

2025 Legislative Session

TNC in Kentucky Legislative Platform



Executive Summary

The Nature Conservancy in Kentucky works with policymakers on both sides of the aisle and all stakeholders on legislative priorities that benefit both people and nature. Our non-partisan, science-based, solutions-oriented approach focuses on what brings us together, not on what divides us. In the upcoming 2025 Legislative Session, TNC in Kentucky is well-positioned to build upon achievements during the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Legislative Session when it comes to enacting legislation and securing funding for conservation priorities and local communities across the Commonwealth.

Background

TNC's successful government relations work in Kentucky is critical to maintaining our status as a trusted voice on conservation and related issues in the Commonwealth—a voice that elected officials, the public, and other organizations turn to.

TNC's policy and government relations work is critical for our conservation success. Our work builds support among key constituencies including elected officials, which can unlock funding opportunities, build strong partnerships and networks, lead to positive policies and regulations, and create a sense of urgency for our work.

Legislative Priorities

- Lay the groundwork for the creation of a new dedicated state funding program of at least \$5 million per year (\$10 million per biennium budget) for land and water conservation in Kentucky, as outlined in our 5-year strategic plan.
- Meet with key members of the Kentucky General Assembly (based on leadership roles/committee assignments/potential to champion conservation funding) to discuss the recently completed Kentucky Needs Assessment.
- Obtain feedback from legislators on levels of support for various potential sources of increased state funding for conservation.
- Use this feedback to then conduct public polling on top options to determine Kentuckians' support/opposition for various sources of increased state funding for conservation.
- In role as Advocacy Committee chair for the Kentucky Land Trusts Coalition, lead KLTC and other state partners in utilizing Kentucky Needs Assessment and other supporting documents to build case for increased conservation investments by General Assembly during 2025 Legislative Session (non-budget year).
- Conduct meetings to socialize state dedicated funding effort and assess potential support from stakeholder groups outside of the direct conservation community.

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