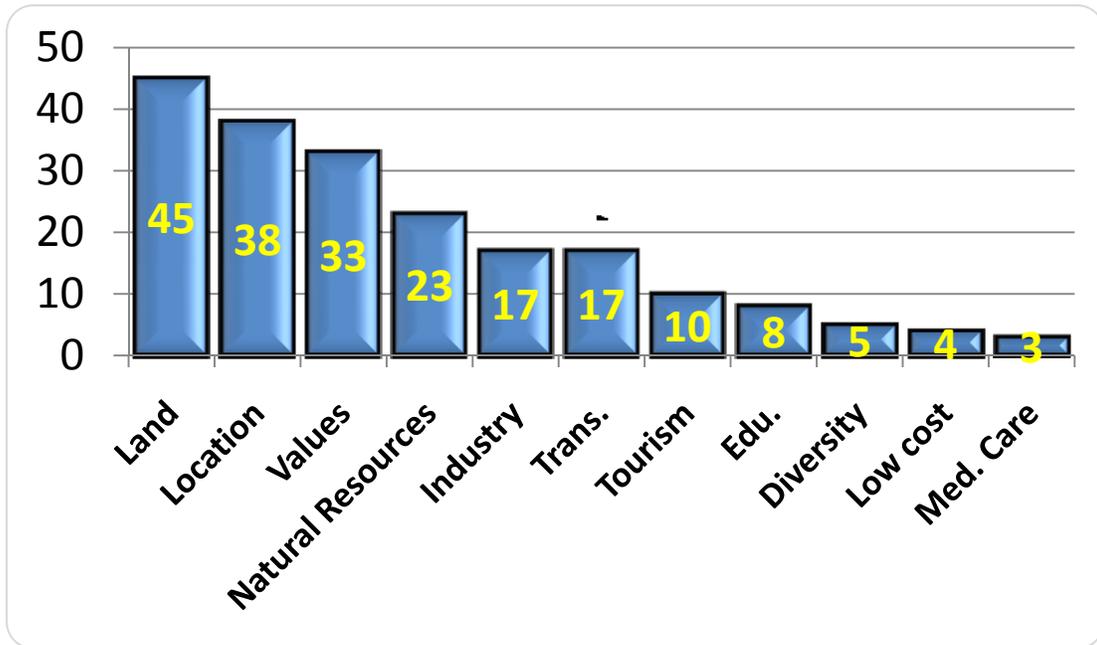
As seen above, some of the aspects of Pennyrile that make this community unique and charming also lead to the other problems it has economically. Much of this can be seen when referring to the government and community of the region. The values of Pennyrile are what make this area as unique as it is. The community has a *“small town feel”* with friendly people, and a great sense of family. There is a good amount of *“pride in its history and traditions”* and a low crime rate that makes residents feel safe and comfortable. These charming aspects of the community are also given the blame for the regions old time thinking and closed-minded nature. As presented by the survey, these very ideals put *“limits”* on the area’s potential. There is a concern that this discrepancy stops the region from having a unified vision between the old and new time thinking. The lack of connection between the region as a whole, as well as between the community and government, is blamed for the region’s inability to move forward and take advantage of the full potential it has.

## Survey Results

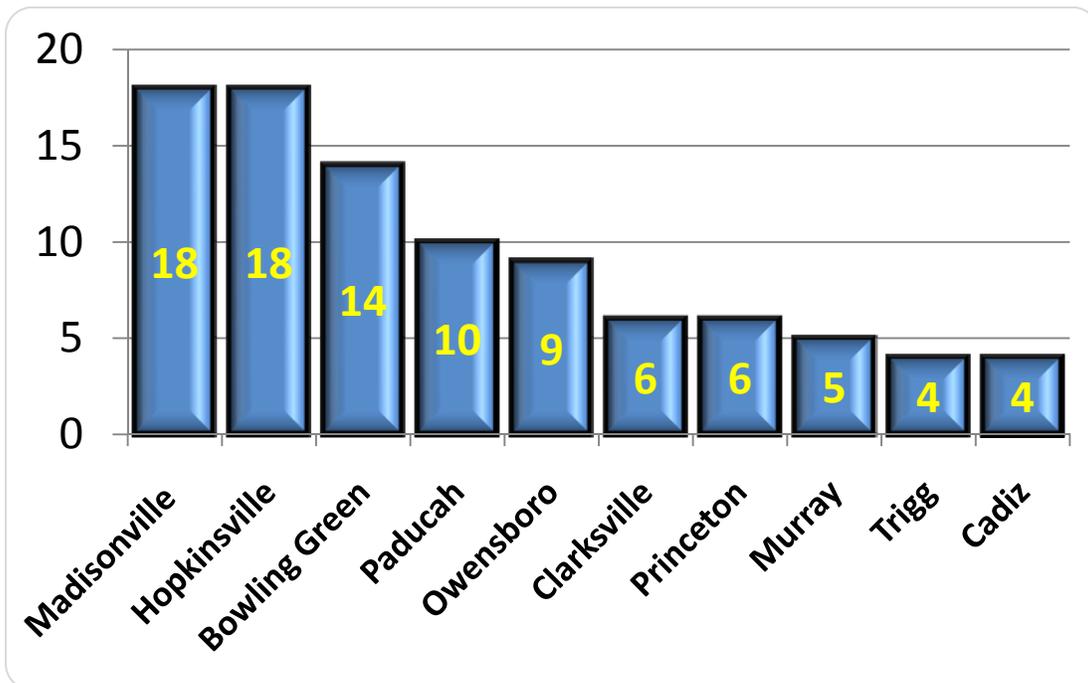
Below we have created an appendix consisting of the open- ended responses to the survey conducted. The data has then been further grouped and organized by theme into graph format to give a better understanding of the responses collected from the Pennyrile community members.



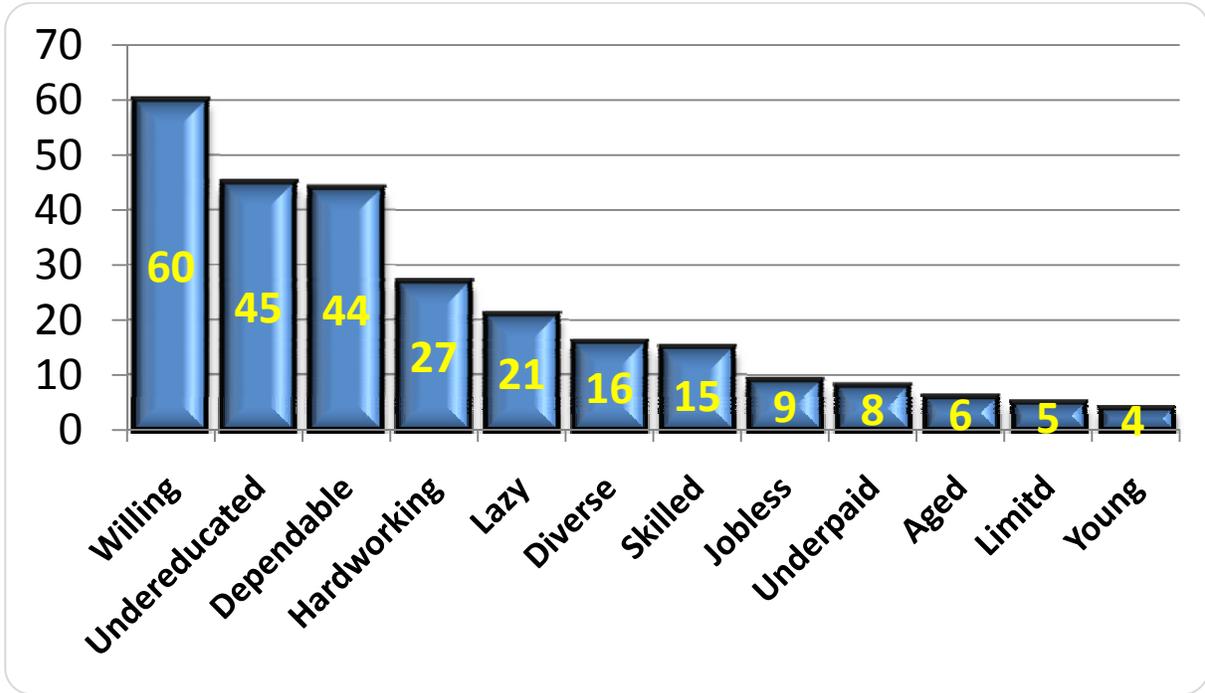
What makes Pennyriple region unique compared to other communities?



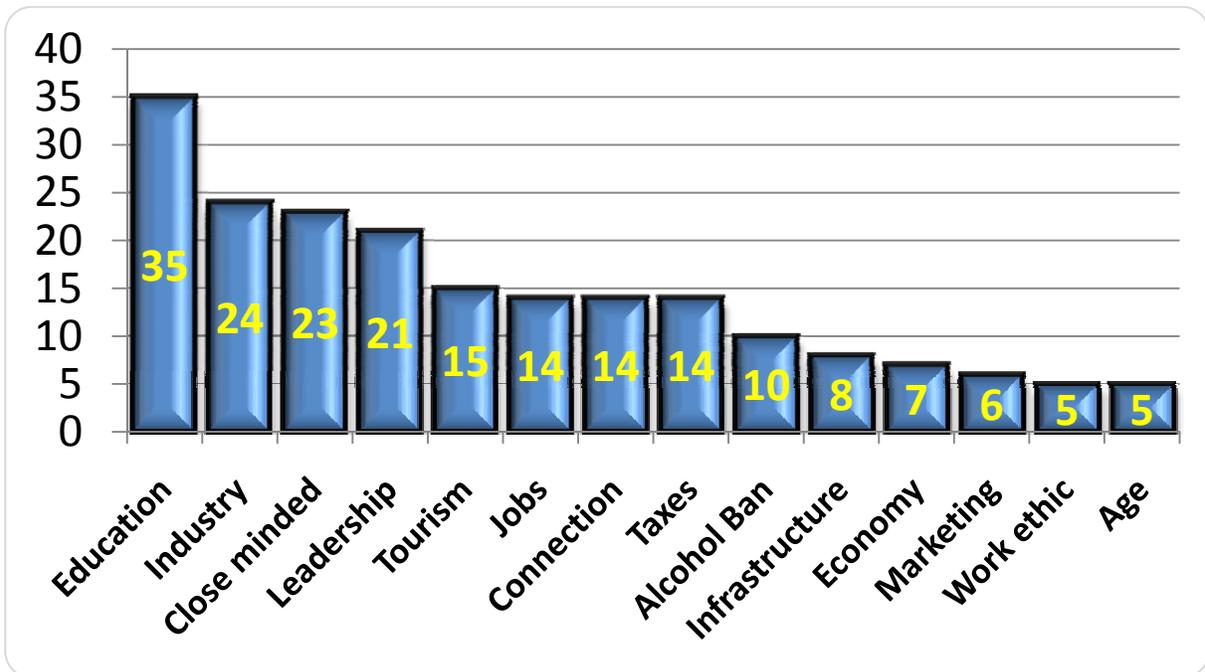
What one city or region best represents where the Pennyriple region wants to be 10 years from today?



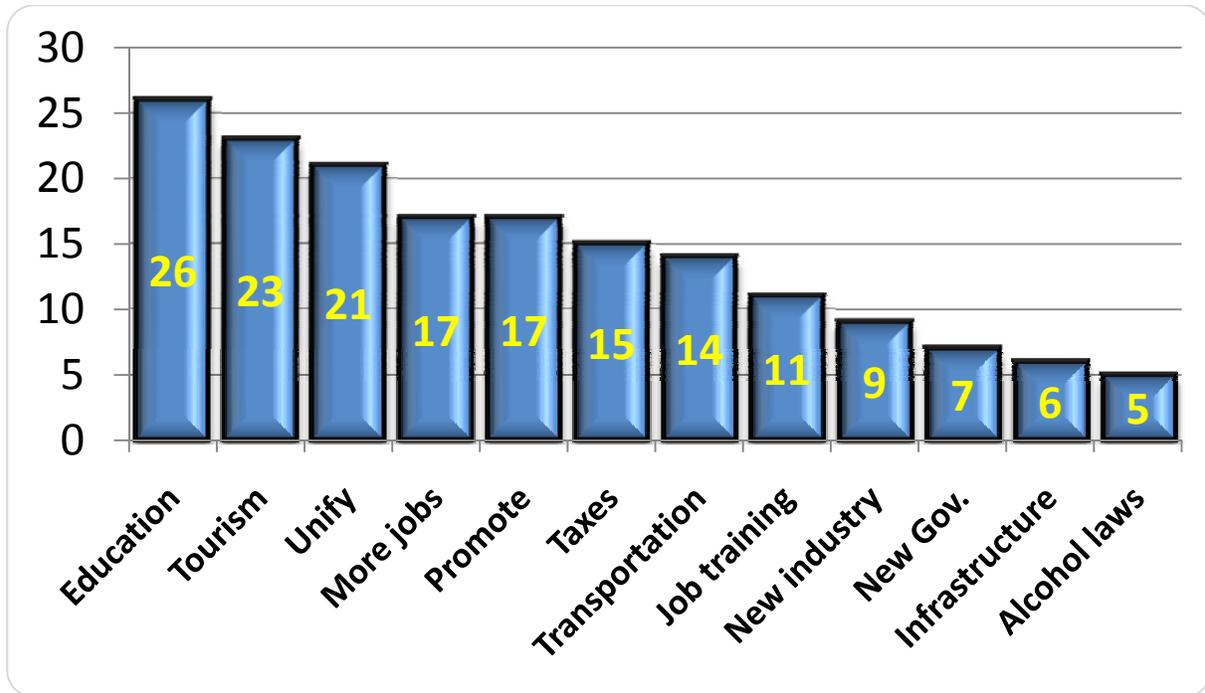
List three words that describe the Pennyrile region's workforce



What, if anything, is holding the region back in terms of economic development?



If you were "king" of the Pennyryle region, what one action would you take to improve the future potential of the region?



## PENNYRILE FUTURE SURVEY RESPONSES

### What makes the Pennyrile region unique compared to other communities?

Recreational opportunities, location, civil war history, coal mining industry, transportation and communication hub, quality of life, overall low crime rate.

Lack of education

The Lakes

Family and friends

Comfortable, relaxed, safe lifestyle. Lack of jobs.

We have lots of water for various sports, such as swimming, fishing, boating.

For the most part we are a region who does work together within our communities, lots of passion within these communities, and leaders who love their towns!

The location (near major interstates). Rural, but near larger cities.

Has an excellent mix of rural values and cosmopolitan knowledge base.

The Lake Barkley recreation area is poised to explode with economic growth. We have seen economic growth in Trigg county after the sale of alcohol was passed and Lyon County is similarly on the verge of growth once that happens here.

The wonderful people.

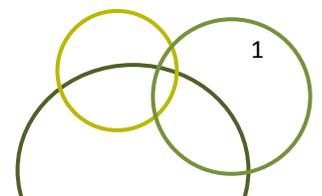
There is a lot of coal mining in the area.

The lakes and small-town atmosphere.

Hunting fishing tourist activities.

Depends economically on a variety of interests--no one business/field supports the economy. Other regions usually seem to have one major economic interest that is primary.

Available land in large segments and good transportation network.



Small town atmosphere.

Beautiful forestry, geographically located near KY Lake, Barkley, Lake Beshear, Lake Malone, and many other water based areas. Historic Dawson Springs. Horse riding, hiking trails, nature.

The work ethic of most of the people here. Also, the hospitality of the people.

Small community, sense of family, great medical care, good educational facilities.

ALREADY SET UP AND FUNCTION VERY WELL

Transportation and tourism access.

The Pennyrile region is unique due to its location in western KY. There is not a convenient interstate to connect from I 64 to the southern routes.

Small companies located in Western Kentucky that have far reaching effects in the US and overseas. For example McCoy & McCoy Laboratories (US and overseas clients one of only a few NELAC certifications), Gibbs Die Casting and Audubon Metals (one is one of the largest recyclers and the other one of the largest suppliers of Aluminum both have customers in US and overseas), Landstar usually 1 or 2 largest carriers in the US. Calhoun's one of the largest pork producers in the tri-state area. These are just a few examples there are many more. WE also have one of the most beautiful areas in the state.

It's natural resource of coal

Mining

Diversity, in both location as well as quality of life. We have rural areas, as well as more populated areas. We have farming communities and lakefront properties.

Lake Barkley, interstate/parkway, LBL, Venture River.

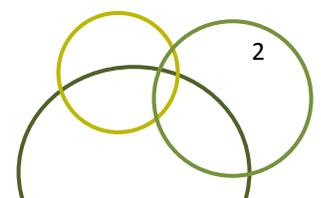
The Lakes

Small town environment

Good people, wonderful weather, unspoiled land, lots of animals, It's just a happy place.

Friendly people

Small town atmosphere



Natural beauty, rural setting, natural resources

We have the lake area and Trail of Tears Memorial sites.

Low cost of living: good work force; excellent health care; good education opportunities; good place to raise a family.

It's diversity in people, education, industry and recreational areas.

The access to metropolitan areas but the comfort of small community living.

There seems to be a genuine concern about economic development---lots of evidence of related projects

Country life style connected to land, forest, recreation and people

It has 4 lane highways crisscrossing in it. It is a future corridor for the I 69. It has a tremendous resource with the Land Between the Lakes area. Our economy does not move as quickly up or down (thankfully) as many other areas of the country. We now have great cell phone services in our area. We also have great fiber optics running through Madisonville.

I believe it provides a great venue for industries given the vast variety of physical settings (e.g. vacant land).

Cross roads of 2 major highway systems (I24 and US41), gentle rolling hills, clear waterways

Labor force that is adaptable and willing to learn; Abundant resources and land available for expansion opportunities; multiple educated professionals, however, local officials of smaller towns are oblivious because those professionals are driving to other communities to work because those opportunities aren't available in the smaller towns.

Our centralized location in the Eastern USA, the state's 4-lane parkway system, the low cost of living relative to more urban areas.

We have agriculture, railroads, freeways I69 river potential, commerce. We have coal mining potential, tourism and Military resources.

This area is part of the Illinois Coal Basin with hundreds of years of energy reserves to tap these resources we have to develop the skills necessary to mine the coal that will support our country's energy demands.

Major highways and lakes area.

Not sure if anything is completely unique, but the lakes region, the interstate transportation network (now and planned), our central location within the



Midwest, and a decent cost of living index.

The geography lends itself to a relaxed atmosphere where many people tend to migrate towards in their efforts to get away from urban stress.

The apparent common-sense approach to addressing economic & cultural needs.

#### THE PEOPLE AND OUR VALUES

Trees, water resources, coal, unique people with deep history and culture of a rural Kentucky region.

Community spirit and desire to improve. Economic development is working diligently to bring work opportunities here.

Location, our natural resources for relaxation

Transportation infrastructure and the development of I-69; recreational opportunities, i.e. lakes, parks; low cost of living and quality of life for retirement, abundant water supply, excellent health care and post-secondary educational facilities, available workforce.

The lakes

Most of the region is rural and community oriented.

Its natural resources i.e. coal and proximity to KY Lake.

Diverse energy sources- coal, hydroelectric, etc.

A close knit community feel. People really do care about each other. Rural but with access to large cities within a reasonable drive.

Pride in its history and the traditions that have sprung from that.

Multifaceted - Rural farming, towns with manufacturing and mining resources.

Diverse terrain and economic bases in each county.

Centrally located & water.

It's strong work ethic and commitment to the region.

We were born in Muhlenberg County lived here all our life and this area is very special to us.



The region is diverse. Hopkinsville manufacturing, some other counties having little or no manufacturing. Mining and quarries in some counties. The beauty of the area, Lake Barkley and Land between the lakes.

The lakes region to the west plus the Ohio River to the north and Green River to the east.

Location (good transportation, rivers, railroads, easy access to interstate and other multi-lane roads).

We will be "sitting on" I-69 (already 4 lane parkway) and I-24. Have a river port in our area and others nearby. Work being completed on Kentucky Dam to enhance barge traffic. Vanderbilt University and major airport less than 2 hours away as well as other universities and small airports in our area. Near Hemlock site to accommodate spin offs. Industrial park available access c Recreation includes one of the world's largest man made bodies of water and which LBL offers 170,000 acres of wildlife, history and outdoor recreation opportunities, with 300 miles of undeveloped shoreline. Numerous marinas for boaters as well as camp grounds.

Vast amount of natural resources.

Our people, our small towns, our resources.

It is basically rural.

The location, with in a 350 mile radius you have metro areas such as St. Louis, Atlanta, Indianapolis and Nashville. Its lakes and rivers plus the availability of natural resources such as coal, oil and gas. Interstate highways, railways and waterways are easily accessible to interstate commerce.

Proximity to Louisville, Nashville, Bowling Green, Owensboro, etc.

Collaboration of agencies/businesses for the greater good.

Coal history, scenic rivers, variety of land uses- farming, timber production, hunting paradise, good fishing, close enough to big cities if you need them (Nashville, Evansville, Louisville). West KY offers everything anyone needs.

Natural resources, central location, temperate weather, and friendly neighbors.

No large cities. No affiliation with regional economic groups.

It's logistical convenience to all forms of transportation and shipping, rural small communities existing arm in arm with larger, more metropolitan cities....it's the best of both worlds.



Family Values, Small town relationships.

A lot of recreation activities.

The warm and friendly people, the lakes, the hills, communities nestled between the major arteries.

Central location in Western Ky. Lot of undeveloped potential in the area.

Abundant natural resources, interstates, children desire to stay here.

For me, it is the Lakes.

Its numerous summer time tourist draws.

River/lake country. A tourism Mecca.

The beautiful forests, natural areas, lakes and LBL. Also it is not overcrowded.

Lakes

Rural nature

Our geographical location to major interstate travel, normaly moderate climate, available land for industry.

We are sitting on a Gold mine here on Lake Barkley and the Kentucky Lake.

The lakes and the people

The recreation possibilities at Lake Barkely make our area unique since it draws a lot of tourist to our area.

Lakes

Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake

The lakes

Lakes

Landscape, Lakelands, Unique history of towns being flooded and moved to form lakes. Among the largest lakes in the US.

The amount of recreational opportunity.



The area we live in has not only I-24, but WKY pkwy.

First its people and their friendliness; its lakes, rivers, ponds and springs; Our state parks are fantastic so perhaps Mineral Mound could get a lodge & cabins! Young people could work their summers in seasonal state jobs.

Tourism opportunities with the lakes area.

The Lakes

Lakes Area

Topography

Great location

Geographical location

Excellent parkway and developing interstate (I-69) ground transportation for business, tourism and pleasure use.

LOCATION!!!! We are about halfway between St. Louis, MO, and Nashville, TN. We are uniquely situated on rivers. We have railroads, interstate highways, parkways, and small airports. Transportation from here to anywhere in the mainland 48 is no problem. We are within a day's travel of most of the country. We have unbelievable recreational opportunity with the Lakes. We have wonderful educational systems from preschool up. We are within driving distance of highly-rated colleges and universities.

The people

Interstate, water/lakes, port, low crime, small town atmosphere.

Rural, yet has access to the lakes and close proximity to interstate and parkways.

Location (proximity to Interstates; Fort Campbell).

Central location within 500 miles of 2/3 population of the US, plentiful water resources, excellent community college(MCC), low cost energy, and good transportation.

Diversity of terrain (rivers & lakes, bluffs and hills, caves); proximity to major metro areas (Louisville & Nashville) and easy access to each.

Geographic location to the rest of the U.S.

Unique combination of lakes/recreation, farming, mining and proximity to Ft.



Campbell.

Ft Campbell, the lakes, hometown feel and regional appeal.

Natural resources and proximity to larger metropolitan areas. (Nashville, Evansville)

all work well together and for the good of our communities.

Great diversity amongst people.

Geographic location to such a large percentage of nation's population crisscrossed by interstate highway network.

Always looking and thinking forward into the future of the students.

Great balance. Rural v urban. Weather. Friendly people. Safe environment.

Being in the far western part of the state which includes lakes area, agriculture and influx of Mennonite/Amish Operations, Land between the Lakes, several State Parks and Resort Parks. People are friendly and helpful. Interstates/Parkways.

Wonderful outdoor activities

The lakes

Our region is unique b/c of the lakes and LBL

The natural beauty; lakes, bluffs, & creeks

It is a beautiful place with contrasting geography and a rich diverse culture.

We have all the resources that anyone would need.

Our central location, agriculture, lakes.

One of the advantages of our region is the Land between the Lakes area. I feel this would be a draw to any industries that might want to move into Kentucky's western region.

The lakes, outdoor tourist opportunities, smaller communities.

Small town, but close to larger cities if needed.

It has friendly citizens



The lakes

Site location with access to rail, interstates (I-66 & I-69), and marine (Green River).

The region is ideally suited to provide supply chain management solutions.

Natural resources are great--lots of diversity in plant and animal life, good outdoor recreation.

We are very much an agricultural community with very cultured people. We are also a retirement area.

The friendliness our people offer is welcoming and comforting for visitors and new members of the community.

The natural resources (parks/Lakes) and its access to the network hub of transportation

Except for Christian, the counties are similar in size and all rural

The lakes

It is a rural area which still remains relatively safe with honest and caring people.

The Lakes area

Central Location, Road System, Educational institutions, good work force, availability of employment opportunities, recreational facilities

Land between the Lakes, and the opportunity to increase tourism.

I believe that this area is a much more hospitable than most. People are willing to work with you for improvements.

The natural resources, state parks, quality schools and wholesome communities.

The landscape is beautiful and the local businesses treat their customers and other personnel with high respect.

Lakes, large agricultural area, Ft. Campbell.

Rich in diverse natural resources, education, and population diversity.

Besides the beauty of our area. The Pennyryle region has the nicest people compared to other communities.



Lakes, LBL, Ft. Campbell, retirement community, etc...

The cities are small enough for you to know and care for your neighbors.

We have the natural beauty of the lakes area, and we are located close to Ft. Campbell.

The lake areas, LBL, small communities, good people

Our natural resources and tourism

The lake area and state parks.

The closeness of the people - willing to help when needed.

The beauty of the land and the hometown environments.

Land Between the lakes, State Parks

Lake area recreation

We have a unique mixture of industrial/commercial communities as well as communities based on tourism.

While there are no major cities in the region we are close to areas such as Nashville, TN; Evansville, IN; and are within just a few hours of Louisville, Memphis, St. Louis, Atlanta, and Cincinnati. We have recreation areas such as the Lakes Region and opportunities throughout the region for those who like to hunt, fish, and hike.

The forward looking vision and leadership of the WKY WIB/PADD. Also, taking advantage of the great water ways in the region, numerous current industries, and a great workforce development system.

The rural nature of the area offers a good quality of life. Natural resources are a plus as well (lake region).

Excellent location within central United States and in proximity to 2/3 of the nation's population.

Extremely competitive energy prices, main corridor in the form of the Pennyryle Parkway that is relatively close to other main through roads, educational opportunities, coal severance funding, Governor is from Hopkins County, infrastructure. Relatively close to Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee and Illinois.

As far as the potential for business I think the fact that we have 3 POP's in Madisonville, KY and the amount of fiber optic lines for the transmission of

internet and voice data sets us apart from most other places in this region.

## What one city or region best represents where the Pennyrile region wants to be 10 years from today?

Cadiz or Princeton for focusing on their downtown revitalization efforts.

None

Paducah

Kentucky Lake

Glasgow area

Trigg county at this time has the most tourism and Hopkins county would like to have people visit

I like what Bardstown has done in its overall image, branding, and vision.

Murfreesboro TN (Middle TN)

Probably the Bluegrass region.

Hopkinsville

Most any city where the jobs are going.

Evansville, Indiana

Golden Triangle -- receive as much funding as it does

Owensboro, KY area

Clarksville, TN

Paducah area.

Paducah or Owensboro ( I know you said only 1)

The Bluegrass Region in Central Kentucky

Madisonville

MADISONVILLE KY

Princeton

Hopkinsville, KY

Hopkins County

Madisonville as it is noted as "The Best Town on Earth"

Madisonville

Bowling Green

A progressive city/region designed for foot, bike and auto travel, parks and landscaping. Excellent broadband access, eco-tourism

Carbondale

Owensboro

Madisonville

Hopkinsville because there is more industry there.

Central Kentucky

Hopkinsville

Madisonville

Bowling Green

Hopkinsville

Not sure

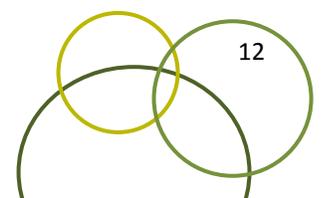
Paducah (growth) Madisonville (great future with the corridor situation)

Lyon

Hopkinsville or Madisonville

Hopkinsville

Madisonville



Hopkinsville

Bowling Green

Central KY

Wow, tough question. Maybe western N. Carolina or the Florence SC area????

Possibly the southern Indiana area (Evansville)

Madisonville

HOPKINS

I don't think in terms of cities when I think of the Pennyrile. It is a rural area with a few Large villages

Madisonville

Owensboro or Henderson

At this time, Hopkinsville

Paducah

Owensboro

Hopkinsville

I am in love with Paducah, KY. Weekend events, lower town arts district, specialty restaurants, but still a hometown feel.

A region with manufacturing, mining and service related employers.

Madisonville

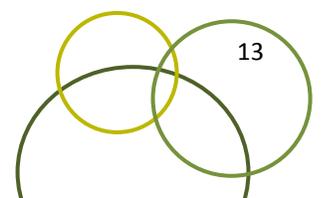
Tupelo Mississippi

Austin, Texas

Madisonville

Greenville

I would think striving to better than the region is important.



Lake of the Ozarks

Bowling Green. They have leveraged I-65 and WKU well.

Although not in the Pennyrile region, Bowling Green is a great example

Since Lyon County is tourism oriented, Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg, Branson resort area

Greenville

Golden triangle in Kentucky

Bardstown, Kentucky; Bardstown is about the size of most cities in the Pennyrile region. It has a great downtown area with neat shops and industry that seems to meet the employment needs of the community.

Decatur Alabama

?

Actually, I don't think any city represents where we want to be 10 years from now. Infrastructure issues, including roads, keep our cities from reaching that goal. The closest city which comes to mind, not in PADD though, is Owensboro.

Marion, Kentucky

Bowling Green

Bowling Green, KY

Franklin, TN

Bowling Green

Greenville

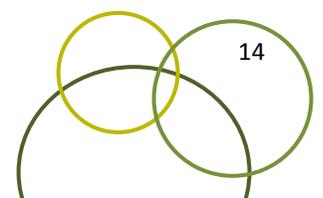
Owensboro

Branson, Missouri

A blend of Lexington, KY and Asheville, NC

Lyon County

Hopkinsville



Hopkinsville

Paducah is the most progressive

Caldwell

I don't think we have one...Some folks talk a good future, but hold the chances back

Princeton mayor Gayle cherry has done a great job with the City and its growth

Marshall county

Not sure what you mean?

Princeton

Grand Rivers

Benton

I don't know.

Grand Rivers

Paducah, KY

Cadiz, KY

Nashville area

Brownville, TX

Clarksville, TN

Owensboro

I don't think anyone has earned this distinction yet.

Not sure. None of us are doing as well as we should.

Madisonville

Lakes area

Lexington/Georgetown area

Bowling Green or Owensboro

Paducah, KY. (for its embrace of arts and culture as primary identifier)

Bowling Green, KY

Princeton

Any destination city - industries to employ those that live here and "green" vacation Spot to attract

Oak Grove

Madisonville

Trigg

Madisonville

Clarksville Tennessee Region

Not sure if any do; I want Cadiz to always be quaint and special.

Paducah, KY

Present day Princeton, its got the down home charm that people fall in love with

Cadiz

Montgomery County Tennessee

The concept that used to be lets go to Detroit to work

Murray, KY

There are several areas with small steady growth that do not change the essence of that town.

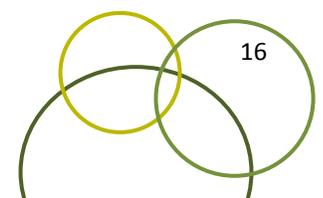
Bowling Green

The Lexington Area, which is beautiful

Clarksville TN

Memphis, Tennessee

Charlotte NC



Bluegrass Region

Clarksville, TN

We all need to develop our own communities' individual uniqueness's and work on partnerships.

The lakes area - Cadiz

The lake area

Hopkinsville

Franklin, TN

Hopkinsville

Murray

???

Murray, KY is a city where they thrive on local community support.

Bowling Green

La Fayette, KY (except size)

I feel that our region would love to have a city much like that of Lexington, KY. The city has much t

Not sure...Murray???

Cadiz, Trigg County

Paducah--we do not have a city that is growing and creating jobs.

Paducah, still small, but more work opportunities

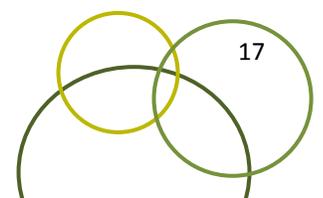
Paducah

Paducah. Its rich art community lends character to the area.

Trigg is the top choice with Caldwell second.

Elizabethtown area

I don't know if there is a model city or not but I think Murray Kentucky provides a good model.



Paducah

Madisonville

Clarksville, TN. It is one of the fastest growing in TN and has been only minimally affected by the downturn in the economy.

The five county regions of Christian, Caldwell Trigg, Todd and Muhlenberg Counties.

I don't know of a specific city, but it would be one that has a secure economic future that is an attractive place for young families to reside.

Bowling Green (KY) has seen tremendous growth.

### List three words that describe the Pennyrile region's workforce

Uneducated, unmotivated, unskilled

Reliable-trustworthy-hardworking

Available, willing, looking

Bluecollar, grassroot, loyal

Dedicated, people, area

Not very innovative

Lack of motivation

Abundant, willing, educable.

Capable, trainable, hard-working

Hardworking, dependable, honest

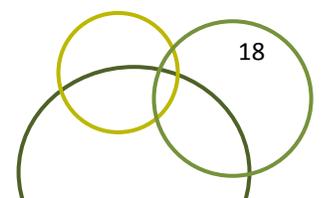
Jobless, angry, and trainable.

Undereducated; untrained in public service; no ambition

Static, Unmotivated, Undereducated

Undereducated, good work ethic, wide range of good to bad

Lack of jobs!.



Underpaid, under-educated, overworked for their wages

Young, Highschool graduate

Coal Miners, Medical Personnel, Educators

SLOPPY AND NOT TO PRODUCTIVE

Scattered, uneducated, unenthusiastic

Hard, Good, Dependable work force

Skilled, all ages and willign to learn if given the tools

Responsible, dedicated, aggressive

Need job skills

Hard-working, trainable, and adaptable

Friendly

Uneducated, Polite, Eager

Declining, stagnet, fair

Happy, Skilled,clean

Not enough work

Undereducated, unmotivated

Dedicated hardworking diverse

Excellant work force.

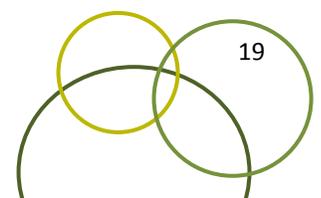
Young, eager and willing

ready to work

Committed, insecure, fearful

Education including specialized school like cooking school, recreation, and farm land

Plentiful 2. Balanced with blue collar and white collar talent. 3. Affordable for



the large employers

Depressed, need for budget support, need for education

Hard working

Dedicated, adaptable and knowledgeable

Dedicated, hard-working, productive

Hard working with great potential

Lacks a skilled workforce

Dedicated hard working

Too manufacturing reliant, behind educationally, but relatively hard work ethic.

Uneducated general laborers.

Committed, Faithful, Desperate (for jobs in general)

UNDER PAID

Dedicated, under educated

Friendly, hard working, and flexible

Willing, honest, overweight

Willing, available, trainable

Dedicated, Willing, old

Life long citizens

Rural, local, loyal

Unprepared, industrial, agricultural

Unflexible, old fashioned, stagnant

Eager for Opportunities

Dependable, hard-working

Willingness to work hard, mechanically inclined, needing a job



Organized, hardworking, undereducated

Determined, honest, and loyal

Unemployment is very high! Not enough jobs.

Hardworking, but unskilled

Mature, loyal, hard-working

not work ready

Ready, Willing, Unable

We have a strong available work force and education institutions that would assist in training to meet the needs of business and industry

Adaptable, uneducated, trainable

In need of education

Smart, Willing to work, Trainable

Plentiful; Willing; Uneducated

Older, under-trained,, under-educated

Ready, Willing & Able

Dedicated, honest, hungry

Hardworking, dependable, and willingness to learn  
Undereducated

Varied, motivated, eager

Lacking , underpaid, unavailable

Committed, loyal, trainable

Blue collar, aging but developing

Capable, available, and eager

Untrained, abundant



Resilient, adaptable, hard-working

Inadequate, poorly educated.

Limited, aged, limited skillsets

Hardworking, deicated, loyal

Low pay employment

Untapped abilty & potential

Lazy, unreliable, sparse

Our work forces has to travel because we have nil.

Hard working, but losing brain power to bigger areas.

Under-educated, under-paid

Able willing ready

Lazy, Lacking and Untrained

Under paid, short on skills

Blue collar worker

Minimum wage folks have much room for improvement.

No response

Fair

Lacking!

Too laid back without since of urgency

Poor, untrained unmotivated

Poor new busseness relations

Underdeveloped, too many unskilled, hardworking

Lazy, uneducated, dependant

Educated, dependable, respectful



Undereducated, entitlement attitude, and generally accepting of the status quo.

Educated, ethical, industrious

Loyal, steadfast, hardworking

Unemployed, overqualified (in some areas), aging

Willing, hands-on, undereducated

Plentiful, union legacy, trainable

Adaptable, loyal, durable

Skilled, dedicated, committed

Motivated, unskilled, patriotic

Experienced or uneducated

Underprepared, unmotivated, short-sighted

Educated, growing, dynamic

Limited, manufacturing, layoffs

Too few good paying jobs and lack of industry.

Lazy, welfare, unconcerned

Unique, genuine, productive

Dedicated. Sacrifice. Tough.

Loyal-Trainable

Slow, crisis, unemployment

Educated; committed; accepting

Farming, education

Hardworking   Intelligent   Underappreciated   I'm talking about actual workers



Underpaid, nepotism, scarce

Diversified, Able, Willing

Available, retired military, diverse

Hard-working, loyal, dedicated

Unemployment, factories, fast food

Not enough jobs

Depressed, eager, worried

Not to good now

Not in due with Global Market Opportunities and Challenges

Tenacious, flexible, determined

Agricultural, high school graduates, and diverse.

Undeveloped, yet willing and ready.

Friendly, ready, cautious

too much unemployment (factory closings) and tourist industries, great

State Parks, small local businesses

Ample,workable,laid off

Not enough jobs

Willing, aging, unprepared

Energetic, dependable, knowledgeable

Ready, responsible, reliable

Willing, Able, and Available

Lacking, wanting industry

Respectful, Considerate, and Hard working



Agriculture, education, industry

Diverse

Willing, hard working, and hopeful for a stronger workforce

Very hard working

Education, farmers, skilled factory workers

Young, teachable but unprepared

Lacking describes it all

Limited

College, schools, and factories

Versatile

Numerous, hardworking dependable

Hard working loyal

Hardworking, Talented, Intelligent

Opportunity Diversity Fairness

Outdated mindset, academically underprepared, receptive

Ready to work

Short sighted, talented, potential

## What if anything is holding the region back in terms of economic development?

Literacy rates, local political leaders' lack of support for community colleges, a true focus on transportation needs for the future (lack of understanding and support for development of I-69 and 66), broadband for remote areas, water and sewer needs must continue to improve for smaller towns, cancer and obesity rates.

Lack of education



Lowering the Lake; Schools starting early (before Labor Day); Being able to purchase alcohol and have a drink while dining out.

No jobs, too many housing projects for such a small town, Nothing to do

Geographic location, resistance to leading positive change

We need more factories and work for our community to grow. Mostly sending our jobs to other countries.

"turf protection"

Hospitals, airport, lack of interest from some local officials to take care of the businesses that have been here for an extended period of time. These are the businesses that are the backbone of the region. This will show new businesses that the locals take care of businesses that stay in this area. Recruit higher quality businesses.

Lack of industrial development.

I have heard it said that for great growth to happen, at least in Lyon County, a whole bunch of people need to die. Unfortunately that may have some merit as the older ideas and resistance to tourism (our #1 attraction) seem to be rooted firmly in those who are older and often leaders or influencers in our community.

Empty factories

It appears all of the better paying jobs are being shipped overseas.

Industry, shopping, and restaurants

Too dependent on coal as source of economic base

Underutilization of education, training, & skills

Lack of region- wide leadership; most actions are parochial in nature.

Need to allow alcohol sales which would bring in better restaurants and more

jobs. Keep \$ local. Paducah, Hopkinsville, Cadiz, Dawson Springs profiting from

tax dollars. Not allowing sales in county is not stopping the alcohol use.

Monetary incentives for new business enterprises; cost of doing business in Madisonville and other surrounding cities; Commercial rates on electricity (Demand); Money allocated for small business enterprises from banks; uneducated adults; social morays; lethargy; a new way of thinking as opposed

to traditional politics and administration.

The Poverty of the county

Need more places to work, need more higher education possible employments

NOT ENOUGH TAX CREDITS GIVEN TO EXPANDING COMPANIES WANTING TO RELOCATE BY THE STATE AND COUNTY AND CITY. THESE PEOPLE MAKE THE JOBS YOU KNOW

Coordinated effort between counties and community governments

A connection from Evansville, IN to Memphis.

Work ethic and education (math for example - they should give senior high school students the TABE test say 9th grade level see how many pass). It starts in our elementary schools. The local colleges get all these grants and scholarships for student but the damage is already done by the time they get to college. We should invest in our youth for tomorrow.

Trying to save and hold on to the "Almighty dollar" is causing us to lose economically.

Right now, it seems as if everyone has only their own personal gain and best interest at heart and not the region as a whole. This seems to stem from uncertainty of the overall economical situation of the nation.

An adequately trained workforce

Infrastructure and education

Higher education facilities attract businesses, development.

Education, Education, Education

Big industry

Too clanedish; reluctant to try.

Education, lack of work ethic, people don't take care of themselves

Companies not coming here with good paying jobs, not sure is the region is not offering tax breaks for them or what.

Lack of aggressive state incentives, transportation issues, undereducated workforce, too many local governments, some union issues.



The national economy and school systems. KY is not well known for having great schools on a national level.

Not being on an Interstate highway; not having a four year college in Madisonville; not having a growing population; lack of entrepreneurs.

The community fails to recognize the importance of coal and other industry's contribution to the overall well being of the region. Only negative things are talked about in the media and in the community.

Politics. Taxes. Lack of incentive for companies to locate here.

Financial resources and lack of educational preparation.

Lacks "coolness" to attract young people. Make the world class educational facilities, high tech farming, culinary center using healthy food.

Many people still don't see the value of a great education even if they only intend to work with their hands and never leave this region. Education ads esteem, helps family life, helps guide the children, increases income in any business, and tends to steer people to better lives overall and longer lives.

Lacks of educational support/funding to move the region forward. Also, need for variety of industry/businesses, rather than banks and gas stations.

No tourism beyond the Lakes area

Close-minded politicians who want to decorate instead of pursue available opportunities; Pursue low-paying manufacturing jobs rather than spending the capital to pursue high-tech and high-pay jobs. Local officials are proud to promote "cheap labor"

Educational attainment levels of the workforce/population, Kentucky's cumbersome and out-dated tax structure, limited water/sewer infrastructure and capacity outside incorporated areas.

High Taxes, for companies that want to locate here.

Training for the workforces that have the technology skills that bring companies to the area.

Lack of motel rooms

A state government system based on 120 counties would be the first thing. One of our strengths (community pride) is also one of our biggest obstacles to

change. While progress towards regionalism has been made, the journey is probably only 5% to 10% complete.

The general concept that the region is a "nice" retirement area but not necessarily an "industrial" community.

Labor Unions.

#### STRONG LARGER COMPANIES

It is an unknown region to most manufacturers and suppliers; therefore, lack of marketing of the region to those who employ people.

More educational opportunities and the "good ole' boy approach". The region is way too political.

Leadership

Futuristic regional planning and the inability to convince the citizenry that things must change for the economic survival of the regional (too much resistance to new innovations and ideas.

Open Access to all programs without bias terms.

Tourist traffic

Lack of visionary leadership

Economy-need to start bringing in businesses and industry after so many left the area

Madisonville city area has forward thinking people, in terms of flexibility and new ideas, but I find the outlying rural areas are resistant to change and want to keep their "good ole boy" attitude.

Lack of: flexibility, general desire for change, and respect for education.

Closing of industries and moving operations out of country.

Mind set of some that education isn't important

Lack of coordination and county/city rivalry

Unions



Lack of education

Too many politicians and it is all about who you are and how you vote.

Perception of unskilled.

Technically-skilled workforce

High schools need to be focused on preparing students beginning in middle school for a career track. There is also a lack of rigor for those wanting to be prepared for higher education. Talk to Dale Todd Muhl- county superintendent.

Lack of skills. Lack of advanced education to learn these skills and lack of education to realize how important it is to learn them.

Economy of our country.

Lack of a quality trained workforce.

Not thinking in terms of small businesses and what they mean to communities, counties, etc

Our region is not well known outside the region.

Availability of a trained, educated workforce. Lack of computer related skills to perform today's high tech jobs. Example: Hemlock Semiconductor locating in Clarksville, Tennessee has to send its potential workforce to school to get the required training and degrees to perform the job they need.

Lack of opportunities, education and drug use.

Rural area. Younger workforce is leaving the area due to lack of job opportunities.

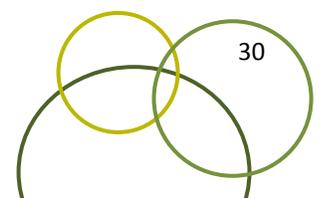
Infrastructure, historical "union" ties

Lack of highly educated workforce

Educated workforce. A desire to get the education needed and desire to "WORK".

Lack of current ability to know how to attract larger business/corporations

Politics, too many jobs gone to other countries! We have Coal, a real resource and we have to fight to use it!



Lack of investment

Threats on community hospitals, drugs, lack of 3G technology/broadband, this decline of existing commercial real estate properties that are abandoned and left to become unutilized land with empty, sad and ugly buildings.

Some training and a touch of carryover from days of much larger mining scale.

Attitudes need to move forward

Not having a trained workforce

Lack of major industry with good paying jobs

Lack of Political leadership. Leaders with a vision, and the desire to accomplish that vision.

Overall resistance to change due to fear of losing its quality of life.

Lack of industry

No new industry for good pay.

Lack of companies providing quality jobs to people with various talents, not just plant or production jobs. We could use a few more high end luxury hotels/spa/resort type of businesses, more gourmet restaurants on the lake, party boat/dinner cruise tours of the lakes- such as Chicago offers on Lake Michigan.

Alcohol sales

Government, high taxes on businesses

Old timers that fight change

Our mayor here in Lyon county and the officials and city council as well as the tourism director

A clear and concise direction and government agencies not taking this seriously

Industry is not prevalent in our area.

Industry

Community involvement, Support and lack of Bank Financing



Jobs, Being dry

State Gov't not focusing outside of the 'triangle': over taxed, poor education system, Not focused on tourism

Don't know

Sale of alcohol in some counties.

The residents that reside in our area don't want change.

More family friendly restaurants such as Denny's and Sonics in our smaller towns like Eddyville and Kuttawa which have practically NOTHING to choose from!

Resistance going wet, Lyon county particular. Local politics in what's in it for the power Brokers

The portion of the population that is against growth & development

Local Officials

shortsightedness, too many "dry" areas

City, County, State Government. The good old Boy's.

City/county government

A consensus regional multi-county development plan (we all end up in competition against each other instead of working to a multi-county plan).

Current economic woes of the global economy, & lack of capital available to make infrastructure investments necessary to keep major travel ways in top shape  
cleaning up the areas people see as they drive into our towns.

Curb appeal, schools, i.e. high dropout rate and low FCAT scores, dry county.

Professionals working as mentors to high school students. Some type of program to keep students in school. It is one of the first places a potential customer and his family will want to look at.

Plants closing, no new industry

1) The increasingly older, uneducated segment of the population that doesn't accept change in any form, whether it be new taxes, zoning, etc., believing any such regulation is taking something away from them. 2) The young, undereducated who refuse to grow up; they don't move on to college or tech training, but prefer to work minimal hours for minimum wage -- just enough to fund their tattoos and video games. 3) Drugs

Union legacy of workers, KY is not a right to work state; Interstate designation of the parkways, lack of funding for marketing, some cities do not look attractive, too much state control

The fear that any form of socioeconomic progress equals a complete breakdown of the values and way of life local residents are accustomed to. 2. Arcane alcohol laws. 3. Too many old people in positions of authority and no term limits for same.

Local elected officials and varied planning and zoning ordinances; infrastructure development

"Dry county" laws. Kentucky's tax laws vs. Tennessee - high sales tax vs income tax, vehicle ad-valorem taxes - both negative factors in bringing military (esp. retired military) to the state.

"we've never done it that way before"

Non-participating workforce - the lack of knowledge that work equals a better life. (For all)

The old click of politics and planning officers

Marketing to outside companies/industries.

NAFTA, New energy source changes present both opportunities and threats.

Lack of Recreational/tourism development.

Too much welfare to too many people with too many governmental programs, reaching too many people, with too few people supporting this mess by overburdened by taxes

Teacher-student ratios

Lazy people. Too dependent on government handouts.

Too focused on the big catch and not concerned with attracting small business. Top secret incentives- need to publicize what can be done for a business or company if they locate in our area. Lets attract and not have so much red tape...

Lack of community events/benefits/resources

The national economy and maybe the infra structure

Reluctance to change; autonomy of towns

Not enough real WORKERS. Most people in this area don't want to get up and get after it. They are content with flipping burgers and selling insurance. I like burgers and I'm glad I've got insurance, but at some point you've got to grow up and get a real job. Lazy people--thats what holds us back!

Lack of change. Some people are not tolerant of others. It seems that people can not get past the color of some people's skin and days gone by. Some of our brightest and up and coming citizens have to leave our region and state to be given a chance and we loose. Some other region or state has the benefit of the knowlege and of course resources. Would you open your company in an area that never would give you a chance or that would not even listen to your ideas?

Politics!! Someone is always worried someone is going to pay more and they will have to match the pay scale to stay competitive. They don't really want to grow!

Recruitment resources, not working together lip service but no action

This region is not as well known as some areas of Kentucky, Exp: Lexington, Louisville, and is not as populated.

The economy with several large factories closing

Old school thinking.

The taxes that Kentucky enforces and the cost of trucking materials, ect.

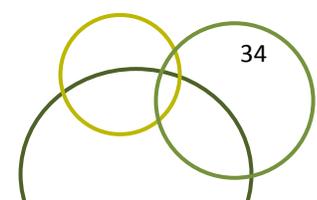
The lack of shopping and eating places

It's failure to realize it has to compete in today's global and national markets.

Coal. Coal continues to be our greatest false promise. We need to move away from thinking it is our best hope.

Tapping into an up and coming industry like "green" technology.

We have no good shopping or nice restaurants. There is zero entertainment in



our region for any age.

We need to work together better and focus on the big picture for the region and leave out small time/petty politics

NAFT - taking factories to Mexico

Economics

Lack of jobs and this generation isn't returning to the region

Need more advanced levels of education - getting ALL students to meet the standards for college and career readiness

Consumer confidence

Bridges and Roads, truly high speed internet, job opportunities that will keep our best here

Lack of Jobs!

Closing of factories and businesses.

Local people not shopping locally

Lack of industry; education; distribution of state funding

Excessive governmental regulations, including various forms of taxes, are stifling development.

Industry

We need to develop the lake area with family oriented facilities and businesses. We spend way too much time focusing on factories that do not exist, etc...We need to focus on developing the lakes that are in our back yard to make money/jobs for our community.

Unemployment due to factories closing and people being out of work.

Attractive cities with updated schools, housing, and shopping. We lack the financial resources to make our area more attractive to someone considering moving here

Lack of industry (need the factory jobs), more jobs available for those with trades (but that would be also be improved with more factories)

Lack of educated people

Promotion of tourism on a national level. Lack of jobs. Mostly, lack of places to eat, shop, and stay.

If the "right people" don't want it to succeed, it won't

The thought that change is not a good thing and many people are afraid that growing means a "big city" life and they don't want that to change.

## If you were "king" of the Pennyryle region, what one action would you take to improve the future potential of the region?

Increase funding to libraries and education projects.

We need a university

Leave the lakes at summer pool and change the laws so alcohol can be purchased and served which will bring new restaurants into the area

Get more jobs here!

Change the education system to develop individuals with critical thinking skills, rather than the current standardizing for testing.

We need more pride, littering really bothers me.. Of course trying to get jobs here is very important

SIGNAGE is key... we need to look at the region from the outside in. Let's get the road signs up, and correct.. Too confusing.

Continue to develop the community college programs.

Marketing to corporations the willingness of Madisonville Community College to partner with those organizations to provide corporate need specific education with the goal of encouraging economic development.

Disband all the small "fiefdoms" and factions and present a more unified vision/agenda for growth.

Bring jobs that can't be outsourced

Work to bring more jobs to the area in regard to new and better energy sources (wind, solar, etc...), and work on a bill or new legislation to reverse the negative

effects of NAFTA, collaborate with corporations that are already making progress (i.e., Honda and the fuel cell car) to bring competition to the gas pump, etc . . .

More cooperative activities throughout region rather than county by county  
Put one entity in charge of all education from preschool through college to ensure continuity.

Create a region wide government and eliminate county/city structures

Family friendly businesses..

One large metro government with 2 representatives from each town/city with informational offices located in metro areas throughout the district. The group would meet weekly, in the evening, televised, committee meetings open and televised, keeping the public aware of how money is spent and what projects are moving forward. Would be an elected District Commissioner with limited 8 year tenure, along with the 2 from each city/town. That way, all are represented equally. Would save tremendous dollars in admin. costs and that money could be put into programs and services. They would also reconstruct current tax base and the entire Pennyrile Region would boom. Would be called WKFTA! Ha

I would explore getting government grants to aid the school system in buying supplies for the students. Also, Federal money could be used to upgrade school classrooms.

Work toward more employment opportunities with higher pay

LOBBY FOR BETTER TAX CREDITS. WE HAVE A GOOD LABOR FORCE. COOPERATE WITH THE COMPANIES THAT IS IN TROUBLE AND NEEDING SOME KIND OF ASSISTANCE. SOME TIME BACK THE YORK PLANT WANTED SOME ASSISTANCEFROM THE CITY AND WAS REFUSED WE NO LONGER HAVE THE PLANT AND ONLY HAVE A VACANT BUILDING

Force government agencies to work together

New Industry to the area.

I would initiate more work days in each community to have our young people help our elderly and lower income individuals with painting and clean up. They can hopefully take pride in their community it has to start here. The younger they are the more they will have better work, community and self worth ethics when they become adults.

I would turn my eyes towards the true King of Kings which is Jesus Christ, humble myself, pray and be prepared to be used by Him. God wants us to be prosperous. It says so in His word.

Fund workforce development projects for our industries

Promote more and better education

Outdoor enthusiast friendly. Make it like a large national park feeling with cities taking on a village atmosphere. Encourage arts as much as possible. Organize private group to purchase outlet mall - I think stores would do better if facing road - hard to change.

Improve the schools, get people to read

Improve incentive for big industry to move to our area... decrease tax?  
Stop the coal people, their day have passed.

Provide opportunities to maintain healthy lifestyles - bike and walking trails, etc.

I would try to bring good paying jobs, factory and etc. so people could live the American dream which it dying fast.

Pump resoucrues into the area to improve education, build, rebuild and upgrade infastructure, provide incentives

Spend more on education and increase awareness of the recreational areas.

Improve the educational level of the citizens. Make the necessary parkway improvements to make I-69 an official interstate highway.

Get political leaders involved with the working people to come up with workable solutions to problems plaguing the area such as unemployment, drugs etc.

Secure jobs for individuals that will be long-term

World class educational facilities, promote sporting events, food industries, A large 4 year college encompassing a regular 4 year college, medical, mining and manufacturing training. But a large, well advertised, well staffed four year college, with pre-law, pre-med, etc. presently or coming soon. A large campus and put it in Madisonville.

Support the growth of the area by inviting possible business owners, such as food establishments

Complete, expand, and promote the sports complex in Hopkins county  
Use established resources in the area and stop demeaning comments toward the citizens of this great area.

Move Kentucky Wesleyan College from Owensboro to Madisonville.

Moritorium on taxing new industry

Bring back the middle class jobs that pay the retirements, health care, and provides the tax base for economic wealth

More motels and expand into different types of shopping and restaurants (get a variety, not the same type of restaurants)

Merge counties. In fact, being the region that lead such an effort might be just the "progressive" reputation that would draw positive attention to our region.

I would hold community meetings for the general public in focus group formats to help determine what the people want and to learn of their opinions of how to achieve it.

**GIVE LARGE INCENTIVES TO LARGER COMPANIES TO COME AND STAY IN OUR REGION**

Hire an economic development director and staff for the region and promote, promote, promote.

Build new library system and expand educational facilities.

Advertise nationally

Select the region's strongest economic opportunity and devote the resources necessary to produce a collaborative effort by all counties to develop it for their mutual benefit.

Provide more high tech jobs and training

I would love to see a nice resort on the lake. Many people come to LBL for vacation and I believe that a hotel that offered spa services, boat rentals, a nice restaurant, etc. would boost the economy in the region. Something like a smaller scale Opryland Hotel

Open up industries that would provide employment opportunities for our younger, educated population. After they leave this area and pursue a college degree there is no draw to bring them back home.

Development of infrastructure to support communications, technology, education, diversity, and culture.

Improve public transportation and education in the elementary and high school level.

Develop a regional portfolio, plan, snapshot of regional assets, bring groups together and get them talking to each other

## Lower taxes

I would sharpen the area's public image to encourage current employers to expand in the area and attract new business who can see that they can prosper by locating here

Keep politicians out and work for everyone.

Finish the I69 project

Keep pushing for interstate status for the Pennyryle and Western KY Parkways. Just look along any interstate and you will find better served communities.

I would offer cash incentives for students to advance their education. I would give every student \$500.00 for completing their high school diploma (or GED) and additional incentives in the form of scholarships for furthering their education. Get funding for I-69 for conversion of parkways to interstate

Create a plan which would allow low interest loans to new & existing employers and make the loans very accessible.

Find ways to help the existing small businesses grow as they are the backbone of economic security for our area

Train the workforce to handle high-paying jobs.

I would try to get the regional residents to buy in to the fact that education is the one most important resource needed to landing middle to upper income jobs.

Proactively improve infrastructure, water, sewer, roads, etc.

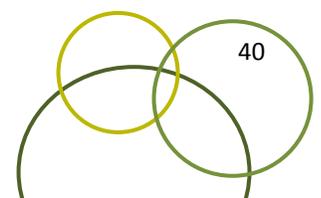
Don't think there is "one" action to accomplish this. It's going to take a combination of educating/training the available workforce as well as providing whatever is necessary to attract large businesses/manufacturer's to this area.

Appoint "czars" over tourism (incl. hunting, fishing, trailriding, antiques, flea markets, mining museums at former mine sites, etc.), infrastructure improvement, and workforce development. If we build it, they will come.

Controlled and planned growth. Steady rather than explosive growth.

Motivate people to get an education and not live off the system.

Make it mandatory for all unemployed (those individuals able to work but for whatever reason are collecting unemployment) individuals to take retraining classes in order to be eligible for continued unemployment benefits.



Elect someone who is interested in Western KY. (however, Gov. Breshear has shown more interest than other Governors)

Look for niche businesses in high cost cities that might want a nice environment to live and work in

I would take a million dollars and dedicate to improving the quality of life for the residents and make this area a much more desirable place to live.

Major effort nationwide to highlight the area.

Make everyone understand how much training is important to new industry. We can't wait until a company gets here to start training. Training must come first

Hand pick all the political office leadership.

I would try to increase our presence or strength in statewide meetings. The Pennyrile region and Western KY needs not be forgotten in Louisville and Lexington.

Comprehensive review of business taxation

save environment, good job

I would get rid of dry counties, they are antiquated, small minded, hick like and discourage the opening of many types of businesses. Sending all of the lake area business and consumers to Paducah or Hopkinsville and creating unfeasible travel times and competition for the work force who must leave their communities to work there.

Wouldn't know where to start

Be more business friendly, provide incentives especially those businesses that would be employing median to higher paid workers

Have a group of intelligent recruiters traveling and selling our potential

Get rid of the mayor and put on a new city council...hire a person who truly wants this area to improve in the tourism industry...sorry Jamie Johnson....but you would have to go....I have yet to find anyone who likes her besides Jim Suitor...

I-69

Do my best to bring good-paying industry to the area.

wipe out drugs

Look at similar areas to our region and what works for them. Build a future by rebuilding the past. The Heritage here is rich and we ignore what others would enjoy being a part of.

Bring in more jobs, vote wet

Focus on tourism for "New Dollars", Revamp corporate taxes to attract businesses; Improve education level of teachers to attract residents

don't know

Improve the transportation system and include alternative forms of transportation. Bike paths, green connections.

I would declare that the US Army Corps of Engineers would have to be more help when it comes to things we need to bring in Tourism that doesn't hurt the environment they are trying to protect.

How about "Queen?" Just to have some humor - I would first encourage Lyon County to move their whole school system to the former ghostly strip mall, then encourage Kuttawa and Eddyville to meet with Pennyriple region counties to find out what does work for them and how what works can be enhanced...lay aside our differences and focus on our future with positive, encouraging commitments. More to do for our young folks. Eddyville has the Christian owned waterpark, but there could be so much more!

Promote tourism, the gulf promote tourism gulf will be dead the next 5 years.

Try & bring the area up to a 2010 way of thinking. We need to move out of the 1900th Century & on to our future.

Work to do anything possible to bring in new busseness

Push for "Wet" areas and economic development

Do away with all of the people who think they run everything.

Improve the education

Get the plan approved by all counties of the ADD and empower a round table group to design ways to oversee and implement the plan. Keep the plan a living document before all C of C's, ED Boards, ect. (A Pennyriple ADD role)

Keep all travelways (I-24, Parkways) in TOP condition. They are not only important for travel, but make a statement about our economic situation to any who travel them. Potholes are bigger eyesores than outhouses. Gotta have smooth beautiful ribbons to tie up our fabulous package.

Clean up the areas around the roads people see when visiting our area, tear down condemned houses, haul off trash and junk cars!!!

Clean up negative looking visible areas, junk cars, trailers, trash and vacant buildings. Support codes. An extension of a local community or technical college availability locally.

Change tax structure to better attract new industries and businesses

I-69!

Designate the WK as I-66 and the Pennrile as I-69

Merge city and county governments and mandate bi- or tri-county collaboration and resource sharing to eliminate competition for federal funding and implement allied success strategies.

Develop a regional economic development authority

Revamp the state's tax laws completely - tax consumption, not productivity. Make all the EDC's one group that recruits for the good of all and offer more training to prepare the uneducated for the jobs the experienced can supervise

Change the culture from the "it doesn't matter" re:work and education attitude to one of hope and action which would breed individual and therefore, community and regional success.

Bring in more jobs that are appropriate and representative of the region.

I would give every effort to bring forward "coal to liquid" plants in the area. This would take perhaps years in permitting and law reg fights and changes; however, our country needs the synthetic oil from coal which would also boost our area economy. I would change the tort laws to attract the development of recreational trails. Kentucky will end up 49th again in this area of developmentn if this is not addressed.

Remove "big brother" from having too much involvement in the affairs of the public  
more aids positions in the school system and region

Give incentatives for high tech companies to help us grow our area.

Start with the schools to educate them on small business importance to a community and teach them to dream and capitalize on building those dreams and have continuing support through High School and College ( Trade School Impotance) Instead of just Guidance Counselors - what about Career counselors.

Increase the value of area for middle class families- offer more attractions, parks, fitness centers, after school programs- incorporate "city" benefits into rural communities to offer best of both.

I think I would have to have more input from those in my kingdom before I could answer this question. Just because I'm "king" it doesn't mean I know it all or have the best ideas.

Develop the region to bring in visitors b/c they see the area as exciting, interesting, and a place to relax and unwind.

Everyone would sweat AT LEAST one hour a day, except for the elderly and handicapped. It would be mandatory. The workforce would be stronger and the general health of everyone would be better.

Diversity. All people have something to contribute no matter how big or small. Give people a chance.

Level the playing field! Everyone gets the same chance, no one get special advantages because of who they are or what race or religion!!

eliminate city, county and state lines

I would get the word out via whatever media possible how beautiful the section of Kentucky is, and how we have many people that are in need of jobs and are willing to work. I know the economic situation is bad all over our country and state, but any industry moving into this area would be overwhelmed with the response to they would receive to new job opportunities in this area.

More support for small businesses to make sure they survive

Roads, industry

Improve medical services

jobs jobs jobs

Wake up the region to the fact that today's status quo and good old boy networks are not providing today and tomorrow's solutions for its economic development challenges.

I would mandate that the population must believe that we do in fact have a lot to offer. Our self-defeatism is our worst enemy.

I would have the engineering and ag departments work together to create a home that would be auctioned on a piece of donated property and the funds

from that would be used to build the next home. This is done in Fairfield, Illinois and seems to be a good hands on way to get the kids real life experience to go on a resume'.

Bring in more jobs such as restaurants and stores.

After I got me a Crown. I would work on education/communication strategies to get the region to work together for the good of the region as a whole therefore working and promoting our region as a whole.

End NAFTA and give tax incentives to new businesses to locate here

Bring jobs

Wish I knew

Advertise the region and an excellent place to work and raise a family.

Development of LBL to become the best attraction that it can be. Improved roads and bridges, improved and enlarged campsites, more activities and educational outreaches to our schools, more funding for improvements.

Anything that would draw more interest in the area to attract business and industries to our area.

The Economy growth and job opportunities

I would focus on solving one problem at a time, instead of trying to create one solution to fit all of "it's" needs.

Industry recruitment; employment opportunities to encourage people to return "home" to work after college.

Decrease taxes and increase the service roll of public offices.

Bring in Industry and family oriented businesses

Develop the LBL area and Lake Barkley area in Canton to provide vacation opportunities for people to visit/stay here...like theme parks, water parks, restaurants, gambling boats, music venues, shopping malls, etc...

I would solicit and bring more factories to the area so that people could be productive and it would help the economy.

Improve vocational training for our students so they graduate with a skill to offer, and beautify the area by renovating run-down areas of our towns

Try to bring in more factories

Bring in more industry

Improve school systems - Reallocate the spending of money so that priority is given to hiring more teachers, reducing class sizes, and maintaining technology in the classrooms. Great schools will encourage more people to live in the area.

Look at what our elected officials are really doing to improve our area. Lip service vs actual service

Increase the job market

Get more industry!!

Create incentives to bring in more industry and job opportunities to allow future generations to stay in the communities where they were raised.

An all out no holds barred publicity campaign along with a push for job skills training. (sorry that is 2 things)

Work for better cooperation and openness between all sectors of the regional community.

Find ways to make the communities of the Pennyrile more aesthetically pleasing. When individuals or companies look to relocate, an attractive environment can make a lot of difference.

Invest more heavily in promoting the region.

Think large scale, big time recruitment of industry. The recruitment targets should be broad in scope, not just automotive. What promotional and recruitment tools are being used? The Pennyrile region does not need another Pantry, tanning bed or antique mall. Look to educate the workforce for technically advanced jobs. The manual labor factory mindset of old has to go. Look to "green" manufacturers... wind turbines, solar panels, alternative fuels... Replace some of the old thinking leadership with new faces and ideas regarding a master plan for economic growth and especially in the leadership of the Hopkins County Board of Education.

Market western KY as the next high tech region and capitalize on our digital landscape. Make this a home for data centers and other bandwidth intensive businesses.

## Additional Comments

Coal has given many young men good jobs with excellent pay but has taken away

the incentive to obtain an education

All we do is take surveys and opinion poles and changes are never made. I've had Palisades since '03 and the same thing goes on yoae after year. Political people;school heades; corp of engrs on and on have met and everything is still the same. Thats whats wrong with the area-ALL TALK -no action.

If it were not for family and friends I would not live here

We have traveled around the country and we love this area. Jobs for people will help and then develope areas to bring in tourism is the next step. When we mention we are from KY, people always say, Kentucky is a beautiful state. We need to encourage those people to visit again.

I would like to see better relationships between County and City governments. Let's look at our schools and put together real life learning experiences which embrace economic development in our region. There is a true disconnect on all levels between coursework and economic development, simply because the teachers have not had real business world experiences.... something to think about. On another note... let's clean up our region, and I mean clean-up, we do need to look from the outside in and not from just a local or regional perspective. One last thing, in anything that we are doing, an "outside out of the box" innovative way of thinking must persist and be rewarded... let's again show what we can do by being innovative and approach by not "testing the waters" but by making it happen! Thanks, hope that this helps.

Vote Obama out of office!!

The Pennyrile region is rife with individuals that are industrious and creative, which lends to highly effective employees. The region is ready for increased ecomonic development.

Alcohol sales – both package and by the drink – is no cure-all, however Lyon County in particular will never grow until the area goes wet. Mineral Mound State Park desperately needs a convention center - the lake view and golf course are terrific and could attract conferences, groups, reunions, and much more, but no private investor will build such a venture without the option to sell alcoholic beverages. Further, I believe the residents and local government need to wake up and smell the beverages. People in Lyon County, both residents and tourists, are consuming alcohol if they choose to do so. They are purchasing it elsewhere, denying our coffers of jobs, tax base, payroll tax base, and an enormous amount of revenue. Visit Buzzard Rock or the Oasis any evening, especially on the weekends, and watch the revenue pour in. Further, on the tourism front, many tourists choose to stay in other areas where they can enjoy a drink with dinner and have a wider variety or restaurants from which to choose. Lyon County will never have an Applebees or other chain restaurant until such a place can serve alcohol. Our one winery would likely not be alone should the restrictions on wine

be loosened.

These surveys are not new to the Pennyrile and without new, stronger leadership in implementation, nothing worthwhile will occur, except the employment of yet another consultant group. Execution of a good plan is key.

Children need more activities. Not all children are sports oriented. New theatre, skating rink, Discovery Zone....

Local politicians are hurting our future. Big fish in a little pond! They need to be voting for the area and not their political will. Also, this is a great, ideal place for a Bass Pro Shop. Someone needs to be soliciting them! Locally, money needs to be spent to serve the most people,.If you don't have water where you live and your road is gravel....move.

With the construction of I69 in the future, the Pennyroyal Region has the potential for great growth as a rural community. I feel that education is one of the most important goals that we need to work on at this time.

WHEN A PERSON IS WORKING IT HELPS THE TAX BASE. DEPT STORIES. AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

I love this area!

People seem to be driven by a sense of belonging, being needed, being appreciated and being loved. Many times when businesses shut down, all the responsible, dedicated, and aggressive employees they have had the honor of employing for many years have been left out in the cold with no job, no benefits of any kind, no retirement, and no form of appreciation. It would help if this situation was eliminated from our economy.

After education, we need more and better support from Frankfort. Feature recycled glass project somewhere in the county. Make sure towns are equitable to all businesses, encourage expansion of existing businesses. This is a wonderful area with wonderful people and potential. In order to develop economically, there needs to be evidence of an improved education system.

go for new tech stuff

More industry, more industry, more industry. It seems like the factories or good paying ones keep leaving the area. We need to find out what the reason that industry doesn't want to come to the pennyrile area and start working on ways to correct it.

If we can spend \$300 million on a bridge across Lake Barkley (US 68): \$100 million on the Pennyrile Parkway extension in Christian Co.; why aren't we smart enough to spend \$50 million to get a third north/south interstate highway through

Kentucky from Henderson to Tennessee???

Promote healthy life style and food services, recreation and sports industry make them world class.

Madisonville and probably other cities need an attraction that would pull traffic off the four lanes to a visitor center to grab an ice cream cone, a cold drink and a few pieces of info to tell how great this area is. Some areas have old military equipment, missiles, large items of interest where people can take a break, take a few pictures, appreciate this area and get on their way, but not forget the Pennyrile region. Perry, Georgia is a good example of, at least, the visitor center by the four lane. Check Perry out. Rest stops are great, but in...out...grab a discount brochure and leave without ever seeing the towns, cities.

The elected officials need to understand the working class people of this area. Those making the decisions have no idea of what it is to exist in the true "working class", or as of late, the "unemployed".

Appreciate the companies that locate here by keeping them her with less taxes or no taxes for the individual worker as well

This area has one of the largest energy reserves in America. This cheap source of energy can bring economic stability to the nation as well as to our communities

Good Luck!

We need help on how to become more attractive to entrepreneurs, and how to best communicate to the general public that being behind educationally is a really bad plan. Unfortunately, there almost seems to be a pride in our area that "old fashioned" and/or "old school" is better than anything progressive. We must figure out a way to combine the strengths of our heritage with more modern thinking.

Madisonville needs the Murray State campus promised to them years ago. Madisonville has more Murray State students than Hopkinsville but still does not have a regional campus.

There is such diversity in this area, several cities have integrated people from other large areas and rural communities haven't seen much influence from outside areas. There is almost two separate cultures. This will make improvements difficult.

This is a lovely area, but has not been particularly welcoming to new residents, passers-through, vacationers, or those who embody diversity in some aspect.

It doesn't hurt to 'want'!

Changes are good and they have to made to grow.

Workforce is an important key to successful economic development, increase high school graduates, technical training and skilled training.

Community activism must be rekindled. Too many 30 and 40 year olds don't want to be a part of Lions, Rotary or Kiwanis any longer. They want to sit home and watch their HD big screen for hours on end. As a result our towns are looking pretty drab and when the decision makers look for the town where they want to put there small or mid size business and hire 20 to 200 workers they first ask themselves if this is the town they want to bring their family to live. Hmmmmmm.

I also believe that there is not enough emphasis on recruiting transportation businesses into our area. We have lost a lot of jobs to foreign countries but foreign countries cannot deliver the goods to middle and end users. That must be taken care of internally. The Wal-Mart distribution center in Hopkinsville is a great start but we need to do everything to recruit jobs for warehouse specialists, truck drivers, materials handling personnel, etc. A great example is one of Muhlenberg's quietest industries...Conway Central in Central City. Each night dozens of tractor trailers haul goods to Cincinnati, St. Louis, Huntsville, and other areas approximately 4 hours out (round trip = 8 hour shift). These are good jobs and aren't dependent on one company's sales (or lack thereof) to prosper.

The Pennyrile Region has a lot to offer prospective companies. We, as a region, need to realize the chance of landing the super companies such as Toyota is slim to none. We need to focus on spin off companies who employ the 50 to 150 workers. We need to support the existing small businesses to help them expand and grow. We need to work together as a region and understand things happening in other counties can be beneficial to our county in the long run.

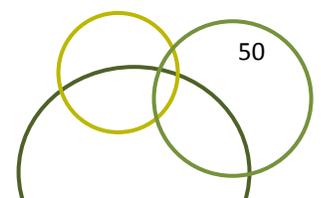
As long as companies (e.g. Whirlpool) are allowed by the government to take their companies out of the U.S., it is going to be hard to provide jobs for those seeking a decent paying job that will support them and their family. Although it can be done, it is very difficult to find much that is "made in the U.S.A." at present!

Great idea on the survey. I was directed to this site by the Muhl. Co. Chamber of Commerce, but directing folks to this site by billboard ads, radio spot and newspaper ads may result in lots more ideas. Good luck.

Getting Interstate 69 through the region would be a big boost!

I have lived here in Muhl. Co. all my life. A great place to raise a family. Unfortunaly all our kids grow up and have to relocate to find good jobs. Education is also another problem. It is amaging that KY spends more per day on a prisoner than a student!!! Something is Wrong with this picture.

I recently was telling a co-worker about a new neighbor that had moved to town



from Charleston, SC. The person I was telling lives in Evansville. Before I actually got to the reason I started the conversation about my new neighbor, he jumped in and said "why would anyone move from Charleston, SC to Western KY? Why would they go backwards like that?" I was recently at a funeral in Alabama and met some folks I didn't previously know. One of the new introductions came with this comment...."Oh, you live where all that meth is made, we have heard about your area." I wish that things were different and that the perception of our area was one of modernized progressiveness, innovation and clean living.

Thank you for the survey

Thank you for your assistance in bettering these communities.

I also think Grand Rivers is a great town and would really expand if they could serve alcohol. BTW I hardly ever drink so that is not my reason for saying this. Anyone can see the disparity between the areas that do serve alcohol and those that don't. The lake area is supposed to be a tourist area, LBL is natural and great but the other areas on the lake need to be more enticing to tourists, think luxury caribbean island feel in the middle of the US, not a Branson type of experience.

Kentucky and this area taxes and attitude toward businesses are counterproductive to inducing a business into this area that has an option to go to another area. This area needs a business consultant, familiar and friendly towards business to advise. Government needs to LISTEN

We need industry, and corporate settlements to bring business and people in The lakes area which was a booming area at one time is a gold mine that is ready to be mined....yet we have people standing in the way of progress....Why?

Great area to live in but after growing up in St. Louis, it is visible to me that there aren't many well-paying jobs and not enough educated workers.

Make the best of lakes rivers interstate

Build a future by rebuilding the past. The Heritage here is rich and we ignore, what others would enjoy being a part of.

On a tourism end of things, A coordinated tour of this area, placing many different special places such as Adsmore, Blackoak Winery, Rose Hill and old Eddyville, Old Kuttawa, Broadbent's, LBL, Patties, Crittenden County Amish Area, One Room School in Fredonia, plus I am sure there is much more, could really help promote the special things this area has to offer, and tell the areas unique story. This could be a great two day tour especially for senior citizen groups.

It would help the business of Tourism if school went back into session later. It would help if we could have grants to make a huge bike riding/walking trail through Kuttawa and Eddyville. We could sponsor 1/2 Marathons which would

bring money and show case Lyon County. We need a convention Center on the water to host events.

Stay focused on the positive aspects of the Pennyryle Region - we have so many resources that could be combined on a website that is kept updated with job listings, business links, etc. if manned with knowledgeable folks willing to keep it updated. Many of the websites visited currently have such outdated information that people just give up trying to find what they are looking for.

Lower KY property taxes to promote tourism

This area has great potential. It just needs to be nurtured & allowed to grow. Too many seem to want to remain stagnant.

I know these comments may be a bit negative but they are given with the interest in moving us forward and perhaps generating some discussion and new ideas.

It is inconceivable that industry is not beating a path to us. We have it all: amazing availability geographically, breathtaking recreational opportunities, and an enviable standard of living.

We as a community must see the need to have a "pleasing to the eye town" that investors can recognize!!

Unstructured progress = destroyed quality of life

Let's fix our schools - produce graduates who know how to do jobs here / desired for growth.

Building an awareness that there ARE opportunities and a culture of work over welfare. Youth and adults NEED training to build their hope and their PREPAREDNESS.

we need to boot out some old politics and develop new ways to work with each other that bring about goals to be met

Need to have better communication and planning with City and County leaders to look past the one or five terms they will be in office. Plan for potential growth and ways to make your community be a place you would want to work and live in. This means what is there for kids to do, recreational facilities, schools, parks, green space enhancement, City or County property PRIDE, beautify areas along roads especially around business and or attractions.

We have many resources in our area that we are not using b/c "we don't want people from out of town to come into our town." The Land Between the Lakes should be attracting more people than it presently attracts. There should be shops, restaurants, family activities to draw people to this area. One person can not do it alone. We need a region wide plan to develop the area and bring

tourists to this region.

I am a resident of Caldwell Co. and a coal miner in Webster Co. I WORK FOR A LIVING

Take a look around you. What do you see. I know there are problems in our cities, regions, and our state, but we have no one to blame but ourselves. We all have a responsibility to look within ourselves and change the junk with us first and then you can look at the region. I love this place, but 30 years later the people/things that could make our state great are never given a chance to thrive.

Encourage more small business and international market opportunities. I want the tourism commission to get a backbone and point out that the abusive and dangerous practices of mining are making it less attractive to be in our region.

We need to sell ourselves in a broader area.

Currently we have one of the greatest attractions for outdoor activities, interaction with nature, and outdoor sports, right here in our backyard. Due to either lack of funds or mismanagement of funds we have watched facilities degrade or be closed down completely while access is more limited and fees keep rising. You want money and jobs to flow into our region, give them a reason to come here. The resource is LBL, we are blessed to have it, starting making it worthy of notice to the rest of the country. Not sure if the National Park Service would manage it better, but it would get more exposure through them.

I realize this is a problem all across our great country. We are a good solid community and we could come up with something that would help us to grow where we need to be.

Want to keep the closeness of the communities and the beautiful natural settings, but increase job and educational opportunities.

What is needed to make a region excel, is for the private industry to do well. This can be encouraged or suppressed by policy makers.

This area is a great place to live, but desperately needs updating! We have old schools and old buildings in our towns. Many areas would not be attractive to newcomers. If we could attract more industry, fewer people would be unemployed. That is, if individuals were qualified to fill those jobs.

We need to realize that if we do not do something for the youth of this area they will not stay and allow the area to grow and prosper in the future.

We also have to promote and support our public schools and other educational opportunities available in this area. Within the region or a short drive we have Murray State University, Murray State University Hopkinsville Campus, Austin Peay State University, Western Kentucky University, Hopkinsville Community College, and Madisonville Community College. Several other colleges and

university are just a bit farther. All of these are tremendous assets.

None.

If we place an emphasis on entrepreneurship development, I believe there must be a significant structure and support system in place for that effort to have a viable economic impact. Without this, I do not believe entrepreneurs will get started or flourish. Our economic development director has talked with us about the difference between opening up a shop and wealth generation for your community. I think this is an important distinction, but it is one that will require a great deal of planning and support throughout in order to make this paradigm shift.

The region does not take advantage of Ft. Campbell and its retirement community. The region does not self promote. There is limited political influence at both the state and federal levels.