

1 AN ACT relating to elections.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 117.045 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) (a) The county board of elections shall in the manner prescribed by this section,
5 not later than March 20 each year, except in a year in which no primary and
6 regular elections are scheduled, appoint for each precinct in the county two
7 (2) judges, one (1) clerk and one (1) sheriff of election. They shall serve in all
8 elections held in the county during the year, except for minors seventeen (17)
9 years of age who will become eighteen (18) years of age on or before the day
10 of the regular election who may only serve as election officers for the primary
11 and regular elections as provided in subsection (9) of this section.

12 (b) If a special election is ordered to be held in a year in which no elections are
13 scheduled, the county executive committee of each political party in each
14 county in the territory affected by the special election shall, not later than
15 twenty-eight (28) days preceding the date of the special election, submit a
16 written list of nominees for precinct election officers to serve in the special
17 election in a manner consistent with the provisions of subsection (2) of this
18 section. The county board of elections in each county in the territory affected
19 by the special election shall, not later than twenty-one (21) days preceding the
20 date of the special election, appoint precinct election officers to serve in the
21 special election in a manner consistent with the provisions of subsections (4),
22 (5), and (6) of this section.

23 (c) The State Board of Elections shall promulgate an administrative regulation
24 under KRS Chapter 13A establishing evaluation procedures which county
25 boards of elections may use to qualify persons nominated to serve as precinct
26 election officers.

27 (2) The county executive committees of the two (2) political parties having

1 representation on the State Board of Elections may, on or before March 15 each
2 year, designate in writing to the county board of elections a list of not less than four
3 (4) names for each precinct; except that, in any precinct where there are not as
4 many as four (4) persons possessing the qualifications of an election officer
5 belonging to the political party filing the list, or when the State Board of Elections
6 has approved a county board of elections' precinct consolidation plan requesting
7 a lesser number of precinct officers, a lesser number may be designated. If there
8 are two (2) or more contending executive committees of the same party in any
9 county, the one recognized by the written certificate of the chair of the state central
10 committee of the party shall be the one authorized to submit the lists. The lists shall
11 contain the full name, address, phone number, and Social Security number, if
12 available, of each person listed. The lists shall be accompanied by a signed
13 statement from each person stating that he or she is willing to serve, has not failed
14 to serve without excuse in the past, and has not been convicted of an election law
15 offense or any felony, unless the person's civil rights have been restored by the
16 Governor. The State Board of Elections shall prescribe the form of the list by
17 administrative regulation promulgated under KRS Chapter 13A.

18 (3) The Attorney General shall notify each party state central committee of the duties
19 of the party.

20 (4) (a) If lists are submitted by the county executive committees under subsection (2)
21 of this section, the county board of elections shall select one (1) judge at each
22 voting place from each political party's list, and the county board shall select
23 the sheriff from one (1) political party's list and the clerk from the other.

24 (b) If no lists are submitted by the county executive committees under subsection
25 (2) of this section, the two (2) members of the county board of elections who
26 are appointed by the State Board of Elections may submit lists; and the county
27 board of elections shall select the sheriff and one (1) judge from one (1) list

1 and the clerk and the other judge from the remaining list.

2 (c) If no lists are submitted by the county executive committees under subsection
3 (2) of this section, or by the county board of elections under paragraph (b) of
4 this subsection, the county clerk shall select the sheriff and one (1) judge from
5 the membership of one (1) party and the clerk and the other judge from the
6 membership of the remaining party. If no members of one (1) of the two (2)
7 political parties are available or willing to serve as a judge, the county clerk
8 shall select any qualified and registered voter within the county to serve as a
9 judge at a voting place.

10 (d) The county board of elections shall, when possible, also appoint an adequate
11 number of alternate precinct election officers from names on the lists which
12 were submitted but which were not selected by the county board as precinct
13 election officers. If alternate precinct election officers are not appointed from
14 the lists of nominees who were not selected as precinct election officers, the
15 county board of elections shall submit its method of selecting alternate
16 precinct election officers to the State Board of Elections for its approval. If no
17 lists are submitted to the county board of elections as provided in this
18 subsection, the county clerk shall select an adequate number of alternate
19 precinct election officers.

20 (e) The names of all precinct election officers and alternate precinct election
21 officers selected by the county clerk shall be submitted to the county board of
22 elections for its approval.

23 (f) Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the selection of any registered and
24 qualified voter who is not registered with either of the two (2) political parties
25 to serve as a precinct election officer in a precinct in which the officer resides
26 or as otherwise provided in this subsection.

27 (5) If, after all reasonable efforts have been made, neither the county board of elections

1 nor the county clerk are able to find two (2) qualified officers for each precinct who
2 are affiliated with the two (2) political parties having representation on the State
3 Board of Elections or any other qualified and registered voter within the county, the
4 county board of elections shall submit a list of emergency election officer
5 appointments to the State Board of Elections. The county board of elections shall
6 also present, in writing, its efforts to recruit and appoint election officers as
7 prescribed in subsection (4) of this section. The State Board of Elections, after its
8 review, may approve any or all of the emergency appointments submitted by the
9 county board of elections or may direct the county board to take other action. Any
10 emergency appointment shall be made for the next ensuing election only.

11 (6) In addition to precinct election officers appointed under subsection (1) of this
12 section, a county board of elections or the county clerk may appoint up to two (2)
13 additional precinct election officers per precinct with the approval of the State
14 Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections shall promulgate an administrative
15 regulation under KRS Chapter 13A establishing conditions under which additional
16 precinct officers may be approved.

17 (7) The county board of elections shall, not less than ten (10) days before the next
18 ensuing election, send to each election officer written notice of his or her
19 appointment. The county board of elections may direct the sheriff of the county to
20 serve the notice of appointment, if it deems the action is necessary.

21 (8) The State Board of Elections may require the county board of elections to submit its
22 list of precinct officers for review. The State Board of Elections may, after a
23 hearing, direct the removal of any election officer who the board finds would not
24 fairly administer the state election laws. The State Board of Elections shall provide
25 for the method and manner of the hearing by administrative regulation promulgated
26 under KRS Chapter 13A, and shall replace any officer so removed.

27 (9) (a) An election officer shall be a qualified voter of the precinct; except that,

1 where no qualified voter of the required political party is available within the
2 precinct, the election officer shall be a qualified voter of the county.

3 (b) A minor seventeen (17) years of age who will become eighteen (18) years of
4 age on or before the day of the regular election may serve as an election
5 officer for the primary and regular elections in which he or she is qualified to
6 vote; however, no precinct shall have more than one (1) person serving as an
7 election officer who is a minor seventeen (17) years of age.

8 (c) An election officer shall not be a candidate for office during the election year.

9 (d) An election officer shall not be the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child of a
10 candidate who is to be voted for at the election in the precinct in which the
11 election officer will serve on election day.

12 (e) An election officer shall not have changed his or her voter registration party
13 affiliation after December 31 immediately preceding his or her appointment to
14 serve for the primary, or after the second Tuesday in August to serve for the
15 regular election.

16 (f) An election officer may be removed, for cause, at any time up to five (5) days
17 before an election. Vacancies shall be filled by the county board of elections
18 or the county clerk with alternate precinct election officers and if the vacancy
19 occurs in the appointment of a judge, the person appointed to fill the vacancy
20 shall be of the same political affiliation as the vacating officer, except for
21 emergency appointments made as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

22 (10) If the county board of elections or the county clerk fails to appoint election officers,
23 or if any officer is not present at the precinct at the time for commencing the
24 election, or refuses to act, and if no alternate is available, the officer in attendance
25 representing the political party of the absentee shall appoint a suitable person to act
26 in his or her place for that election. If both representatives of the same political
27 party are absent, qualified voters present affiliating with that party shall elect, viva

1 voce, suitable persons to act in their places.

2 (11) Each election officer shall be paid a minimum of sixty dollars (\$60) per election
3 day served, and such an additional amount as compensation as may be determined
4 by the county board of elections, with the approval of the governing body which
5 would be responsible for funding the election officers' pay, for each election in
6 which the election officer serves, to be paid by the county. For delivering the
7 election packets to the polls, the precinct election officers shall additionally receive
8 the mileage reimbursement provided for state employees, for each mile necessarily
9 traveled in the delivery of the packets to the polls, or a flat fee if the fee equals or
10 exceeds that amount. For delivering election returns, the precinct election judges
11 shall additionally receive the mileage reimbursement provided for state employees
12 for each mile necessarily traveled in the delivery of election returns, or a flat fee if
13 the fee equals or exceeds that amount. The fee paid to the precinct election judges
14 for delivering election returns shall be paid by the county.

15 ➔Section 2. KRS 117.065 is amended to read as follows:

16 (1) The county board of elections shall, not later than January 15 of each year, establish
17 the voting place for each precinct. If a change becomes necessary after that date,
18 notice of change shall be published pursuant to KRS Chapter 424. If a change
19 becomes necessary on election day, notice shall be posted at the former voting
20 place. The expense of renting voting places, for which rent of not less than twenty
21 dollars (\$20) shall be paid, shall be paid in the same manner as other election
22 expenses.

23 (2) The county board of elections shall have the authority to designate as voting places,
24 on election day and all days of excused and no-excuse in-person absentee voting,
25 without cost to the board, buildings constructed in whole or in part with tax
26 revenues.

27 (3) *The county board of elections shall notify a local board of education that it*

intends to designate one (1) or more school buildings as voting places no later than December 1 of each year. The county board of elections shall specify which school buildings will be used and the expected dates and times of use.

(4) The county board of elections shall designate as voting places only those places which are accessible to all eligible voters, including those with physical limitations and the elderly.

~~**(5)**~~~~**(4)**~~ The county board of elections shall ensure that each precinct polling place in the county has immediate access to a telephone within the polling place on the day of any election.

➔Section 3. KRS 117.066 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The county board of elections may, pursuant to KRS 117.055 and subsection (3) of this section, designate a single voting location for more than one (1) precinct if the voting location is equipped with voting equipment capable of providing or accepting separate ballots without endangering the integrity of the ballots or without violating any other election law.

(2) If a single voting location for more than one (1) precinct is approved under subsection (3) of this section, the primary or election shall be conducted as follows:

(a) One (1) voting equipment may be used for more than one (1) precinct if ballots are tabulated for each separate precinct, and if separate ballots may be placed upon any voting equipment to be used without endangering the integrity of the ballots or without violating any other election law. Otherwise, separate voting equipment shall be used for each precinct. In the instance of a precinct which has a small number of voters such that the use of separate voting equipment would be cost-prohibitive, the county clerk may make application to the State Board of Elections to use supplemental paper ballots under KRS 118.215 to conduct the voting for the small precinct on any primary or election day. If the use of supplemental paper ballots is approved

- 1 by the State Board of Elections, at the close of voting on any primary or
2 election day, the locked supplemental paper ballot box shall be transported to
3 the county board of elections along with the federal provisional ballot
4 receptacle, and ballots shall be counted by the county board of elections as
5 provided by KRS 117.275(9) to (15)~~[(10) to (16)]~~;
- 6 (b) Separate precinct voter rosters shall be maintained for each precinct, and steps
7 shall be taken to ensure that voters cast their ballot in their duly authorized
8 precinct; and
- 9 (c) A separate set of election forms and reports required by this chapter and the
10 State Board of Elections shall be maintained for each precinct.
- 11 (3) The county board of elections may petition the State Board of Elections to allow the
12 consolidation of precincts and the consolidation of precinct election officers at any
13 voting location where voters of more than one (1) precinct vote. The petition shall
14 be submitted at least one hundred twenty (120) days before a primary election on a
15 form prescribed by the State Board of Elections in administrative regulations
16 promulgated under KRS Chapter 13A and shall include:
- 17 (a) A list of all precincts designated to vote at the voting location;
18 (b) The address and type of facility of the voting location;
19 (c) The number and type of voting systems or voting equipment to be used at the
20 voting location;
21 (d) The number of registered voters in each precinct designated to vote at the
22 voting location;
23 (e) An explanation of the reasons why the consolidation is desirable;
24 (f) The plan for additional precinct officers at the voting location, the manner in
25 which they will be assigned, and whether the voting location will be fully
26 staffed with election officials;
27 (g) The plan for how the county clerk will publicize the location for where the

1 voting shall occur, in addition to how each location shall be noted
2 conspicuously to residents of the county as a "Vote Center";

3 (h) The plan for how the voting location will serve as a focal point to meet the
4 needs of a diverse community; and

5 (i) The number of parking spaces available at the location and a determination as
6 to whether the location has sufficient parking spaces.

7 (4) Beginning on January 1, 2025, if the petition submitted under subsection (3) of this
8 section is approved by the State Board of Elections, it shall apply for the entire year
9 and the precinct election officers designated to serve as election officers for more
10 than one (1) precinct shall meet the eligibility requirements of KRS 117.045.

11 (5) At least one hundred twenty (120) days before an election, or fifty-six (56) days
12 before a special election, a county board of elections may petition the State Board
13 of Elections to allow an amendment the county board deems necessary to the
14 petition previously submitted and approved under subsection (3) of this section.

15 (6) The Secretary of State shall retain veto authority over any petition that is approved
16 by the State Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections, upon reconsideration
17 of the petition, shall have the power to override a veto of the Secretary of State by a
18 three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the membership of the board.

19 ➔Section 4. KRS 117.076 is amended to read as follows:

20 (1) Any voter who is qualified to vote on election day in the county of his or her
21 residence may choose to cast a no-excuse in-person absentee ballot on the
22 Thursday, Friday, or Saturday immediately preceding the day of an election. The
23 available hours from which a voter may cast his or her vote during these three (3)
24 days shall be no less than eight (8) hours between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. prevailing time,
25 as determined by the county board of elections of each county.

26 (2) Any voter who is qualified to vote on election day in the county of his or her
27 residence may make application to cast an excused in-person absentee ballot during

1 normal business hours during the six (6) business days immediately preceding the
2 Thursday of no-excuse in-person absentee voting under subsection (1) of this
3 section. The voter who makes application under this subsection shall meet one (1)
4 of the following requirements in order to cast his or her excused in-person absentee
5 ballot:

6 (a) Is a resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter as defined in KRS 117A.010,
7 who will be absent from the county of his or her residence on the day of an
8 election and during the days of no-excuse in-person absentee voting;

9 (b) Has surgery, or whose spouse has surgery, scheduled that will require
10 hospitalization on the day of an election and during the days of no-excuse in-
11 person absentee voting;

12 (c) Temporarily resides outside the state, but is still eligible to vote in this state
13 and will be absent from the county of his or her residence on the day of an
14 election and during the days of no-excuse in-person absentee voting;

15 (d) Is a resident of Kentucky who is a uniformed-service voter as defined in KRS
16 117A.010 confined to a military base on election day and during the days of
17 no-excuse in-person absentee voting;

18 (e) Is in her last trimester of pregnancy;

19 (f) Has not been declared mentally disabled by a court of competent jurisdiction
20 and, due to age, disability, or illness, is not able to appear at the polls on
21 election day and during the days of no-excuse in-person absentee voting;

22 (g) *Is a caregiver who is providing medical or healthcare assistance to a voter*
23 *who is qualified to cast a ballot under paragraph (f) of this subsection;*

24 *(h)* Is a student who temporarily resides outside the county of his or her residence
25 and will be absent from the county of his or her residence on the day of an
26 election and during the days of no-excuse in-person absentee voting;

27 *(i)* ~~*(h)*~~ Any person employed in an occupation that is scheduled to work during

1 all days and all hours, which shall include commute time, the polls are open
2 on election day and during the days of no-excuse in-person absentee voting;

3 ~~(j)(i)~~ Any election officer tasked with election administration for the current
4 election cycle; or

5 ~~(k)(j)~~ Any person prevented from voting in person at the polls on election day
6 and from casting a no-excuse in-person absentee ballot on all days no-excuse
7 in-person absentee voting is conducted because he or she will be absent from
8 the county of his or her residence during all days and all hours no-excuse in-
9 person absentee voting is conducted.

10 (3) Any voter who votes an in-person absentee or federal provisional in-person
11 absentee ballot shall provide proof of identification as defined in KRS 117.001 or
12 meet the requirements of KRS 117.228 or 117.229.

13 (4) In-person absentee voting shall be conducted in a location within the county clerk's
14 office where ballots shall be cast secretly. In-person absentee voting may occur in
15 another location within the county if the location is designated by the county board
16 of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections. The county clerk may
17 provide for voting by the voting equipment in general use in the county or any other
18 voting equipment approved by the State Board of Elections for use in Kentucky.
19 Public notice of the locations shall be given pursuant to KRS Chapter 424, and
20 similar notice by mail shall be given to the county chairs of the two (2) political
21 parties whose candidates polled the largest number of votes in the county at the last
22 regular election.

23 (5) Any voter qualifying to vote who receives assistance to vote in-person absentee
24 shall complete the voter assistance form required by KRS 117.255.

25 (6) Any voter qualifying to vote whose qualifications are challenged on grounds other
26 than inability to provide proof of identification by any clerk or deputy shall
27 complete an oath of voter affidavit.

- 1 (7) Each voter casting his or her vote in-person absentee shall sign an in-person
2 absentee ballot signature roster.
- 3 (8) The members of the county board of elections, or their designees who provide equal
4 representation of both political parties, may serve as precinct election officers,
5 without compensation, for all in-person absentee voting conducted. If the members
6 of the county board of elections or their designees serve as precinct election officers
7 for in-person absentee voting, they shall perform the same duties and exercise the
8 same authority as precinct election officers who serve on the day of an election. If
9 the members of the county board of elections or their designees do not serve as
10 precinct election officers for in-person absentee voting, the county clerk or deputy
11 county clerks shall supervise the in-person absentee voting.
- 12 (9) Any individual qualified to appoint challengers for the day of an election may also
13 appoint challengers to observe all in-person absentee voting, and those challengers
14 may exercise the same privileges as challengers appointed for observing voting on
15 the day of an election at a regular polling place.
- 16 (10) During the days of in-person absentee voting, all voting equipment on which in-
17 person absentee ballots are cast shall remain locked and the keys shall be retained
18 by at least two (2) members of the central ballot counting board who are not of the
19 same political affiliation or by two (2) members of the county board of elections
20 who are not of the same political affiliation, and the voting equipment shall remain
21 locked with a tamper-resistant seal until the ballots are counted.
- 22 (11) No person shall transmit or publicize any tallies or counts of in-person absentee
23 ballots, or any partial results, to any person except when provided to the county
24 board of elections under KRS 117.087, until 6 p.m. prevailing time on the day of a
25 primary or an election.
- 26 (12) (a) Before and after each day of in-person absentee voting, on all voting
27 equipment to be used, the tamper-resistant seal shall be checked to ensure it is

1 unaltered and the number on the public counter shall be read and recorded.
2 The status of the tamper-resistant seal shall be indicated and the number on
3 the public counter of each voting equipment shall be recorded by the county
4 clerk or his or her designated election official, member of the county board of
5 elections, or member of the central ballot counting board. The status of the
6 tamper-resistant seal and the number recorded from the public counter shall
7 be witnessed by an election official who is of a different political affiliation
8 than the person recording.

9 (b) The status of the tamper-resistant seal and the number on the public counter
10 shall be recorded on a form prescribed and furnished by the State Board of
11 Elections pursuant to administrative regulations promulgated under KRS
12 Chapter 13A.

13 (c) The witness who is present shall verify, through validity of his or her
14 signature on the form provided, the accuracy of the number recorded from the
15 public counter, the number recorded on the prescribed form, and the status of
16 the tamper-resistant seal.

17 (d) Any irregularities observed by the election official who is recording and the
18 election official who is a witness shall be immediately reported to the county
19 attorney or the Office of Attorney General.

20 (13) The State Board of Elections shall promulgate administrative regulations under
21 KRS Chapter 13A to provide for the casting of ballots in accordance with this
22 section.

23 ➔Section 5. KRS 117.085 is amended to read as follows:

24 (1) (a) All requests for a mail-in absentee ballot shall be requested through a secure
25 online portal established by the State Board of Elections, except for:

- 26 1. Voters identified in KRS 117.077;
27 2. Disabled voters; and

- 1 3. Covered voters in paragraph (i) of this subsection;
2 who have the additional option of requesting a mail-in absentee ballot
3 application through the county clerk.
- 4 (b) Acquiring a mail-in absentee ballot by means of the online portal shall require
5 the voter to input personally identifiable information for verification.
- 6 (c) 1. For those voters who do not have the means of accessing the online
7 portal, the county clerk shall fulfill a request for a mail-in absentee
8 ballot by taking the voter's information over the telephone or in person
9 and directly inputting that information into the secure online portal.
- 10 2. If a voter under paragraph (h)3. of this subsection expresses the desire to
11 request a mail-in absentee ballot, the jail staff shall ensure that the voter
12 is allowed, during normal business hours, to use a telephone to receive
13 assistance by the county clerk, as described in subparagraph 1. of this
14 paragraph.
- 15 (d) The online portal shall have the capacity to ensure the identity of the voter
16 through proof of identification as required under KRS 117.227 or by means of
17 KRS 117.228.
- 18 (e) If a voter qualifies to receive a mail-in absentee ballot, the online portal shall
19 transmit the mail-in absentee ballot request to the county clerk of the county
20 in which the voter is registered to vote.
- 21 (f) The online portal shall not be open or permit any mail-in ballot requests to
22 occur more than forty-five (45) days immediately preceding the day of a
23 primary or an election. The online portal shall close at 11:59 p.m. local time,
24 fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the day of a primary or an election.
- 25 (g) Except as otherwise provided in KRS 117.077, the mail-in absentee ballot
26 may be requested by the voter or the spouse, parents, or children of the voter,
27 but shall be restricted to the use of the voter.

- 1 (h) Except as otherwise provided in KRS 117.077 and covered voters in
2 paragraph (i) of this subsection, a qualified voter may apply to cast his or her
3 vote by mail-in absentee ballot if the completed application is received
4 fourteen (14) days before the election, and if the voter is:
- 5 1. A resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter as defined in KRS
6 117A.010;
 - 7 2. A student who temporarily resides outside the county of his or her
8 residence;
 - 9 3. Incarcerated in jail and charged with a crime, but has not been convicted
10 of the crime;
 - 11 4. Changing or has changed his or her place of residence to a different state
12 while the registration books are closed in the new state of residence
13 before an election of electors for President and Vice President of the
14 United States, in which case the voter shall be permitted to cast a mail-in
15 absentee ballot for electors for President and Vice President of the
16 United States only;
 - 17 5. Temporarily residing outside the state but still eligible to vote in this
18 state;
 - 19 6. Prevented from voting in person at the polls on election day and from
20 casting an excused or no-excuse in-person absentee ballot on all days in-
21 person absentee voting is conducted because he or she will be absent
22 from the county of his or her residence all hours and all days excused or
23 no-excuse in-person absentee voting is conducted;
 - 24 7. A participant in the Secretary of State's crime victim address
25 confidentiality protection program as authorized by KRS 14.312; or
 - 26 8. Not able to appear at the polls on election day or the days excused or no-
27 excuse in-person absentee voting is conducted on the account of age,

1 disability, or illness, and who has not been declared mentally disabled
2 by a court of competent jurisdiction.

3 (i) Residents of Kentucky who are covered voters as defined in KRS 117A.010
4 may apply for a mail-in absentee ballot by means of the federal post-card
5 application, which may be transmitted to the county clerk's office by mail, by
6 facsimile machine, or by means of the electronic transmission system
7 established under KRS 117A.030(4). The federal post-card application may
8 be used to register, reregister, and to apply for a mail-in absentee ballot. If the
9 federal post-card application is received at any time not less than seven (7)
10 days before the election, the county clerk shall affix his or her seal to the
11 application form upon receipt.

12 (j) Any qualified voter who is disabled may use an accessible mail-in absentee
13 ballot portal to request and receive a mail-in absentee ballot by means of an
14 electronic transmission system as established under KRS 117A.030(4). The
15 standards necessary to implement this paragraph shall be set by the State
16 Board of Elections pursuant to administrative regulations promulgated under
17 KRS Chapter 13A.

18 (2) For those voters who are eligible to receive a mail-in absentee ballot by means other
19 than the secure online portal pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the county
20 clerk shall type the name of the voter permitted to vote by mail-in absentee ballot
21 on the mail-in absentee ballot application for that person's use and no other. The
22 mail-in absentee ballot application shall be in the form prescribed by the State
23 Board of Elections, which shall include the voter affirmation form as prescribed in
24 KRS 117.228(1)(c) and shall contain the following information: name, residential
25 address, precinct, party affiliation, statement of the reason the person cannot vote in
26 person on the day of an election or during the dates and time no-excuse in-person
27 absentee voting is being conducted, statement of where the voter shall be on

1 election day or during the dates and times no-excuse in-person absentee voting is
2 being conducted, statement of compliance with residency requirements for voting in
3 the precinct, an instructional statement prescribing the requirements for providing a
4 copy of the voter's proof of identification or voter affirmation when applicable, and
5 the voter's mailing address for a mail-in absentee ballot. The mail-in absentee ballot
6 application form shall be verified and signed by the voter, and the voter shall
7 provide a copy of his or her proof of identification, as defined in KRS 117.001, or
8 the executed voter affirmation as described in KRS 117.228(1)(c). A notice of the
9 actual penalty provisions in KRS 117.995(2) and (5) shall be printed on the mail-in
10 absentee ballot application form.

11 (3) For those voters eligible to receive a mail-in absentee ballot, if the county clerk
12 finds that the voter has completed and submitted an application for a mail-in
13 absentee ballot as provided in this section, is properly registered as stated in his or
14 her mail-in absentee ballot application, and qualifies to receive a mail-in absentee
15 ballot by mail, the county clerk shall issue only~~mail~~ to the voter a mail-in
16 absentee ballot, two (2) official envelopes for returning the mail-in absentee ballot,
17 and instructions for voting.

18 (4) Mail-in absentee ballots shall be mailed to a voter's residential address located in
19 the county in which the voter is registered, except for:

- 20 (a) A qualified voter who applies pursuant to the requirements of subsection
21 (1)(h)1., 4., and 5. of this section;
- 22 (b) A qualified voter covered under KRS 117.077;
- 23 (c) A qualified voter who applies pursuant to the requirements of subsection
24 (1)(h)2. of this section, whose mail-in absentee ballot shall be mailed to the
25 voter's residential address located in the county in which the voter is
26 registered, or the voter's current residential address at the time the application
27 for the absentee ballot is submitted, if different, due to the voter's attendance

1 at an educational institution;

2 (d) A qualified voter who applies pursuant to the requirements of subsection
3 (1)(h)3. of this section, whose mail-in absentee ballot shall be mailed to the
4 jail where he or she is in custody at the time the application for the absentee
5 ballot is submitted;~~{or}~~

6 (e) A qualified voter who applies pursuant to the requirements of subsection
7 (1)(h)8. of this section, whose mail-in absentee ballot may be mailed to the
8 address of a facility where he or she is receiving inpatient or residential
9 medical treatment; or

10 (f) A qualified voter who has been issued a mail-in absentee ballot in person by
11 the county clerk.

12 If a qualified voter who applies pursuant to paragraph (c), (d), or (e) of this
13 subsection leaves the address where he or she requested an absentee ballot be
14 mailed, the voter may contact the county clerk who shall issue a second ballot
15 pursuant to subsection (9) of this section after canceling the first absentee ballot
16 mailed to the voter.

17 (5) The county clerk shall:

18 (a) Transmit a mail-in absentee ballot to the voter who is eligible to receive a
19 mail-in absentee ballot within four (4) days of receipt or within four (4) days
20 of the ballots being available;

21 (b) Cause mail-in absentee ballots to be printed fifty (50) days prior to each
22 primary or regular election, and forty-five (45) days prior to a special election;
23 and

24 (c) Complete a postal form for a certificate of mailing for mail-in absentee ballots
25 mailed within the fifty (50) states, and it shall be stamped by the postal
26 service when the mail-in absentee ballots are mailed. Unless a postal form for
27 a certificate of mailing is required, the county clerk may use methods of

1 tracking the mail-in absentee ballots by means of a printed barcode or other
2 label that is unique to the individual voter issued by the State Board of
3 Elections pursuant to administrative regulations promulgated under KRS
4 Chapter 13A.

5 (6) A mail-in absentee ballot may be transmitted by facsimile machine or by the
6 electronic transmission system established under KRS 117A.030(4) to a covered
7 voter as defined in KRS 117A.010. The covered voter shall be notified of the
8 options for transmittal of the mail-in absentee ballot, and the mail-in absentee ballot
9 shall be transmitted by the method chosen for receipt by the resident of Kentucky
10 who is a covered voter.

11 (7) The outer envelope of the mail-in absentee ballot shall bear the words "Absentee
12 Ballot", the address and official title of the county clerk, a printed barcode or other
13 label that is unique to the individual voter issued by the State Board of Elections,
14 and adequate space for the voter's signature, voting address, precinct number, and
15 signatures of two (2) witnesses if the voter signs the form with the use of a mark
16 instead of the voter's signature. A detachable flap on the secrecy envelope shall
17 provide space for the voter's signature, voting address, precinct number, signatures
18 of two (2) witnesses if the voter signs the form with the use of a mark instead of the
19 voter's signature and notice of penalty provided in KRS 117.995(5). The county
20 clerk shall type the voter's address and precinct number in the upper left hand
21 corner of the outer envelope and of the detachable flap on the secrecy envelope
22 immediately below the blank space for the voter's signature. The secrecy envelope
23 shall be blank. If applicable, the county clerk shall retain the voter's mail-in ballot
24 application, which shall include the photographed copy of the voter's proof of
25 identification or the voter affirmation as prescribed by KRS 117.228(1)(c), and the
26 postal form required by subsection (5) of this section for twenty-two (22) months
27 after the primary or election.

- 1 (8) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (10) of this section, any person who has
2 received a mail-in absentee ballot but who knows at least seven (7) days before the
3 date of the election that he or she will be in his or her county of residence on
4 election day or during the days of no-excuse in-person absentee voting and who has
5 not voted by means of his or her mail-in absentee ballot shall cancel his or her mail-
6 in absentee ballot and vote in person. The voter shall return the mail-in absentee
7 ballot to the county clerk's office by mail or hand delivery no later than seven (7)
8 days prior to the date of the election. Upon the return of the mail-in absentee ballot,
9 the county clerk shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed ballot or the
10 unmarked ballot the words "Canceled because voter appeared to vote in person."
11 Sealed envelopes so marked shall not be opened. The county clerk shall remove the
12 voter's name from the list of persons who were sent mail-in absentee ballots, and
13 the voter may vote in the precinct in which he or she is properly registered.
- 14 (9) Any voter qualified for a mail-in absentee ballot who does not receive a requested
15 mail-in absentee ballot within a reasonable amount of time shall contact the county
16 clerk, who shall issue another~~reissue a second~~ mail-in absentee ballot. The county
17 clerk shall keep a record of the mail-in absentee ballots issued and returned by mail,
18 hand-delivered, or placed in a secure drop-box or receptacle, and the in-person
19 absentee voting and federal in-person provisional absentee voting that is conducted,
20 to verify that only the first voted ballot is counted. Upon the return of any mail-in
21 absentee ballot after the first mail-in absentee ballot is returned, the county clerk
22 shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed ballot the words "Canceled because
23 ballot reissued."
- 24 (10) Any covered voter as defined in KRS 117A.010 who has received a mail-in
25 absentee ballot but who knows that he or she will be in the county on election day
26 or during the days of no-excuse in-person absentee voting shall cancel his or her
27 mail-in absentee ballot and vote in person during the days of no-excuse in-person

absentee voting or on the day of the election. The voter shall return the mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerk's office on or before election day. Upon the return of the mail-in absentee ballot, the county clerk shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed mail-in absentee ballot or the unmarked mail-in absentee ballot the words "Canceled because voter appeared to vote in person." Sealed envelopes so marked shall not be opened. The county clerk shall remove the voter's name from the list of persons who were sent mail-in absentee ballots, allow the voter to vote by means of no-excuse in-person absentee ballot, or provide the voter with written authorization to vote at the precinct on election day. If the voter is unable to return the mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerk's office on or before election day, at the time he or she votes in person, he or she shall sign a written oath as to his or her qualifications on a form prescribed by the State Board of Elections pursuant to KRS 117.245.

(11) The State Board of Elections shall promulgate administrative regulations to:

- (a) Ensure election officials have real-time knowledge of which voters have requested mail-in absentee ballots; and
- (b) Provide procedures to be followed if a voter attempts to vote more than once at a primary or an election.

➔Section 6. KRS 117.086 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) The voter returning his or her absentee ballot to the county clerk by mail, hand delivery, or to a secure drop-box or receptacle, shall mark his or her ballot, seal it in the secrecy envelope, and then seal the outer envelope.
- (b) The voter shall sign the detachable flap and the outer envelope in order to validate the ballot. A person having power of attorney for the voter and who signs the detachable flap and outer envelope for the voter shall complete the voter assistance form as required by KRS 117.255. The signatures of two (2) witnesses are required if the voter signs the form with the use of a mark

1 instead of the voter's signature. A resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter
2 as defined in KRS 117A.010 who has received an absentee ballot transmitted
3 by facsimile machine or by means of the electronic transmission system
4 established under KRS 117A.030(4) shall transmit the voted ballot to the
5 county clerk by mail only, conforming with ballot security requirements that
6 may be promulgated by the State Board of Elections by administrative
7 regulation under KRS Chapter 13A. In order to be counted, all mail-in
8 absentee ballots shall be received by the county clerk no later than the time
9 established by the election laws generally for the closing of the polls, which
10 time shall not include the extra hour during which those voters may vote who
11 were waiting in line to vote at the scheduled poll closing time.

12 (2) (a) The county clerk shall provide a minimum of one (1) secure ballot drop-box
13 to receive voted mail-in absentee ballots for each primary, regular election, or
14 special election. Public notice of all secure ballot drop-box locations shall be
15 given in the same manner as provided under KRS 117.076(4), and posted to
16 the website of the county clerk.

17 (b) The county board of elections may seek the State Board of Elections' approval
18 of a ballot receptacle to receive voted mail-in absentee ballots for each
19 primary, regular election, or special election. Public notice of all secure ballot
20 receptacle locations shall be given in the same manner as provided under KRS
21 117.076(4), and posted to the website of the county clerk. Before any mail-in
22 absentee ballot shall be allowed to be deposited inside a receptacle, the county
23 board of elections shall inform the State Board of Elections of:

- 24 1. The number of receptacles to be used;
- 25 2. The type of each receptacle to be used; and
- 26 3. The receptacle location.

27 (c) Any drop-box or receptacle located outside of the county clerk's office shall

1 be:

- 2 1. Placed in a well-lit and easily accessible location;
- 3 2. Secured to ensure immobility while in use;
- 4 3. Under video surveillance at all times;
- 5 4. Tamper-resistant; and
- 6 5. Conspicuously noted as a mail-in absentee ballot drop-off location.

7 (d) The system used to conduct the video surveillance required under
8 paragraph (c) of this subsection shall have enough storage capacity to
9 retain sixty (60) consecutive days of continuous recording data. A request
10 under the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884, for this video
11 after an election shall be made during the sixty (60) consecutive days
12 following the election, and the video may be disposed of after those sixty
13 (60) days, upon compliance with the Kentucky Open Records Act, or the
14 completion of an investigation or pending litigation in a District, Circuit, or
15 federal court, whichever is later.

16 (e) A drop-box or receptacle located inside the county clerk's office shall be
17 under direct supervision of the staff of the county clerk at all times and be
18 accessible to the public.

19 ~~(f)(e)~~ Each receptacle or drop-box shall be emptied by the county clerk and at
20 least one (1) member of the county board of elections or one (1) member of
21 the central ballot counting board if one is appointed, who is not of the same
22 political affiliation as the county clerk at least once each business day or more
23 frequently, as needed, to reasonably secure and accommodate the volume of
24 the voter-delivered mail-in absentee ballots. The ballots deposited in the drop-
25 box or receptacle shall be removed with a record of the date and time ballots
26 were removed, and the names of the persons removing them. If the drop-box
27 or receptacle is located outside the county clerk's office, the ballots shall be

1 returned to the county clerk in locked transport containers, and the county
2 clerk shall transfer the ballots upon receipt in accordance with subsection (3)
3 of this section.

4 ~~(g)~~~~(f)~~ Except for those times ballots are being removed and transported from a
5 secure ballot drop box to the county clerk as provided in this subsection, the
6 county clerk and at least one (1) member of the county board of elections who
7 is not of the same political affiliation or one (1) member of the central ballot
8 counting board who is not of the same political affiliation as the county clerk,
9 shall retain the keys to all secure ballot drop-boxes, receptacles, and transport
10 containers in use in the county.

11 ~~(h)~~~~(g)~~ The State Board of Elections may establish additional security measures
12 and procedures for the use of the ballot drop-box or receptacle through
13 administrative regulations promulgated under KRS Chapter 13A.

14 (3) Upon receipt of a mail-in absentee ballot, the county clerk shall scan the barcode or
15 label that is unique to the individual voter to note the receipt of the mail-in absentee
16 ballot, and deposit all of the mail-in absentee ballots in a locked ballot box
17 immediately upon receipt without opening the outer envelope. The ballot box shall
18 be locked with two (2) locks. The keys to the ballot box shall be retained by at least
19 two (2) members of the county board of elections who are not of the same political
20 affiliation or two (2) members of the central ballot counting board if one (1) is
21 appointed, who are not of the same political affiliation, and the box shall remain
22 locked until the ballots are processed, reviewed, or counted under KRS 117.087.

23 (4) The county clerk shall keep separate lists for each election of all persons who:

- 24 (a) Return a mail-in absentee ballot accepted under KRS 117.087;
25 (b) Vote by means of an excused or no-excuse in-person absentee ballot; and
26 (c) Cast a federal provisional absentee ballot counted under 31 KAR 6:020.

27 The county clerk shall send a copy of each list to the State Board of Elections after

1 any primary or election day. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Kentucky Open
2 Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884, each list of all persons who return their mail-in
3 absentee ballots or who cast their ballots by means of an excused in-person
4 absentee or no-excuse in-person absentee shall not be made public until after the
5 close of business hours on the primary or election day for which the list applies,
6 except when provided to the county board of elections under KRS 117.087. The
7 county clerk and the Secretary of State shall keep a record of the number of votes
8 cast by each method listed in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subsection, which are cast
9 in any primary or election as a part of the official certification of the primary or
10 election.

- 11 (5) The county board of elections shall report to the State Board of Elections within ten
12 (10) days after any primary or regular election as to the number of rejected absentee
13 ballots, including rejected mail-in absentee ballots and ballots cast under subsection
14 (3) of this section, and the reasons for rejecting the ballots on a form prescribed and
15 furnished by the State Board of Elections in administrative regulations promulgated
16 under KRS Chapter 13A.

17 ➔Section 7. KRS 117.255 is amended to read as follows:

- 18 (1) The voter shall be instructed by the officers of election, with the aid of the
19 instruction cards and any model if applicable, in the use of the voting equipment, if
20 the voter so requests.
- 21 (2) Except for those voters who have been certified as requiring assistance on a
22 permanent basis under this section, no voter shall be permitted to receive any
23 assistance in voting at the polls unless the voter makes and signs an oath that,
24 because of blindness, other physical disability, or an inability to read English, the
25 voter is unable to vote without assistance. The voter shall indicate in the oath the
26 specific reason that requires the voter to receive assistance. The oath shall be upon a
27 voter assistance form prescribed and furnished by the State Board of Elections

1 pursuant to administrative regulations promulgated under KRS Chapter 13A. Any
2 person assisting a voter shall complete the voter assistance form.

3 (3) Upon making and filing the oath with the precinct clerk, the voter requiring
4 assistance shall retire to the voting booth or ballot completion area with the precinct
5 judges, and one (1) of the judges shall, in the presence of the other judge and the
6 voter, complete the ballot as the voter directs. A voter requiring assistance in voting
7 may, if the voter prefers, be assisted by a person of the voter's own choice who is
8 not an election officer, except that the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's
9 employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union shall not assist a voter.

10 (4) The precinct election clerk shall swear a person assisting a voter in voting to
11 complete the ballot in accordance with the directions of the voter, and the person
12 sworn shall enter the voting booth or ballot completion area and complete the ballot
13 for the voter as the voter directs.

14 (5) A voter who requires voting assistance on a permanent basis because of blindness
15 or other physical disability may apply to the county board of elections for
16 certification. Application may be made when registering to vote or completing the
17 voter assistance form by indicating that the reason for obtaining assistance is
18 permanent. ~~The county board of elections shall determine whether the applicant~~

19 ~~requires assistance on a permanent basis.~~ **The voter shall swear or affirm, under**
20 **penalty of perjury, that he or she requires voting assistance on a permanent basis**
21 **because of a permanent physical disability.** The county board of elections shall

22 notify the county clerk of persons certified as requiring permanent voting assistance
23 and the county clerk shall enter the certification on the voter's registration record.
24 The State Board of Elections shall indicate on the precinct roster of voters those
25 voters who are certified to receive assistance permanently without signing the voter
26 assistance form at the precinct.

27 (6) No voter shall be permitted to occupy the voting booth or ballot completion area

1 more than four (4) minutes if other voters are waiting to use it, except that those
2 voters who because of a disability need extra time to cast a ballot shall be given a
3 reasonable amount of time to vote.

4 (7) In primaries, before a voter is permitted to use the voting equipment, a judge of the
5 election shall adjust the voting equipment so that the voter will only be able to vote
6 for the persons for whom the voter is qualified to vote.

7 (8) If the voting equipment is so constructed as to require adjustment after one (1)
8 person has voted before another person may vote, the judges of election shall adjust
9 it after each person has voted.

10 (9) The election officers shall constantly maintain a watch in order to prevent any
11 person from voting more than once.

12 (10) For voters voting as federal provisional voters, or if supplemental paper ballots
13 have been approved as provided in KRS 118.215, the voter shall vote his or her
14 federal provisional or supplemental ballot in privacy in a voting booth provided for
15 that purpose by the county clerk. If the voter spoils his or her federal provisional or
16 supplemental ballot, the voter shall return the spoiled federal provisional or
17 supplemental paper ballot to an election officer who shall stamp the ballot
18 "Spoiled," initial, and place the spoiled federal provisional or supplemental ballot in
19 an envelope provided for that purpose. The voter shall be issued a second federal
20 provisional or supplemental paper ballot. Upon completion of voting, the voter shall
21 remove the numbered stub from the federal provisional or supplemental ballot, hand
22 the stub to an election officer and deposit the voted federal provisional or
23 supplemental ballot in the appropriate locked ballot box or locked receptacle in the
24 presence of an election officer.

25 (11) The election sheriff shall be responsible for reporting violations of this section.

26 ➔Section 8. KRS 117.265 is amended to read as follows:

27 (1) A voter may, at any regular or special election, cast a write-in vote for any person

1 qualified as provided in subsection (2) or (3) of this section, whose name does not
2 appear upon the ballot for any office, by writing the name of his or her choice upon
3 the appropriate ballot for the office being voted on as required by KRS 117.125.
4 Any candidate who is defeated or disqualified in a partisan or nonpartisan primary
5 shall be ineligible as a candidate for the same office in the regular election, unless
6 there is a vacancy pursuant to KRS 118.105(3). Any voter utilizing a federal
7 provisional ballot, a federal provisional in-person absentee ballot, or a mail-in
8 absentee ballot for a regular or special election may write in a vote for any eligible
9 person whose name does not appear upon the ballot, by writing the name of his or
10 her choice under the office.

11 (2) Write-in votes shall be counted only for candidates for election to office who have
12 filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate with the Secretary of State or
13 county clerk, depending on the office being sought, on or before the *certification*
14 *deadlines established in subsection (1)(a) to (c) of Section 16 of this Act and KRS*
15 *118A.090(2)*~~[fourth Friday in October preceding the date of the regular election]~~
16 and not later than the second Friday before the date of a special election. In the case
17 of a special election administered under KRS 118.730, a declaration of intent to be
18 a write-in candidate shall be filed at least twenty-eight (28) days before the day of
19 the election. The declaration of intent shall be filed no earlier than the first
20 Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year the
21 office will appear on the ballot, and no later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of
22 filing when filed on the last date on which papers may be filed. The declaration of
23 intent shall be on a form prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of State.

24 (3) A person shall not be eligible as a write-in candidate:
25 (a) For more than one (1) office in a regular or special election; or
26 (b) If his or her name appears upon the ballot for any office, except that the
27 candidate may file a notice of withdrawal prior to filing an intent to be a

1 write-in candidate for office when a vacancy in a different office occurs
2 because of:

- 3 1. Death;
- 4 2. Disqualification to hold the office sought;
- 5 3. Severe disabling condition which arose after the nomination; or
- 6 4. The nomination of an unopposed candidate.

7 (4) Persons who wish to run for President and Vice-President shall file a declaration of
8 intent to be a write-in candidate, along with a list of presidential electors pledged to
9 those candidates, with the Secretary of State on or before the fourth Friday in
10 October preceding the date of the regular election for those offices. The declaration
11 of intent shall be filed no earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in
12 November of the year preceding the year the office will appear on the ballot, and no
13 later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing when filed on the last date on
14 which papers may be filed. Write-in votes cast for the candidates whose names
15 appear on the ballot shall apply to the slate of pledged presidential electors, whose
16 names shall not appear on the ballot.

17 (5) The county clerk shall provide to the precinct election officers certified lists of
18 those persons who have filed declarations of intent as provided in subsections (2)
19 and (3) of this section. **These lists shall not be posted anywhere but a voter may**
20 **request to see a copy of the list. Once the voter has reviewed the copy, it shall**
21 **immediately be returned to the precinct election officer.** Only write-in votes cast
22 for qualified candidates shall be counted.

23 (6) Two (2) election officers of opposing parties shall upon the request of any voter
24 instruct the voter on how to cast a write-in vote.

25 ➡Section 9. KRS 117.275 is amended to read as follows:

26 (1) At the count of the votes in any precinct, any candidate or slate of candidates and
27 any representatives to witness and check the count of the votes therein, who are

1 authorized to be appointed as is provided in subsection ~~(8)~~~~(9)~~ of this section, shall
2 be admitted and permitted to be present and witness the count.

3 (2) As soon as the polls are closed, and the last voter has voted, the judges at that time
4 shall immediately lock and seal the voting equipment so that the voting and
5 counting mechanisms will be prevented from operating, and they shall sign a
6 certificate stating:

- 7 (a) That the voting equipment has been locked against voting and sealed;
8 (b) The number of voters, as shown on the public counters;
9 (c) The number registered on the protective or cumulative counter or device; and
10 (d) The number or other designation of the voting equipment.

11 The certificate, with any additional certificate previously prepared under KRS
12 117.035, shall be returned by the judges of election to the officials authorized by
13 law to receive it. The judges shall compare the number of voters, as shown by the
14 counter of the voting equipment, with the number of those who have voted as
15 shown by the protective or cumulative counter or device.

16 ~~(3) [Where voting equipment is used which does not print the candidates' names along~~
17 ~~with the total votes received on a general return sheet or record for that equipment,~~
18 ~~the procedure to be followed shall be as follows:~~

- 19 ~~(a) The judges, in the presence of the representatives mentioned in subsection (1)~~
20 ~~of this section, if any, and of all other persons who may be lawfully within the~~
21 ~~polling place, shall give full view of all the counter numbers;~~
22 ~~(b) The judges shall enter, in ink, the total votes cast for each candidate, and slate~~
23 ~~of candidates, and for and against each question on the return sheets; and~~
24 ~~(c) Each precinct election officer shall sign the return sheets, and a copy of the~~
25 ~~return sheets shall be posted on the precinct door.~~

26 ~~(4) [Where voting equipment is used that prints the candidates' names along with the~~
27 ~~total votes received on a return sheet or record for that equipment, the precinct~~

1 election officers shall sign the return sheets or record for the voting equipment,
2 which shall be posted on the door of the precinct.

3 ~~(4)~~~~(5)~~ If any officer shall decline to sign the return sheets, he or she shall state the
4 reason in writing, and a copy thereof, signed by the officer, shall be enclosed with
5 the return sheets.

6 ~~(5)~~~~(6)~~ Each of the return sheets, if applicable, and the record of the voting equipment
7 shall be enclosed in an envelope. One (1) copy of the return sheets, if applicable,
8 one (1) copy of the record of the voting equipment, and the write-in roll, if any
9 write-in votes were cast in the precinct, shall be directed to the county board of
10 elections of the county in which the election is being held. One (1) copy of the
11 return sheets or record of the voting equipment shall be given to the county clerk of
12 the county in which the election is being held and to each of the local governing
13 bodies of the two (2) dominant political parties, but a local governing body of a
14 dominant political party may decline a copy of the precinct election return by filing
15 a written declination with the county board of elections prior to the election, and
16 upon this declination, a printed copy shall not be issued to the political party so
17 declining. The declination on file shall be effective for that election and any
18 subsequent elections until revoked by the local governing body of a dominant
19 political party by filing a written revocation with the county board of elections. The
20 envelope shall have endorsed thereon a certificate of the election officers, stating
21 the number or unique designation of the voting equipment, the precinct where it has
22 been used, the number on the seal, and the number on the protective or cumulative
23 counter or device at the close of the polls.

24 ~~(6)~~~~(7)~~ During the period established by KRS 117.355(3), and following the
25 tabulation of all votes cast in the election, including absentee votes and write-in
26 votes:

27 (a) The county board of elections shall mail, transmit via facsimile machine,

1 hand-deliver, or submit by electronic means a copy of the precinct-by-precinct
2 summary of the tabulation sheets showing the results from each precinct to the
3 State Board of Elections. The copy of the precinct-by-precinct summary of the
4 tabulation sheets showing the results from each precinct shall include the
5 votes cast on the day of an election and during absentee voting; and

6 (b) The county clerk shall mail or deliver the precinct signature rosters from each
7 precinct and the in-person absentee ballot signature roster to the State Board
8 of Elections.

9 ~~(7)(8)~~ For each voting location, as soon as possible after the completion of the count,
10 the two (2) election officers who are not of the same political affiliation shall return
11 to the county board of elections the keys to the voting equipment received and
12 receipted for by them, and the county clerk, in each voting location, shall have the
13 voting equipment properly boxed or securely covered and removed to a proper and
14 secure place of storage.

15 ~~(8)(9)~~ In primaries, each candidate or group of candidates may designate to the
16 county board of elections a representative to witness and check the vote count. In
17 regular elections, the governing authority of each political party, each candidate for
18 member of board of education, nonpartisan candidate, political group candidate,
19 political organization candidate, independent candidate, or independent ticket may
20 designate a representative to the county board of elections to witness and check the
21 vote count. The county board of elections shall authorize representatives of the
22 news media to witness the vote count.

23 ~~(9)(10)~~ For all federal provisional ballots, if applicable, and supplemental paper
24 ballots if approved as provided in KRS 118.215, after the polls are closed, the two
25 (2) judges shall return to the county clerk's office the locked federal provisional
26 ballot receptacle and the supplemental paper ballot box, all ballot stubs, spoiled
27 ballots, and unvoted ballots at the same time as the tabulation of votes from the

1 voting equipment is delivered. The county clerk shall issue a receipt for the number
2 of ballot stubs, unvoted ballots, spoiled ballots, and the ballot boxes or ballot
3 receptacle.

4 (10)~~((11))~~ The county board of elections, or its designee, shall count and tally the
5 supplemental paper ballots that have not been tabulated by automatic tabulating
6 equipment at the precinct, either manually or with the use of tabulating equipment
7 that has been certified by the State Board of Elections for use for that purpose in the
8 county clerk's office. The results of the vote tally shall be certified by the county
9 board of elections to the county clerk and to the Secretary of State.

10 (11)~~((12))~~ The county board of elections shall tabulate the valid federal provisional
11 ballots. The results of the vote tally shall be certified by the county board of
12 elections to the county clerk and to the Secretary of State. The county board of
13 elections shall mail a copy of the precinct-by-precinct summary of the valid federal
14 provisional ballot tabulation sheets showing the results from each precinct to the
15 State Board of Elections.

16 (12)~~((13))~~ The county board of elections shall authorize the candidates, slates of
17 candidates, or their representatives, and representatives of the news media to be
18 present during the counting of the supplemental and federal provisional paper
19 ballots.

20 (13)~~((14))~~ No person shall transmit or publicize any tallies or counts of ballots, or any
21 partial results, to any person except those persons, election officials, or entities
22 authorized by law to receive it, until 6 p.m. prevailing time on the day of a primary
23 or an election.

24 (14)~~((15))~~ (a) Unofficial election results transmitted online to the county board of
25 elections or the State Board of Elections shall occur by means of a secure
26 online connection after results are tallied on the tally computer that has been
27 certified in accordance with KRS 117.379 as part of a voting system as

1 defined in KRS 117.001.

2 (b) If an external device is used to upload election results for the subsequent
3 transmission, the device shall be used for that primary or election only and be
4 of a type approved by the State Board of Elections as part of a voting system
5 under KRS 117.379. The upload of the election results shall occur in the
6 presence of two (2) members of the county board of elections who are of a
7 different political affiliation.

8 ~~(15)~~~~(16)~~ Except as otherwise required in this chapter, all records and papers relating to
9 specified elections shall be retained for twenty-two (22) months, and the county
10 clerk shall retain the voted federal provisional ballots, voter affirmations, election
11 official affirmations, and the supplemental paper ballots for twenty-two (22)
12 months and the unvoted federal provisional ballots, the voter affirmations, election
13 official affirmations, and the supplemental paper ballots for sixty (60) days after
14 each election day, after which time they shall be destroyed in a manner to render
15 them unreadable by the county board of elections if no contest or recount action has
16 been filed.

17 ➔Section 10. KRS 117.355 is amended to read as follows:

18 (1) Within three (3) days after any primary or general election, the precinct election
19 sheriff shall file a report with the chair of the county board of elections and with the
20 local grand jury. The report shall include any irregularities observed and any
21 recommendations for improving the election process.

22 (2) Within ten (10) days after any primary or general election, the county board of
23 elections shall file a report with the State Board of Elections and the local grand
24 jury. The report shall include any irregularities of which the county board has
25 knowledge and any recommendations for improving the election process. The
26 report shall also include a breakdown by precinct of the number of voters requiring
27 assistance to vote and the reasons therefor; the number of special ballots cast by

1 category; and any other information required by the state board.

2 (3) Within thirty (30) days after any primary or general election, the county board of
3 elections shall transmit the information required by KRS 117.275(3) to (6) ~~to (4) to~~
4 ~~(7)~~.

5 (4) The State Board of Elections shall issue administrative regulations under KRS
6 Chapter 13A to prescribe the forms required by this section.

7 ➔Section 11. KRS 117.383 is amended to read as follows:

8 The State Board of Elections shall promulgate administrative regulations under KRS
9 Chapter 13A which shall maintain the maximum degree of correctness, impartiality, and
10 efficiency of the procedures of voting and shall provide methods to:

11 (1) Count, tabulate, and record votes;

12 (2) Place items on any ballot which shall, as closely as possible, follow the
13 requirements pertaining to ballots;

14 (3) Design the ballots to include a system to ensure an accurate record of all voting
15 activities;

16 (4) Instruct voters in the use of the voting system, including any ballot marking device;

17 (5) Provide for checking the accuracy of the voting system;

18 (6) Provide necessary supplies, including those necessary for a write-in vote, to ensure
19 voter privacy;

20 (7) Provide for the conducting and review of an audit of any component of a voting
21 system or any voting equipment, and a review of any audit log;

22 (8) Provide for the conducting and review of an election audit which shall establish the
23 protocol by which ballots are checked, compared, and verified with the results
24 produced by vote tallying equipment to ensure accuracy through a hand-to-eye
25 audit ~~recount~~ defined and conducted as follows:

26 (a) To validate the accuracy and fidelity of the vote tabulation, the Secretary of
27 State or his or her designee shall randomly select, in all counties of the

- 1 Commonwealth, one (1) ballot scanner and one (1) race tabulated on that
2 scanner for a hand-to-eye audit~~recount~~ to be performed by each county
3 board of elections or its designee;
- 4 (b) The sealed ballot boxes and signed tabulator tally tape or record from election
5 day, as established in KRS 117.275, shall be provided by the county board of
6 elections at an agreed upon location, and shall be accessible for public
7 viewing. The sealed ballots are only to be unsealed in the presence of the
8 county board of elections or its designee and public witnesses;
- 9 (c) A minimum of two (2) qualified poll workers, not of the same political party,
10 shall be selected from lists of available volunteers, sworn in by the county
11 board of elections or its designee to do the hand-to-eye audit~~recount~~, and
12 compensated at the local poll worker rate. A video recording device shall be
13 used for recording the event and it may be streamed for public internet
14 viewing. *A request under the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to*
15 *61.884, for this video after an election shall be made during the sixty (60)*
16 *consecutive days following the election, and the video may be disposed of*
17 *after those sixty (60) days, upon compliance with the Kentucky Open*
18 *Records Act, or the completion of an investigation or pending litigation in a*
19 *District, Circuit, or federal court, whichever is later;*
- 20 (d) Ballots are to be aligned for stacking as needed, then viewed one (1) at a time,
21 with each volunteer making a tally mark on a tally sheet for each vote cast for
22 each candidate. Any ballots that are disputed or unclearly marked shall be set
23 aside and the county board of elections or its designee shall determine voter
24 intent;
- 25 (e) Once the hand-to-eye audit~~recount~~ is completed, each volunteer shall add up
26 the tally marks for each candidate, write down a total number of votes for
27 each candidate, and sign the tally sheet. The county board of elections or its

1 designee shall verify if the two (2) separate hand-to-eye tallies match. If the
2 two (2) hand-to-eye tallies do not match each other, the process must be
3 repeated until the totals are matching. Once this occurs, the county board of
4 elections or its designee shall also verify the tallies by signing each tally sheet.
5 Then, the ballots must be returned to the ballot box and resealed in the
6 presence of the county board of elections or its designee and public witnesses;

7 (f) The county board of elections or its designee shall compare the signed register
8 tape total from the vote tabulation machine on election day to the hand-to-eye
9 tallies. If there is a discrepancy between the machine count and the hand-to-
10 eye ~~audit~~audit~~recount~~, other than instances of voter intent markings outside the
11 designated marking area on the paper ballot that were unreadable by the
12 scanner, or unscanned overvotes resulting from two (2) or more voter intent
13 marks on the same race, the county board of elections or its designee shall
14 open an election investigation including a review of election day irregularity
15 reports. If more discrepancies are found, the county board of elections or its
16 designee shall broaden the investigation until the reason for the discrepancy is
17 discovered and subsequently resolved. A determination as to whether the
18 outcome of the race could have been impacted by the discrepancies shall be
19 made and any findings shall be reported to the Attorney General and Secretary
20 of State; and

21 (g) The county board of elections or its designee shall examine the electronic or
22 paper sign-in records from the precinct or vote center and validate that the
23 ballots cast and recounted were less than or equal to the sign-in records for
24 that precinct or vote center. If the cast ballots for the precinct or vote center
25 exceed the number of voters on the sign-in records for the precinct or vote
26 center, the county board of elections shall open an election investigation and
27 report the findings to the Attorney General and Secretary of State;

- 1 (9) Provide a method for maintaining sufficient documents, including ballots and
2 records, so that votes can be recounted;
- 3 (10) Ensure the county board of elections produces accurate precinct-by-precinct
4 summaries of tabulation sheets showing the results of each precinct during in-
5 person absentee voting, election day voting, and when a county is approved to use a
6 vote center;
- 7 (11) Except as otherwise required in this chapter, all records and papers relating to
8 specified elections be retained for twenty-two (22) months, such documents and
9 records shall be maintained for thirty (30) days following an election; and
- 10 (12) Unless contrary to the Help America Vote Act of 2002, ensure that all federal
11 provisional voting shall be conducted in a manner as prescribed by KRS Chapters
12 116 to 120.

13 ➔Section 12. KRS 118.125 is amended to read as follows:

- 14 (1) Except as provided in KRS 118.155, any person who is qualified under the
15 provisions of KRS 116.055 to vote in any primary for the candidates for nomination
16 by the party at whose hands he or she seeks the nomination, shall have his or her
17 name printed on the official ballot of his or her party for an office to which he or
18 she is eligible in that primary, upon filing, with the Secretary of State or county
19 clerk, as appropriate, at the proper time, a notification and declaration.
- 20 (2) The notification and declaration shall be in the form prescribed by the State Board
21 of Elections. It shall be signed by the candidate and by not less than two (2)
22 registered voters, who at the time of signing are of the same party as the candidate
23 and from the district or jurisdiction from which the candidate seeks nomination.
24 Signatures for nomination papers shall not be affixed on the document to be filed
25 prior to the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year
26 preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot. The notification
27 and declaration for a candidate shall include the following oath:

1 "For the purpose of having my name placed on the official primary election
2 ballot as a candidate for nomination by the ----- Party, I, ----- (name in full as
3 desired on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.129), do solemnly swear that my
4 residence address is ----- (street, route, highway, city if applicable, county, state,
5 and zip code), that my mailing address, if different, is ----- (post office address), and
6 that I am a registered ----- (party) voter; that I believe in the principles of the -----
7 Party, and intend to support its principles and policies; that I meet all the statutory
8 and constitutional qualifications for the office which I am seeking; that if nominated
9 as a candidate of such party at the ensuing election I will accept the nomination and
10 not withdraw for reasons other than those stated in KRS 118.105(3); that I will not
11 knowingly violate any election law or any law relating to corrupt and fraudulent
12 practice in campaigns or elections in this state, and if finally elected I will qualify
13 for the office."

14 The declaration shall be subscribed and sworn to before an officer authorized to
15 administer an oath by the candidate and by the two (2) voters making the
16 declaration and signing the candidate's petition for office.

17 (3) When the notice and declaration has been filed with the Secretary of State or county
18 clerk, as appropriate, and certified according to KRS 118.165, the Secretary of State
19 or county clerk, as appropriate, shall have the candidate's name printed on the ballot
20 according to the provisions of this chapter, except as provided in KRS 118.185.

21 (4) Titles, ranks, or spurious phrases shall not be accepted on the filing papers and shall
22 not be printed on the ballots as part of the candidate's name; however, nicknames,
23 initials, and contractions of given names may be acceptable as the candidate's name.

24 ➔Section 13. KRS 118.165 is amended to read as follows:

25 (1) Except as provided in KRS Chapters 116 to 121, candidates for offices to be voted
26 for by the electors of one (1) county or of a district less than one (1) county, except
27 members of Congress and members of the General Assembly, shall file their

1 nomination papers with the county clerk of the county not earlier than the first
2 Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year the
3 office will appear on the ballot and not later than the first Friday following the first
4 Monday in January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary. All
5 nomination papers shall be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of
6 filing when filed on the last date on which the papers may be filed.

7 (2) Candidates for offices to be voted for by the electors of more than one (1) county,
8 and for members of Congress and members of the General Assembly, shall file their
9 nomination papers with the Secretary of State not earlier than the first Wednesday
10 after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year the office will
11 appear on the ballot and not later than the first Friday following the first Monday in
12 January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary. Signatures for
13 nomination papers shall not be affixed on the document to be filed prior to the first
14 Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in
15 which the office will appear on the ballot. All nomination papers shall be filed no
16 later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing when filed on the last date on
17 which the papers may be filed.

18 (3) The Secretary of State or the county clerk shall examine the notification and
19 declaration form of each candidate to determine whether it is regular on its face. If
20 there is an error, the proper officer shall notify the candidate by certified mail
21 within twenty-four (24) hours of filing.

22 (4) A judge who elected to retire as a Senior Status Special Judge in accordance with
23 KRS 21.580 shall not become a candidate or a nominee for any elected office
24 during the five (5) year term prescribed in KRS 21.580(1)(a)1., regardless of the
25 number of days served by the judge acting as a Senior Status Special Judge.

26 ➔Section 14. KRS 118.205 is amended to read as follows:

27 (1) The Secretary of State and the county clerk of each county within this state shall

1 each keep a book titled "Register of Candidates for Nomination in the Primary."
2 The Secretary of State and each county clerk shall enter on different pages of the
3 book for the different political parties, the title of office sought, the district number
4 of the office sought, if applicable, the name~~[-and residence]~~ of each candidate for
5 nomination in the primary, the name of his or her political party, and the date of
6 receiving his or her nomination papers. The book shall be so kept that the names of
7 all candidates of the same political party shall be on the same or successive pages
8 and the names of candidates of no two (2) political parties shall appear on the same
9 page. The books shall be public records.

10 (2) The county clerk of each county, within five (5) business days following the date of
11 receiving a candidate's nomination papers, shall:

12 (a) Transmit a candidate's information derived from subsection (1) of this section
13 to the Secretary of State; and

14 (b) Prominently display a candidate's information derived from subsection (1) of
15 this section on the clerk's official website~~[-Web site]~~.

16 (3) The Secretary of State shall prominently display a candidate's information, derived
17 from subsection (1) of this section, on the Secretary of State's official website~~[-Web~~
18 ~~site]~~ within five (5) business days following the date of receiving a candidate's
19 nomination papers or within five (5) days following the receipt of a candidate's
20 information supplied by the county clerk, whichever is applicable. The information
21 displayed shall be derived from the Secretary's book and from each book held by
22 the county clerk of each county within this state.

23 ➔Section 15. KRS 118.212 is amended to read as follows:

24 (1) If, before the time of certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot
25 provided in KRS 118.215, any candidate whose notification and declaration or
26 certificate or petition of nomination has been filed in the office of the Secretary of
27 State dies or notifies the Secretary of State in writing, signed and properly notarized

1 that he will not accept the nomination or election, the Secretary of State shall not
2 certify his name.

3 (2) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in
4 Section 16 of this Act, any candidate whose notification and declaration or
5 certificate or petition of nomination has been filed in the office of the county clerk
6 dies or notifies the clerk, in the manner described in subsection (1) of this section,
7 that he will not accept the nomination or election, the clerk shall ensure that notice
8 is provided to the appropriate precincts as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

9 (3) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in
10 Section 16 of this Act, any candidate whose notification and declaration or
11 certificate or petition of nomination has been filed in the office of the Secretary of
12 State dies or notifies the Secretary of State in the manner described in subsection
13 (1) of this section, that he will not accept the nomination or election, the Secretary
14 of State shall immediately notify the appropriate county clerk, and the clerk shall
15 ensure that notice is provided to the appropriate precincts as provided in subsection
16 (5) of this section.

17 (4) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in
18 Section 16 of this Act, any candidate whose name appears on the ballot shall
19 officially withdraw or die, neither the precinct election officers nor the county
20 board of elections shall tabulate or record the votes cast for the candidate; and, if
21 there is only one (1) remaining candidate on the ballot for that office in a primary
22 election, following the withdrawal or death of the other candidate or candidates,
23 neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall tabulate
24 or record the votes for the remaining candidate, and the officer with whom the
25 remaining candidate has filed his or her nomination papers shall immediately issue
26 and file in his or her office a certificate of nomination for that remaining candidate
27 and send a copy to the remaining candidate.

1 (5) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in
2 Section 16 of this Act, any candidate whose name appears on the ballot shall
3 officially withdraw or die, the county clerk shall provide a notice to the precinct
4 election officers who shall see that the notice is conspicuously displayed at the
5 polling place advising voters of the change, and that votes for the candidate shall
6 not be tabulated or recorded. If the county clerk learns of the death or withdrawal at
7 least five (5) days prior to the election and provides the notice required by this
8 subsection and the precinct officers fail to post the notice at the polling place, the
9 precinct officers shall be guilty of a violation subject to a fine of not less than ten
10 dollars (\$10) nor more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

11 ➔Section 16. KRS 118.215 is amended to read as follows:

12 (1) After the order of the names has been determined as provided in KRS 118.225, the
13 Secretary of State shall certify, to the county clerks of the respective counties
14 entitled to participate in the nomination or election of the respective candidates, the
15 name, the office sought, the district number of the office sought, if applicable
16 ~~[place of residence]~~, and party of each candidate or slate of candidates for each
17 office, as specified in the nomination papers or certificates and petitions of
18 nomination filed with him or her, and shall designate the device with which the
19 candidate groups, slates of candidates, or lists of candidates of each party shall be
20 printed, in the order in which they are to appear on the ballot, with precedence to be
21 given to the party that polled the highest number of votes at the preceding election
22 for presidential electors, followed by the political party which received the second
23 highest number of votes, with the order of any other political parties and
24 independents to be determined by lot. Candidates for county offices and local state
25 offices shall be listed in the following order: Commonwealth's attorney, circuit
26 clerk, property valuation administrator, county judge/executive, county attorney,
27 county clerk, sheriff, jailer, county commissioner, coroner, justice of the peace, and

1 constable. The names of candidates for President and Vice President shall be
2 certified in lieu of certifying the names of the candidates for presidential electors.

3 The names shall be certified as follows:

4 (a) Not later than the third Monday after the filing deadline for the primary as
5 established in KRS 83A.045, 118.165, and 118A.060;

6 (b) Not later than the fourth Monday in August, except as provided in paragraph
7 (c) of this subsection; and

8 (c) Not later than the Monday after the Friday following the first Tuesday in
9 September preceding a regular election, for those years in which there is an
10 election for President and Vice President of the United States.

11 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, all independent
12 candidates or slates of candidates whose nominating petitions are filed with the
13 county clerk or the Secretary of State shall be listed under the title and device
14 designated by them as provided in KRS 118.315, or if none is designated, under the
15 word "independent," and shall be placed on the ballot in a separate column or
16 columns or in a separate line or lines according to the office which they seek. The
17 order in which independent candidates or slates of candidates shall appear on the
18 ballot shall be determined by lot by the county clerk. If the same device is selected
19 by two (2) groups of petitioners, it shall be given to the first selecting it and the
20 county clerk shall permit the other group to select a suitable device. This section
21 shall not apply to candidates for municipal offices which come under subsection (3)
22 of this section.

23 (3) The ballots used at any election in which city officers are to be elected as provided
24 in subsection (2) of this section shall contain the names of candidates for the city
25 offices grouped according to the offices they seek, and the candidates shall be
26 immediately arranged with and designated by the title of office they seek. The order
27 in which the names of the candidates for each office are to be printed on the ballot

1 shall be determined by lot. Each group of candidates for each separate office for
2 which the candidates are to be elected shall be clearly separated from other groups
3 on the ballot and spaced to avoid confusion on the part of the voter.

4 (4) The Secretary of State shall not knowingly certify to the county clerk of any county
5 the name of any candidate or slate of candidates who has not filed the required
6 nomination papers, nor knowingly fail to certify the name of any candidate or slate
7 of candidates who has filed the required nomination papers.

8 (5) If the county clerk determines that the number of certified candidates or slates of
9 candidates cannot be placed on a ballot which can be accommodated by the voting
10 equipment currently in use by the county, he or she shall so notify the State Board
11 of Elections not later than the last Tuesday in February preceding the primary or the
12 last Tuesday in August preceding the regular election. The State Board of Elections
13 shall meet within five (5) days of the notice, review the ballot conditions, and
14 determine whether supplemental paper ballots are necessary for the election. Upon
15 approval of the State Board of Elections, supplemental paper ballots may be used
16 for nonpartisan candidates or slates of candidates for an office or offices and public
17 questions submitted for a yes or no vote. All candidates or slates of candidates for
18 any particular office shall be placed either on the ballot or on the supplemental
19 paper ballot. Supplemental paper ballots may also be used to conduct the voting, in
20 the instance of a small precinct as provided in KRS 117.066.

21 (6) The ballot position of a candidate or slate of candidates shall not be changed after
22 the ballot position has been designated by the county clerk.

23 ➔Section 17. KRS 118.315 is amended to read as follows:

24 (1) A candidate for any office to be voted for at any regular election may be nominated
25 by a petition of electors qualified to vote for him or her, complying with the
26 provisions of subsection (2) of this section. No person whose registration status is
27 as a registered member of a political party shall be eligible to election as an

1 independent, or political organization, or political group candidate, nor shall any
2 person be eligible to election as an independent, or political organization, or
3 political group candidate whose registration status was as a registered member of a
4 political party on January 1 immediately preceding the regular election for which
5 the person seeks to be a candidate. This restriction shall not apply to candidates to
6 those offices specified in KRS 118.105(6), for supervisor of a soil and water
7 conservation district, for candidates for mayor or legislative body in cities of the
8 home rule class, or to candidates participating in nonpartisan elections.

9 (2) The form of the petition shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections. It shall
10 be signed by the candidate and by registered voters from the district or jurisdiction
11 from which the candidate seeks nomination. The petition shall include a
12 declaration, sworn to by the candidate, that he or she possesses all the constitutional
13 and statutory requirements of the office for which the candidate has filed.
14 Signatures for a petition of nomination for a candidate seeking any office,
15 excluding President of the United States in accordance with KRS 118.591(1), shall
16 not be affixed on the document to be filed prior to the first Wednesday after the first
17 Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear
18 on the ballot. Signatures for nomination papers shall not be affixed on the document
19 to be filed prior to the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the
20 year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot. A petition of
21 nomination for a state officer, or any officer for whom all the electors of the state
22 are entitled to vote, shall contain five thousand (5,000) petitioners; for a
23 representative in Congress from any congressional district, or for any officer from
24 any other district except as herein provided, four hundred (400) petitioners; for a
25 county officer, member of the General Assembly, or Commonwealth's attorney, one
26 hundred (100) petitioners; for a soil and water conservation district supervisor,
27 twenty-five (25) petitioners; for a city officer or board of education member, two

1 (2) petitioners; and for an officer of a division less than a county, except as herein
2 provided, twenty (20) petitioners. It shall not be necessary that the signatures of the
3 petition be appended to one (1) paper. Each petitioner shall include the date he or
4 she affixes the signature, address of residence, and date of birth. Failure of a voter
5 to include the signature affixation date, date of birth, and address of residence shall
6 result in the signature not being counted. A petitioner for the nomination of a
7 candidate~~[If any person joins in nominating, by petition, more than one (1)~~
8 ~~nominee for any office to be filled, he or she shall be counted as a petitioner for the~~
9 ~~candidate whose petition is filed first, except a petitioner for the nomination of~~
10 ~~candidates for soil and water conservation district supervisors]~~ may be counted for
11 every petition to which his or her signature is affixed.

12 (3) Titles, ranks, or spurious phrases shall not be accepted on the filing papers and shall
13 not be printed on the ballots as part of the candidate's name; however, nicknames,
14 initials, and contractions of given names may be accepted as the candidate's name.

15 (4) The Secretary of State and county clerks shall examine the petitions of all
16 candidates who file with them to determine whether each petition is regular on its
17 face. If there is an error, the Secretary of State or the county clerk shall notify the
18 candidate by certified mail within twenty-four (24) hours of filing.

19 (5) A judge who elected to retire as a Senior Status Special Judge in accordance with
20 KRS 21.580 shall not become a candidate or a nominee for any elected office
21 during the five (5) year term prescribed in KRS 21.580(1)(a)1., regardless of the
22 number of days served by the judge acting as a Senior Status Special Judge.

23 ➔Section 18. KRS 118.387 is amended to read as follows:

24 The county clerk of each county and the Secretary of State shall prominently display on
25 his or her official website~~[Web site]~~, the candidates, the office sought, the district
26 number of the office sought, if applicable~~[place of residence of each candidate]~~, and the
27 political affiliation of each partisan candidate, who is on the ballot for any regular

1 election. The posting required by this section shall occur at least fifty (50) days before a
2 regularly scheduled election and forty-five (45) days before a special election.

3 ➔Section 19. KRS 118.425 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The State Board of Elections shall issue certificates of election where the successful
5 candidate was voted for by the state at large, was voted for by a district greater than
6 one (1) county, or was a candidate for member of Congress or the General
7 Assembly.

8 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, not later than the second
9 Monday after the election, the county board of elections shall issue certificates of
10 election where the successful candidate was voted for by the electors of one (1)
11 county, or of a district less than one (1) county, except members of Congress,
12 members of the General Assembly, and designated officers filing with the Secretary
13 of State. The right to contest or recount an election in accordance with KRS
14 Chapter 120 shall not be impaired. The county board of elections of the candidate's
15 residence shall issue certificates of election where the successful candidate was
16 voted for by the electors of a city or school district whose boundaries extend
17 beyond those of a single county. The board shall forward the certificate to the
18 elected candidate. If the board finds that two (2) or more candidates have received
19 the highest and equal number of votes for the same office, the board shall determine
20 by lot which of the candidates is elected.

21 (3) In counties containing cities of the first class, not later than the thirtieth day of
22 December after the election, the county board of elections shall issue certificates of
23 election where the successful candidate was voted for by the electors of the county,
24 except members of Congress, members of the General Assembly, and designated
25 officers filing with the Secretary of State. The right to contest or recount an election
26 in accordance with KRS Chapter 120 shall not be impaired. The county board of
27 elections of the candidate's residence shall issue certificates of election where the

1 successful candidate was voted for by the electors of a city whose boundaries
2 extend beyond those of a single county. The board shall forward the certificate to
3 the elected candidate. If the board finds that two (2) or more candidates have
4 received the highest and equal number of votes for the same office, the board shall
5 determine by lot which of the candidates is elected.

6 (4) In the case of all offices voted for, and in the case of public questions submitted to
7 the vote of the people of the state at large or of a district greater than one (1)
8 county, the county board of elections shall make out duplicate certificates of the
9 total number of votes received by each of the candidates for the office and the total
10 number of votes for and against each of the questions on a form prescribed by the
11 State Board of Elections through the promulgation of administrative regulations in
12 accordance with KRS Chapter 13A. The certificate of the total number of votes
13 shall be certified to the Secretary of State's Office following the conclusion of the
14 hand-to-eye audit established in Section 11 of this Act and not later than 12 p.m.,
15 prevailing time, on the Tuesday~~Friday~~ following all elections~~the election~~. For
16 ~~special elections the certificate of the total number of votes shall be certified to the~~
17 ~~Secretary of State's Office not later than 12 p.m., prevailing time, on the day~~
18 ~~following the election~~. The clerk shall keep one (1) of the certificates in his or her
19 office. He or she shall not later than three (3) days after receiving the certificate
20 from the board, forward the other certificate by mail to the Secretary of State who
21 shall deliver it to the State Board of Elections.

22 (5) The State Board of Elections shall meet, to count and tabulate the votes received by
23 the different candidates as certified to the Secretary of State no later than the third
24 Monday after the election. The right to contest or recount an election in accordance
25 with KRS Chapter 120 shall not be impaired. A majority of the members of the
26 board shall constitute a quorum and may act. The board shall make out the
27 certificates of election in the office of the board from the returns made. The board

1 shall make out duplicate certificates of election, in writing, over the signatures of its
2 members. The board shall forward the original certificate, by mail, to the elected
3 candidate. The duplicate shall be retained in the office of the board. In the case of
4 the election of a representative in Congress, an additional certificate shall be made
5 and sent, by mail, to the clerk of the House of Representatives.

- 6 (6) The certificate of election shall be issued to the candidate receiving the highest
7 number of votes in the territory from which the election is to be made. If two (2) or
8 more persons are found to have received the highest and an equal number of votes
9 for the same office, the election shall be determined by lot in the manner the board
10 directs, in the presence of not less than three (3) other persons. In the case of
11 elections for electors of President and Vice President of the United States, the board
12 shall issue a certificate of election to each elector of the political party or
13 organization whose candidates for President and Vice President received the highest
14 number of votes and the determination by the board that the candidates of any
15 political party or organization for President and Vice President have received the
16 highest number of votes shall constitute a determination that the electors nominated
17 by that party have been elected.

18 ➔Section 20. KRS 118A.140 is amended to read as follows:

- 19 (1) The Secretary of State shall keep a book entitled "Register of Candidates for
20 Nomination to Offices of the Court of Justice." The Secretary of State shall enter in
21 that book the name, the office sought, and the district number of the office sought,
22 if applicable, ~~and place of residence~~ of each candidate for nomination to the office
23 of justice or judge in the primary, the date of receipt of his or her nomination
24 papers, and petitions for candidacy filed pursuant to KRS 118A.100. The book shall
25 be a public record.
- 26 (2) The Secretary of State shall prominently display a candidate's information derived
27 from subsection (1) of this section on the Secretary of State's official website ~~Web~~

1 ~~site~~ within five (5) business days following the date of receiving a candidate's
2 nomination papers and petitions for candidacy of each candidate.

3 ➔Section 21. KRS 119.165 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) Any person who falsely personates a registered voter, and receives and casts a
5 ballot by means of such personation, shall be guilty of a Class D felony. An attempt
6 at such personation shall constitute a Class A misdemeanor.

7 (2) Any person who, by means other than falsely personating a registered voter, votes
8 at an election in this state when he is a resident of another state or country, or votes
9 more than once at an election, or votes by use of the naturalization papers of
10 another person, shall be guilty of a Class D felony. Any person who knowingly
11 votes or attempts to vote in a precinct other than the one in which he resides shall
12 be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, unless by voting in a precinct in which he does
13 not live he is enabled to vote in a race or on a matter in which he could not vote in
14 his proper precinct in which case he shall be guilty of a Class D felony. Any person
15 who lends or hires his or another's naturalization papers to be used for the purpose
16 of voting shall be subject to the same penalty.

17 (3) Any person~~[lawfully registered to vote]~~ who has been~~[is then]~~ convicted of a
18 felony offense and has not previously been restored to their voting rights who then
19 knowingly votes or attempts to vote shall be guilty of a Class D felony.

20 (4) Any resident of this state who, by means other than falsely personating a registered
21 voter, votes at a regular or special election before he has resided in this state thirty
22 (30) days, or in the county and precinct where the election is held the time required
23 by law, or before he has attained full age, or before he has become a citizen, shall
24 be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

25 (5) Any person who, by means other than falsely personating a registered voter, votes
26 in a primary election knowing that he is not qualified as provided in KRS 116.055,
27 shall be guilty of a violation.

1 (6) Any person who applies for or receives a ballot at any voting place other than the
2 one at which he is entitled to vote, under circumstances not constituting a violation
3 of any of the provisions of subsections (1) to (3) of this section, shall be guilty of a
4 Class A misdemeanor.

5 ➔Section 22. KRS 158.070 is amended to read as follows:

6 (1) As used in this section:

7 (a) "Election" has the same meaning as in KRS 121.015;

8 (b) "Minimum school term" or "school term" means not less than one hundred
9 eighty-five (185) days composed of the student attendance days, teacher
10 professional days, and holidays;

11 (c) "School calendar" means the document adopted by a local board of education
12 that establishes the minimum school term, student instructional year or
13 variable student instructional year, and days that school will not be in session;

14 (d) "School district calendar committee" means a committee that includes at least
15 the following:

16 1. One (1) school district principal;

17 2. One (1) school district office administrator other than the
18 superintendent;

19 3. One (1) member of the local board of education;

20 4. Two (2) parents of students attending a school in the district;

21 5. One (1) school district elementary school teacher;

22 6. One (1) school district middle or high school teacher;

23 7. Two (2) school district classified employees; and

24 8. Two (2) community members from the local chamber of commerce,
25 business community, or tourism commission;

26 (e) "Student attendance day" means any day that students are scheduled to be at
27 school to receive instruction, and encompasses the designated start and

1 dismissal time;

2 (f) "Student instructional year" means at least one thousand sixty-two (1,062)
3 hours of instructional time for students delivered on not less than one hundred
4 seventy (170) student attendance days;

5 (g) "Teacher professional day" means any day teachers are required to report to
6 work as determined by a local board of education, with or without the
7 presence of students; and

8 (h) "Variable student instructional year" means at least one thousand sixty-two
9 (1,062) hours of instructional time delivered on the number of student
10 attendance days adopted by a local board of education which shall be
11 considered proportionally equivalent to one hundred seventy (170) student
12 attendance days and calendar days for the purposes of a student instructional
13 year, employment contracts that are based on the school term, service credit
14 under KRS 161.500, and funding under KRS 157.350.

15 (2) (a) The local board of education, upon recommendation of the local school
16 district superintendent, shall annually appoint a school district calendar
17 committee to review, develop, and recommend school calendar options.

18 (b) The school district calendar committee, after seeking feedback from school
19 district employees, parents, and community members, shall recommend
20 school calendar options to the local school district superintendent for
21 presentation to the local board of education. The committee's
22 recommendations shall comply with state laws and regulations and consider
23 the economic impact of the school calendar on the community and the state.

24 (c) Prior to adopting a school calendar, the local board of education shall hear for
25 discussion the school district calendar committee's recommendations and the
26 recommendation of the superintendent at a meeting of the local board of
27 education.

- 1 (d) During a subsequent meeting of the local board of education, the local board
2 shall adopt a school calendar for the upcoming school year that establishes the
3 opening and closing dates of the school term, beginning and ending dates of
4 each school month, student attendance days, and days on which schools shall
5 be dismissed. The local board may schedule days for breaks in the school
6 calendar that shall not be counted as a part of the minimum school term.
- 7 (e) For local board of education meetings described in paragraphs (c) and (d) of
8 this subsection, if the meeting is a regular meeting, notice shall be given to
9 media outlets that have requests on file to be notified of special meetings
10 stating the date of the regular meeting and that one (1) of the items to be
11 considered in the regular meeting will be the school calendar. The notice shall
12 be sent at least twenty-four (24) hours before the regular meeting. This
13 requirement shall not be deemed to make any requirements or limitations
14 relating to special meetings applicable to the regular meeting.
- 15 (f) A local school board of education that adopts a school calendar with the first
16 student attendance day in the school term starting no earlier than the Monday
17 closest to August 26 may use a variable student instructional year. Districts
18 may set the length of individual student attendance days in a variable student
19 instructional schedule, but no student attendance day shall contain more than
20 seven (7) hours of instructional time unless the district submitted and received
21 approval from the commissioner of education for an innovative alternative
22 calendar.
- 23 (3) (a) Each local board of education shall use four (4) days of the minimum school
24 term for professional development and collegial planning activities for the
25 professional staff without the presence of students pursuant to the
26 requirements of KRS 156.095. At the discretion of the superintendent, one (1)
27 day of professional development may be used for district-wide activities and

1 for training that is mandated by federal or state law. The use of three (3) days
2 shall be planned by each school council, except that the district is encouraged
3 to provide technical assistance and leadership to school councils to maximize
4 existing resources and to encourage shared planning.

5 (b) At least one (1) hour of self-study review of seizure disorder materials shall
6 be required for all principals, guidance counselors, and teachers hired after
7 July 1, 2019.

8 (c) 1. A local board may approve a school's flexible professional development
9 plan that permits teachers or other certified personnel within a school to
10 participate in professional development activities outside the days
11 scheduled in the school calendar or the regularly scheduled hours in the
12 school work day and receive credit towards the four (4) day professional
13 development requirement within the minimum one hundred eighty-five
14 (185) days that a teacher shall be employed.

15 2. A flexible schedule option shall be reflected in the school's professional
16 development component within the school improvement plan and
17 approved by the local board. Credit for approved professional
18 development activities may be accumulated in periods of time other than
19 full day segments.

20 3. No teacher or administrator shall be permitted to count participation in a
21 professional development activity under the flexible schedule option
22 unless the activity is related to the teacher's classroom assignment and
23 content area, or the administrator's job requirements, or is required by
24 the school improvement plan, or is tied to the teacher's or the
25 administrator's individual growth plan. The supervisor shall give prior
26 approval and shall monitor compliance with the requirements of this
27 paragraph. In the case of teachers, a professional development

1 committee or the school council by council policy may be responsible
2 for reviewing requests for approval.

3 (d) The local board of each school district may use up to a maximum of four (4)
4 days of the minimum school term for holidays; provided, however, any
5 holiday which occurs on Saturday may be observed on the preceding Friday.

6 (e) Each local board may use two (2) days for planning activities without the
7 presence of students.

8 (f) Each local board may close schools for the number of days deemed necessary
9 for:

10 1. National or state emergency or mourning when proclaimed by the
11 President of the United States or the Governor of the Commonwealth of
12 Kentucky;

13 2. Local emergency which would endanger the health or safety of children;
14 and

15 3. Mourning when so designated by the local board of education and
16 approved by the Kentucky Board of Education upon recommendation of
17 the commissioner of education.

18 (4) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education, upon recommendation of the
19 commissioner of education, shall adopt administrative regulations governing
20 the use of student attendance days as a result of a local emergency, as
21 described in subsection (3)(f)2. of this section, and regulations setting forth
22 the guidelines and procedures to be observed for the approval of waivers from
23 the requirements of a student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of this
24 section for districts that wish to adopt innovative instructional calendars, or
25 for circumstances that would create extreme hardship.

26 (b) If a local board of education amends its school calendar after its adoption due
27 to an emergency, it may lengthen or shorten any remaining student attendance

1 days by thirty (30) minutes or more, as it deems necessary, provided the
2 amended calendar complies with the requirements of a student instructional
3 year in subsection (1)(f) of this section or a variable student instructional year
4 in subsection (1)(h) of this section. No student attendance day shall contain
5 more than seven (7) hours of instructional time unless the district submitted
6 and received approval from the commissioner of education for an innovative
7 alternative calendar.

- 8 (5) (a) 1. In setting the school calendar, school may be closed for two (2)
9 consecutive days for the purpose of permitting professional school
10 employees to attend statewide professional meetings.
- 11 2. These two (2) days for statewide professional meetings may be
12 scheduled to begin with the first Thursday after Easter, or upon request
13 of the statewide professional education association having the largest
14 paid membership, the commissioner of education may designate
15 alternate dates.
- 16 3. If schools are scheduled to operate during days designated for the
17 statewide professional meeting, the school district shall permit
18 employees who are delegates to attend as compensated professional
19 leave time and shall employ substitute teachers in their absence.
- 20 4. The commissioner of education shall designate one (1) additional day
21 during the school year when schools may be closed to permit
22 professional school employees to participate in regional or district
23 professional meetings.
- 24 5. These three (3) days so designated for attendance at professional
25 meetings may be counted as a part of the minimum school term.

26 (b) ~~1.~~ If any school in a district is used as a voting ~~polling~~ place
27 pursuant to Section 2 of this Act, the school district may ~~shall~~ be

1 closed on the days~~[day]~~ of the election, and those days may be used for
2 professional development activities, professional meetings, or parent-
3 teacher conferences.†

4 ~~2. A district may be open on the day of an election if no school in the~~
5 ~~district is used as a polling place.†~~

6 (c) All schools shall be closed on the third Monday of January in observance of
7 the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Districts may:

8 1. Designate the day as one (1) of the four (4) holidays permitted under
9 subsection (3)(d) of this section; or

10 2. Not include the day in the minimum school term specified in subsection
11 (1) of this section.

12 (6) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education, or the organization or agency designated
13 by the board to manage interscholastic athletics, shall be encouraged to
14 schedule athletic competitions outside the regularly scheduled student
15 attendance day.

16 (b) Any member of a school-sponsored interscholastic athletic team who
17 competes in a regional tournament or state tournament sanctioned by the
18 Kentucky Board of Education, or the organization or agency designated by the
19 board to manage interscholastic athletics, and occurring on a regularly
20 scheduled student attendance day may be counted present at school on the
21 date or dates of the competition, as determined by local board policy, for a
22 maximum of two (2) days per student per year. The student shall be expected
23 to complete any assignments missed on the date or dates of the competition.

24 (c) The school attendance record of any student for whom paragraph (b) of this
25 subsection applies shall indicate that the student was in attendance on the date
26 or dates of competition.

27 (7) Schools shall provide continuing education for those students who are determined

1 to need additional time to achieve the outcomes defined in KRS 158.6451, and
2 schools shall not be limited to the minimum school term in providing this
3 education. Continuing education time may include extended days, extended weeks,
4 or extended years. A local board of education may adopt a policy requiring its
5 students to participate in continuing education. The local policy shall set out the
6 conditions under which attendance will be required and any exceptions which are
7 provided. The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative
8 regulations establishing criteria for the allotment of grants to local school districts
9 and shall include criteria by which the commissioner of education may approve a
10 district's request for a waiver to use an alternative service delivery option, including
11 providing services during the student attendance day on a limited basis. These
12 grants shall be allotted to school districts to provide instructional programs for
13 pupils who are identified as needing additional time to achieve the outcomes
14 defined in KRS 158.6451. A school district that has a school operating a model
15 early reading program under KRS 158.792 may use a portion of its grant money as
16 part of the matching funds to provide individualized or small group reading
17 instruction to qualified students outside of the regular classroom during the student
18 attendance day.

- 19 (8) Notwithstanding any other statute, each school term shall include no less than the
20 equivalent of the student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of this section, or a
21 variable student instructional year in subsection (1)(h) of this section, except that
22 the commissioner of education may grant up to the equivalent of ten (10) student
23 attendance days for school districts that have a nontraditional instruction plan
24 approved by the commissioner of education on days when the school district is
25 closed for health or safety reasons. The district's plan shall indicate how the
26 nontraditional instruction process shall be a continuation of learning that is
27 occurring on regular student attendance days. Instructional delivery methods,

1 including the use of technology, shall be clearly delineated in the plan. Average
2 daily attendance for purposes of Support Education Excellence in Kentucky
3 program funding during the student attendance days granted shall be calculated in
4 compliance with administrative regulations promulgated by the Kentucky Board of
5 Education.

6 (9) The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations to
7 prescribe the conditions and procedures for districts to be approved for the
8 nontraditional instruction program. Administrative regulations promulgated by the
9 board under this section shall specify:

10 (a) The application, plan review, approval, and amendment process;

11 (b) Reporting requirements for districts approved for the program, which may
12 include but are not limited to examples of student work, lesson plans, teacher
13 work logs, and student and teacher participation on nontraditional instruction
14 days. Documentation to support the use of nontraditional instruction days
15 shall include clear evidence of learning continuation;

16 (c) Timelines for initial approval as a nontraditional instruction district, length of
17 approval, the renewal process, and ongoing evaluative procedures required of
18 the district;

19 (d) Reporting and oversight responsibilities of the district and the Kentucky
20 Department of Education, including the documentation required to show clear
21 evidence of learning continuation during nontraditional instruction days; and

22 (e) Other components deemed necessary to implement this section.

23 (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 158.060(3) and the provisions of subsection
24 (2) of this section, a school district shall arrange bus schedules so that all buses
25 arrive in sufficient time to provide breakfast prior to the beginning of the student
26 attendance day. The superintendent of a school district that participates in the
27 Federal School Breakfast Program may also authorize up to fifteen (15) minutes of

1 the student attendance day to provide the opportunity for children to eat breakfast
2 during instructional time.

3 (11) Notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary, the following provisions shall
4 apply to a school district that misses student attendance days due to emergencies,
5 including weather-related emergencies:

6 (a) A certified school employee shall be considered to have fulfilled the
7 minimum one hundred eighty-five (185) day contract with a school district
8 under KRS 157.350 and shall be given credit for the purpose of calculating
9 service credit for retirement under KRS 161.500 for certified school personnel
10 if:

- 11 1. State and local requirements under this section are met regarding the
12 equivalent of the number and length of student attendance days, teacher
13 professional days, professional development days, holidays, and days
14 for planning activities without the presence of students; and
- 15 2. The provisions of the district's school calendar to make up student
16 attendance days missed due to any emergency, as approved by the
17 Kentucky Department of Education when required, including but not
18 limited to a provision for additional instructional time per day, are met.

19 (b) Additional time worked by a classified school employee shall be considered
20 as equivalent time to be applied toward the employee's contract and
21 calculation of service credit for classified employees under KRS 78.615 if:

- 22 1. The employee works for a school district with a school calendar
23 approved by the Kentucky Department of Education that contains a
24 provision that additional instructional time per day shall be used to make
25 up full days missed due to an emergency;
- 26 2. The employee's contract requires a minimum six (6) hour work day; and
- 27 3. The employee's job responsibilities and work day are extended when the

1 instructional time is extended for the purposes of making up time.
2 (c) Classified employees who are regularly scheduled to work less than six (6)
3 hours per day and who do not have additional work responsibilities as a result
4 of lengthened student attendance days shall be excluded from the provisions
5 of this subsection. These employees may be assigned additional work
6 responsibilities to make up service credit under KRS 78.615 that would be
7 lost due to lengthened student attendance days.