

ECONOMIC CHALLENGE

o Jan | o e-NEWS | o 2010

GROWTH

GREEN ENERGY

Hardin County focus

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS FROM THE DESK OF
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE HARRY L. BERRY

We are looking forward to a prosperous new year in Hardin County

“Welcome 2010!”

Economic Challenge

I look forward to this New Year with enthusiasm and confidence for what it will bring to us. Our first priority is to ensure the county continues on a course of sound financial management during the difficult and unpredictable economic times confronting us.

While so many counties across our state are struggling to make ends meet in 2010, **we are financially solid** with reserve funds to tide us over. This reserve is a direct result of balancing our budget without drawing from our savings since fiscal year 2004/2005.



Our state will be making some serious budget cuts this year forcing Kentucky counties to assume additional expenses. As the county's chief financial

officer, I believe it is my first responsibility to be the sound financial manager of your resources and look forward to the challenge of the coming year!

Growth

My second priority is a successful transformation of our region resulting from the impact of BRAC.

As a retired Army Engineering Officer with technical expertise and background knowledge of both the community and the Army; it is my goal to maximize the full potential growth for our county in association with the changes at Fort Knox.

The impact to our local economy will benefit us in many ways. The base realignment will bring job opportunities to us at Fort Knox, construction projects both on and off post, increased enrollment in our local colleges and universities, as well as opportunities for our small businesses and entrepreneurs.



Green Energy

In line with our national green energy priorities, I hope to double our output from our methane gas collection system at the county's landfill. This system helps keep our environment clean and conserve fossil fuels. Over the next 20 years, it will produce the equivalent environmental savings of planting 1.4M trees, offsetting emissions from 1M cars, preserving almost 23K rail cars of coal, or preserving 11.4M barrels of oil. It also gives us a unique opportunity to convert a hazardous decomposing waste into a stream of revenue for our county by generating electricity from the gas.