

CHET Presents

**FROM CAMPUS TO CAPITOL: MAKING A
DIFFERENCE IN
PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**



**October 9, 2024
11:30-1:00
150 Healthy Kentucky
Research Building**

From Campus to Capitol: Making a Difference in Public Health through Civic Engagement

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome you to our moderated discussion, “From Campus to Capitol: Making a Difference in Public Health through Civic Engagement.” This event features an intriguing dialogue between state leaders on the intersection of civic engagement and public health. We’re grateful to be joined by the Secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services Eric Friedlander, and Charles Booker, Kentucky State Director of Faith Based & Community Initiatives in the Office of the Governor.

We know that public health is more than just physical; it also focuses on quality of life and how individuals interact with the world (access to green spaces, sidewalks, food deserts, etc.). Civic engagement is defined as involvement in both political and non-political processes that promote community quality of life and develop knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to improve civic life [1].

Evidence demonstrates that areas with higher levels of civic engagement among community members experience better public health outcomes. Frameworks such as the Seven Vital Conditions for Well-Being and Healthy People 2030 include civic participation as important factors of community well-being [2,3]. While voting is a well-known component of civic participation, we aim to highlight additional opportunities to leverage the important connection between civic engagement and public health by raising awareness of unique strategies and initiatives in Kentucky.

Hosted by the Center for Health, Engagement, and Transformation (CHET) the goal of this event is to achieve the following objectives:

1. Identify the connection between civic engagement and health
2. Analyze the implications of civic engagement on achievement of public health in Kentucky
3. Discuss examples of past and ongoing civic engagement and public health initiatives
4. Integrate strategies that dually support civic engagement and public health into future activities.

This event is generously supported by the UK College of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine, the College of Public Health, and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

[1] The definition of civic engagement - New York Times. (n.d.).
https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/ref/college/collegespecial2/coll_aascu_defi.html?scp=2&sq=The%2520Engagement&st=cse

[2] Seven Vital Conditions for Health and Well-Being. (n.d.). Community Commons.
<https://www.communitycommons.org/collections/Seven-Vital-Conditions-for-Health-and-Well-Being>

[3] Increase the proportion of the voting-age citizens who vote — SDOH-07 - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov. (n.d.).
<https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/social-and-community-context/increase-proportion-voting-age-citizens-who-vote-sdoh-07>

SPEAKERS

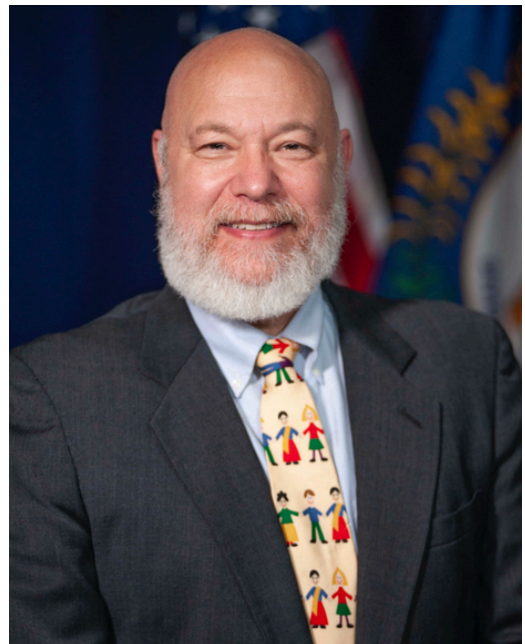
CHARLES BOOKER

Charles is a lifelong Kentuckian, born and raised in the West End of Louisville where he and his wife Tanesha have raised their 3 daughters. After earning his B.S. and JD from the University of Louisville, Charles went on to dedicate his life to public service. He has fought for equity and justice in every level of government, including being elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 2018 as the youngest Black Kentucky state legislator in nearly 90 years. As a legislator, Charles fought for issues such as common-sense gun safety, lower prescription drug prices, voting rights, racial equity, criminal justice reform, environmental justice, worker's rights, fairness and human rights for all. Charles rose to national prominence in 2020, following an improbable, people-powered run in the Kentucky U.S. Senate Democratic Primary. In 2022, Charles led his historic grassroots movement in another run for the U.S. Senate, becoming the first Black Kentuckian to receive a major party nomination for the office. Charles is a published author of the noted memoir "From the Hood to the Holler", and featured in the award-winning documentary also entitled, "From the Hood to the Holler". Building on his vision of empowering voices in all marginalized communities, Charles founded Hood to the Holler, a people-centered organization focused on building coalitions across urban and rural divides to strengthen democracy and end generational poverty. Charles is continuing his service by leading organizing and coalition efforts as Kentucky State Director of Faith Based & Community Initiatives in the office of the Governor.



SECRETARY ERIC FRIEDLANDER

A lifelong Kentuckian, Eric represents the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. He has been with CHFS for over 30 years, and has worked in numerous roles across the Cabinet. He was appointed Secretary by Governor Beshear in May, 2020. He is the former Chief of Resilience and Community Services for Louisville Metro Government and was instrumental in leading Louisville's development of their Resilience Plan in collaboration with the 100 Resilient Cities program funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. He also led the agency responsible for anti-poverty programs, including Neighborhood Place, Meals on Wheels, and other collaborative programs with partners ranging from Metro United Way to the Coalition on the Homeless. His focus is on furthering the mission of the Cabinet through encouraging equity, health and well-being; structural economic support; resilience in individuals and communities; and operational excellence.



SPEAKERS

MODERATOR: BRIDGETT A. KING, PHD

Dr. Bridgett A. King is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Kentucky. Current overarching themes in her scholarship include the administrative structure of felony disenfranchisement and its effect on participation and representation, citizen confidence in electoral outcomes, and the consequences of administrative discretion on voter experiences and democratic representation. She also works on interdisciplinary projects that apply systems and architectural engineering approaches to the field of election administration to address challenges associated with administrative decision-making and voter experiences. As an extension of this work, she has an expanding research agenda that considers how citizens engage in democratic participation in Liberia.



AUDIENCE QUESTIONS



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