

AN ACT relating to elections and declaring an emergency.

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

âSection 25. KRS 83A.045 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in KRS 83A.047, partisan elections of city officers shall be governed by the following provisions, regardless of the form of government or classification of the city:
 - (a) A candidate for party nomination to city office shall file his nomination papers with the county clerk of the county not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later than the last Tuesday in ~~April~~January before the day fixed by KRS Chapter 118 for holding a primary ~~election~~ for the office sought. All nomination papers shall be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time when filed on the last day on which the papers are permitted to be filed.
 - (b) An independent candidate for nomination to city office shall not participate in a primary ~~election~~, but shall file his nomination papers with the county clerk of the county not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later than the second Tuesday in August before the day fixed by KRS Chapter 118 for holding a regular election for the office. All nomination papers shall be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time when filed on the last day on which the papers are permitted to be filed.
 - (c) A candidate for city office who is defeated in a partisan primary ~~election~~ shall be ineligible as a candidate for the same office in the regular election. However, if a vacancy occurs in the party nomination for which he was an unsuccessful candidate in the primary ~~election~~, his name may be placed on the voting machines for the regular election as a candidate of that party if he has been duly made the party nominee after the vacancy occurs, as provided in KRS 118.105.
- (2) Except as provided in KRS 83A.047, nonpartisan elections of city officers shall be

governed by KRS 83A.050, 83A.170, 83A.175, and the following provisions, regardless of the form of government or classification of the city:

- (a) A candidate for city office shall file his nomination papers with the county clerk of the county not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later than the last Tuesday in ~~April~~January before the day fixed by KRS Chapter 118 for holding a primary~~[election]~~ for nominations for the office. All nomination papers shall be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time when filed on the last day on which the papers are permitted to be filed;
- (b) Any city of the fourth to sixth class may by ordinance provide that the nomination and election of candidates for city office in a nonpartisan election shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of this subsection:
 1. A city may forgo conducting a nonpartisan primary~~[election]~~ for the nomination of candidates to city office, regardless of the number of candidates running for each office, and require all candidates to file their nomination papers with the county clerk of the county not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later than the second Tuesday in August before the day fixed by KRS Chapter 118 for holding a regular election for the office.
 2. All nomination papers shall be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time when filed on the last day on which the papers are permitted to be filed.
 3. If a city does not conduct a primary~~[election]~~ pursuant to this subsection, the election of candidates to city office shall be governed by the provisions of this subsection, KRS 83A.175(2) to (6), and KRS Chapters 116 to 121.
 4. In the absence of a primary pursuant to this subsection, the number of candidates equal to the number of city offices to be filled who receive the

highest number of votes cast in the regular election for each city office shall be elected.

5. Candidates shall be subject to all other applicable election laws pursuant to this chapter and KRS Chapters 116 to 121.
6. If a vacancy occurs in a candidacy for city office in any city which has not held a primary pursuant to this subsection after the expiration of time for filing nomination papers, or if there are fewer candidates than there are offices to be filled, the vacancy in candidacy shall be filled by write-in voting.

- (c) A candidate for city office who is defeated in a nonpartisan primary~~[election]~~ shall be ineligible as a candidate for the same office in the regular election.

âSection 25. KRS 116.055 is amended to read as follows:

Before a person shall be qualified to vote in a primary~~[election]~~, he *or she* shall possess all the qualifications required of voters in a regular election. In addition, he *or she* shall be a registered member of the party in whose primary~~[election]~~ he *or she* seeks to vote, and shall have been registered as a member of that party on December 31 immediately preceding the primary~~[election]~~, or, in the case of new registrations made after December 31 immediately preceding the primary~~[election]~~, he *or she* shall have registered and remained registered as a member of that party. No person shall be allowed to vote for any party candidates or slates of candidates other than that of the party of which he *or she* is a registered member. The qualifications shall be determined as of the date of the primary, without regard to the qualifications or disqualifications as they may exist at the succeeding regular election, except that minors seventeen (17) years of age who will become eighteen (18) years of age on or before the day of the regular election shall be entitled to vote in the primary if otherwise qualified. However, any registered voter, whether registered as a member of a party or as an independent, shall be qualified to vote in *primaries*~~[primary elections]~~ for candidates listed in all nonpartisan races.~~[Any voter eligible to vote in a primary election shall also be eligible to vote in a subsequent runoff primary if one shall be~~

necessary.]

âSection 25. KRS 117.045 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The county board of elections shall in the manner prescribed by this section, not later than ~~June~~~~March~~ 20 each year, except in a year in which no primary and regular ~~election~~~~elections~~ are scheduled, appoint for each precinct in the county two (2) judges, one (1) clerk and one (1) sheriff of election. They shall serve in all primaries and elections held in the county during the year, except for minors seventeen (17) years of age who will become eighteen (18) years of age on or before the day of the regular election who may only serve as election officers for the primary and the regular ~~election~~~~elections~~ as provided in subsection (9) of this section. If a special election is ordered to be held in a year in which no elections are scheduled, the county executive committee of each political party in each county in the territory affected by the special election shall, not later than twenty-eight (28) days preceding the date of the special election, submit a written list of nominees for precinct election officers to serve in the special election in a manner consistent with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section. The county board of elections in each county in the territory affected by the special election shall, not later than twenty-one (21) days preceding the date of the special election, appoint precinct election officers to serve in the special election in a manner consistent with the provisions of subsections (4), (5), and (6) of this section. The State Board of Elections shall promulgate an administrative regulation establishing evaluation procedures which county boards of elections may use to qualify persons nominated to serve as precinct election officers.
- (2) The county executive committees of the two (2) political parties having representation on the State Board of Elections may, on or before ~~June~~~~March~~ 15 each year, designate in writing to the county board of elections a list of not less than four (4) names for each precinct; except that, in any precinct where there are not as many as four (4) persons possessing the qualifications of an election officer belonging to the political party filing the list, a lesser number may be designated. If there are two (2)

or more contending executive committees of the same party in any county, the one recognized by the written certificate of the chairman of the state central committee of the party shall be the one authorized to submit the lists. The lists shall contain the full name, address, phone number, and Social Security number, if available, of each person listed. The lists shall be accompanied by a signed statement from each person stating that he is willing to serve, has not failed to serve without excuse in the past, and has not been convicted of an election law offense or any felony, unless the person's civil rights have been restored by the Governor. The State Board of Elections shall prescribe by administrative regulation the form of the list.

- (3) The Attorney General shall notify each party state central committee of the duties of the party.
- (4) If lists are submitted, the county board of elections shall select one (1) judge at each voting place from each political party's list, and the county board shall select the sheriff from one (1) political party's list and the clerk from the other. If no lists are submitted, the two (2) members of the county board of elections who are appointed by the State Board of Elections may submit lists; and the county board shall select the sheriff and one (1) judge from one (1) list and the clerk and the other judge from the remaining list. If no lists are submitted, the county board shall select the sheriff and one (1) judge from the membership of one (1) party and the clerk and the other judge from the membership of the remaining party. The county board shall, when possible, also appoint an adequate number of alternate precinct election officers from names on the lists which were submitted but which were not selected by the county board as precinct election officers. If alternate precinct election officers are not appointed from the lists of nominees who were not selected as precinct election officers, the county board of elections shall submit its method of selecting alternate precinct election officers to the State Board of Elections for its approval.
- (5) If, after all reasonable efforts have been made, the county board of elections is unable to find two (2) qualified officers for each precinct who are affiliated with the two (2)

political parties having representation on the State Board of Elections, the county board shall submit a list of emergency election officer appointments to the State Board of Elections. The county board shall also present, in writing, its efforts to recruit and appoint election officers as prescribed in subsection (4) of this section. The list of emergency appointments may include qualified voters not affiliated with the two (2) parties represented on the state board. The state board, after its review, may approve any or all of the emergency appointments submitted by the county board or may direct the county board to take other action. Any emergency appointment shall be made for the next ensuing *primary or* election only.

- (6) In addition to precinct election officers appointed under subsection (1) of this section, a county board of elections may appoint up to two (2) additional precinct election officers per precinct with the approval of the State Board of Elections. The state board shall promulgate an administrative regulation establishing conditions under which additional precinct officers may be approved.
- (7) The county board of elections shall, within ten (10) days before the next ensuing *primary or* election, give each election officer written notice of his appointment. The board may direct the sheriff of the county to serve the notice of appointment, if it deems the action is necessary.
- (8) The State Board of Elections may require the county board of elections to submit its list of precinct officers for review. The State Board of Elections may, after a hearing, direct the removal of any election officer who the board finds would not fairly administer the state election laws. The state board shall replace any officer so removed. The board shall provide for the method and manner of the hearing by administrative regulation.
- (9) An election officer shall be a qualified voter of the precinct; except that, where no qualified voter of the required political party is available within the precinct, the election officer shall be a qualified voter of the county. A minor seventeen (17) years of age who will become eighteen (18) years of age on or before the day of the regular

election may serve as an election officer for the primary and *the* regular ~~election~~~~elections~~ in which he or she is qualified to vote; however, no precinct shall have more than one (1) person serving as an election officer who is a minor seventeen (17) years of age. An election officer shall not be a candidate or the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child of a candidate who is to be voted for at the *primary or* election. An election officer shall not have changed his voter registration party affiliation for one (1) year prior to his appointment. An election officer may be removed, for cause, at any time up to five (5) days before *a primary or* an election. Vacancies shall be filled by the county board with alternate precinct election officers and the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall be of the same political party as the vacating officer, except for emergency appointments made as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

- (10) If the county board of elections fails to appoint election officers, or if any officer is not present at the precinct at the time for commencing the *primary or* election, or refuses to act, and if no alternate is available, the officer in attendance representing the political party of the absentee shall appoint a suitable person to act in his place for that election. If both representatives of the same political party are absent, qualified voters present affiliating with that party shall elect, viva voce, suitable persons to act in their places.
- (11) Each election officer shall be paid a minimum of sixty dollars (\$60) per *primary or* election day served, and such an additional amount as compensation as may be determined by the county board of elections, with the approval of the governing body which would be responsible for funding the election officers' pay, for each *primary or* election in which the election officer serves, to be paid by the county. For delivering the election packets to the polls, the precinct election officers shall receive in addition the mileage reimbursement provided for state employees, for each mile necessarily traveled in the delivery of the packets to the polls, or a flat fee if the fee equals or exceeds that amount. For delivering election returns, the precinct election judges shall

receive in addition the mileage reimbursement provided for state employees for each mile necessarily traveled from the place of voting to and from the place of delivery, or a flat fee if the fee equals or exceeds that amount. The fee paid to the precinct election judges for delivering *primary or* election returns shall be paid by the county.

âSection 25. KRS 117.066 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) In the case of a precinct comprised of a small number of registered voters, the county board of elections may, pursuant to KRS 117.055, utilize the facilities of another precinct as a voting location. Additionally, the county board of elections may petition the State Board of Elections to allow the precinct election officers of the larger precinct to serve as precinct election officers for the precinct that is the subject of the petition. The petition shall designate both the smaller precinct and the larger precinct with which it is to be included, the type of voting machine or machines to be used, and whether supplemental paper ballots are to be used. The petition shall contain a full explanation of the reasons why inclusion is desirable.
- (2) If the petition submitted pursuant to subsection (1) of this section is approved by the State Board of Elections, the election shall be conducted according to the following provisions:
 - (a) One voting machine may be utilized for both precincts if the State Board of Elections certifies that separate ballots may be placed upon the voting machine to be used without endangering the integrity of the ballots or without violating any other election law. Otherwise, separate voting machines shall be used for each precinct. In the instance of a precinct which has a small number of voters such that the use of a separate voting machine 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 *the primary or* election day. If the use of supplemental paper ballots is approved by the State Board of Elections, at the close of voting on *the primary or* election day, the locked ballot box shall be transported to the county

board of elections and ballots shall be counted by the county board of elections as provided by KRS 117.275~~(Z)~~~~(8)~~;

- (b) Separate precinct voter rosters shall be maintained for each precinct, and steps shall be taken to insure that voters cast their ballot in their duly authorized precinct; and
- (c) A separate set of elections forms and reports required by this chapter and the State Board of Elections shall be maintained for each precinct.

âSection 25. KRS 117.085 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) All requests for an application for an absentee ballot may be transmitted by telephone, facsimile machine, by mail, or in person. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, all applications for an absentee ballot shall be transmitted only by mail to the voter or in person at the option of the voter, except that the county clerk shall hand an application for an absentee ballot to a voter permitted to vote by absentee ballot who appears in person to request the application, or shall mail the application to a voter permitted to vote by absentee ballot who requests the application by telephone, facsimile machine, or mail. The absentee ballot application may be requested by the voter, the spouse, parents, or children of the voter, but shall be restricted to the use of the voter. Except for qualified voters who apply pursuant to the requirements of KRS 117.075 and 117.077, those who are incarcerated in jail but have yet to be convicted, military personnel confined to a military base on election day, and persons who qualify under subparagraph 6. of paragraph (a) of this subsection, no absentee ballots shall be mailed to a voter who resides within the county in which he is registered. In the case of ballots returned by mail, the county clerk shall provide an absentee ballot, two (2) official envelopes for returning the ballot, and instructions for voting to a voter who presents a completed application for an absentee ballot as provided in this section and who is properly registered as stated in his application.
 - (a) The following voters may apply to cast their votes by mail-in absentee ballot if the application is received not later than the close of business hours seven (7)

days before the *primary or* election:

1. Voters permitted to vote by absentee ballot pursuant to KRS 117.075;
 2. Residents of Kentucky who are members of the Armed Forces, dependents of members of the Armed Forces, and citizens residing overseas;
 3. Students who temporarily reside outside the county of their residence and other voters who temporarily reside outside the state but who are still eligible to vote in this state;
 4. Persons who are incarcerated in jail who have been charged with a crime but have not been convicted of the crime;
 5. Voters who change their place of residence to a different state while the registration books are closed in the new state of residence before an election of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, who shall be permitted to cast an absentee ballot for electors for President and Vice President of the United States only; and
 6. Persons who are prevented from voting in person at the polls on *the primary or* election day and from casting an absentee ballot in person in the county clerk's office on all days absentee voting is conducted prior to *the primary or* election day because their employment location requires them to be absent from the county all hours and all days absentee voting is conducted in the county clerk's office.
- (b) Residents of Kentucky who are members of the Armed Forces, dependents of members of the Armed Forces, and overseas citizens, may apply for an absentee ballot by means of the federal post-card application, which may be transmitted to the county clerk's office by mail or by facsimile machine. The application may be used to register, reregister, and to apply for an absentee ballot. If the federal post-card application is received at any time not less than seven (7) days before the election, the county clerk shall affix his seal to the application form

upon receipt.

- (c) Absentee voting shall be conducted in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections during normal business hours for at least the twelve (12) working days before the primary or election. A county board of elections may permit absentee voting to be conducted on a voting machine for a period longer than the twelve (12) working days before the primary or election.
- (d) Any qualified voter in the county who is not permitted to vote by absentee ballot under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section who shall be absent from the county on any primary or election day may, at any time during normal business hours on those days absentee voting is conducted in the county clerk's office, make application in person to the county clerk to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections.
- (e) Residents of Kentucky who are members of the Armed Forces, dependents of members of the Armed Forces, and citizens residing overseas who shall be absent from the county on any primary or election day may, at any time during normal business hours on those days absentee voting is conducted in the county clerk's office, make application in person to the county clerk to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections.
- (f) Students who temporarily reside outside the county of their residence and other voters who temporarily reside outside the state but who are still eligible to vote in this state who shall be absent from the county on any primary or election day may, at any time during normal business hours on those days absentee voting is conducted in the county clerk's office, make application in person to the county clerk to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of

Elections.

- (g) Voters who have surgery scheduled that will require hospitalization on primary or election day, and the spouse of the voter, may, at any time during normal business hours on those days absentee voting is conducted in the county clerk's office, make application in person to the county clerk to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections.
- (h) Voters who change their place of residence to a different state while the registration books are closed in the new state of residence before a presidential election shall be permitted to cast an absentee ballot for President and Vice President only, by making application in person to the county clerk to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections.
- (i) Any member of the county board of elections, any precinct election officer appointed to serve in a precinct other than that in which he is registered, any alternate precinct election officer, any deputy county clerk, any staff for the State Board of Elections, and any staff for the county board of elections may vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, up to the close of normal business hours on the day before the primary or election. The application form for those persons shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections and, in the case of application by precinct election officers, shall contain a verification of appointment signed by a member of the county board of elections. If an alternate precinct election officer or a precinct election officer appointed to serve in a precinct other than that in which he is registered receives his appointment while absentee voting is being conducted in the county, such officer may vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the

State Board of Elections, up to the close of normal business hours on the day before the primary or election. In case of such voters, the verification of appointment shall also contain the date of appointment. The applications shall be restricted to the use of the voter only.

- (j) Any pregnant woman who is in her last trimester of pregnancy at the time she wishes to vote under this paragraph may at any time during normal business hours on those days absentee voting is conducted in the county clerk's office, make application to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections. The application form for those persons shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections, which shall contain the woman's sworn statement that she is in fact in her last trimester of pregnancy at the time she wishes to vote.
- (k) The members of the county board of elections or their designees who provide equal representation of both political parties may serve as precinct election officers, without compensation, for all absentee voting performed on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections. If the members of the county board of elections or their designees serve as precinct election officers for the absentee voting, they shall perform the same duties and exercise the same authority as precinct election officers who serve on the day of a primary or an election. If the members of the county board of elections or their designees do not serve as precinct election officers for the absentee voting, the county clerk or deputy county clerks shall supervise the absentee voting.
- (l) Any individual qualified to appoint challengers for the day of a primary or an election may also appoint challengers to observe all absentee voting performed at the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, and those challengers

may exercise the same privileges as challengers appointed for observing voting on the day of *a primary or* an election at a regular polling place.

- (m) Residents of Kentucky who are members of the Armed Forces confined to a military base on *a primary or* election day and learn of that confinement within seven (7) days or less of *a primary or* an election and are not eligible for a paper absentee ballot under subsection (1) of this section may, at any time during normal business hours on those days absentee voting is conducted in the county clerk's office, make application in person to the county clerk to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections.
- (2) The clerk shall type the name of the voter permitted to vote by absentee ballot on the application form for that person's use and no other. The absentee ballot application form shall be in the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections, shall bear the seal of the county clerk, and shall contain the following information: name, residential address, precinct, party affiliation, statement of the reason the person cannot vote in person on *a primary or* election day, statement of where the voter shall be on *a primary or* election day, statement of compliance with residency requirements for voting in the precinct, and the voter's mailing address for an absentee ballot. The form shall be verified and signed by the voter. A notice of the actual penalty provisions in KRS 117.995(2) and (5) shall be printed on the application.
- (3) If the county clerk finds that the voter is properly registered as stated in his application and qualifies to receive an absentee ballot by mail, he shall mail to the voter an absentee ballot, two (2) official envelopes for returning the ballot, and instructions for voting. The county clerk shall complete a postal form for a certificate of mailing for ballots mailed within the fifty (50) states, and it shall be stamped by the postal service when the ballots are mailed. An absentee ballot may be transmitted by facsimile machine to a resident of Kentucky who is a member of the Armed Forces, a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces, or a citizen residing overseas.

- (4) Absentee ballots which are requested prior to the printing of the ballots shall be mailed by the county clerk to the voter within three (3) days of the receipt of the printed ballots; and absentee ballots which are requested subsequent to the receipt of the ballots by the county clerk shall be mailed to the voter within three (3) days of the receipt of the request.
- (5) The clerk shall cause ballots to be printed fifty (50) days prior to each primary or general election ~~and fifteen (15) days prior to each runoff primary~~.
- (6) The outer envelope shall bear the words "Absentee Ballot" and the address and official title of the county clerk and shall provide space for the voter's signature, voting address, precinct number, and signatures of two (2) witnesses if the voter signs the form with the use of a mark instead of the voter's signature. A detachable flap on the inner envelope shall provide space for the voter's signature, voting address, precinct number, signatures of two (2) witnesses if the voter signs the form with the use of a mark instead of the voter's signature and notice of penalty provided in KRS 117.995(5). The clerk shall type the voter's address and precinct number in the upper left hand corner of the outer envelope and of the detachable flap on the inner envelope immediately below the blank space for the voter's signature. The inner envelope shall be blank. The clerk shall retain the application and the postal form required by subsection (3) of this section for twenty-two (22) months after the election.
- (7) Any person who has received an absentee ballot by mail but who knows at least seven (7) days before the date of the primary or election that he will be in the county on the primary or election day and who has not voted pursuant to the provisions of KRS 117.086 shall cancel his absentee ballot and vote in person. He shall return his absentee ballot to the county clerk's office no later than seven (7) days prior to the date of the primary or election. Upon the return of the absentee ballot, the clerk shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed ballot or the unmarked ballot the words "Canceled because voter appeared to vote in person." Sealed envelopes so marked

shall not be opened. The clerk shall remove the voter's name from the list of persons who were sent absentee ballots, and the voter may vote in the precinct in which he is properly registered.

- (8) Any voter qualified for a mail-in absentee ballot who does not receive a requested mail-in ballot within a reasonable amount of time shall contact the county clerk, who shall reissue a second ballot. The county clerk shall keep a record of the absentee ballots issued and returned by mail, and the absentee voting that is performed on the voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections, to verify that only the first voted ballot to be returned by the voter is counted. Upon the return of any ballot after the first ballot is returned, the clerk shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed ballot the words "~~Cancelled~~" because ballot reissued."

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

- (1) At the count of the votes in any precinct, any candidate or slate of candidates and any representatives to witness and check the count of the votes therein, who are authorized to be appointed as is provided in subsection ~~(6)~~(7) of this section, shall be admitted and be permitted to be present and witness the count.
- (2) As soon as the polls are closed, and the last voter has voted, the judges shall immediately lock and seal the operating lever, mechanism or other device of the voting equipment so that the voting and counting mechanism will be prevented from operation, and they shall sign a certificate stating:
 - (a) That the voting equipment has been locked against voting and sealed;
 - (b) The number of voters, as shown on the public counters;
 - (c) The number registered on the protective or accumulative counter or device, if any; and
 - (d) The number or other designation of the voting equipment, which certificate shall be returned by the judges of election to the officials authorized by law to receive it. The judges shall compare the number of voters, as shown by the

counter of the voting equipment, with the number of those who have voted as shown by the protective or accumulative counter or device, if any.

- (3) Where voting equipment is used which does not print the candidates' names, lever numbers, and total votes received on a general return sheet or record for that equipment, the procedure to be followed shall be: the judges, in the presence of the representatives mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, if any, and of all other persons who may be lawfully within the polling place, shall make visible the registering counters, and, for that purpose, shall unlock and open the doors, or other covering concealing the counters, giving full view of all the counter numbers. The judges shall, under the scrutiny of the representatives, and in the order of the offices as their titles are arranged on the machine, read and announce, in distinct tones, the results as shown by the counter numbers for each candidate or slate of candidates and for and against each question voted on. The counters shall not be read consecutively along the party rows or columns, but shall always be read along the office columns or rows, completing the canvass for each office or question before proceeding to the next. The vote as registered shall be entered by the judges, in ink, on quadruplicate return sheets, and also on a general return sheet and statement, all of which, after the canvass is completed, shall be signed by the election officers. The total votes cast for each candidate, and slate of candidates, and for and against each question, shall be entered on the general and quadruplicate return sheets and statement. The proclamation of the result of the votes cast shall be announced distinctly and audibly by one (1) of the judges, who shall read the name and the vote cast for each candidate, and slate of candidates, and the vote for and against each question submitted. During the proclamation, ample opportunity shall be given to any person lawfully present to compare the results so announced with the counter dials of the voting equipment, and any necessary corrections shall be made by the judges, and the door or other cover of the voting equipment shall then be closed and locked.
- (4) If any officer shall decline to sign the return, he shall state his reason in writing, and a

copy thereof, signed by him, shall be enclosed with the return. Each of the return sheets shall be enclosed in an envelope, which shall be securely sealed, and each of the officers shall write his name across the fold of the envelope. One (1) of the quadruplicate return sheets, along with the general return sheet and the write-in roll, if any write-in votes were cast in the precinct, shall be directed to the county board of elections of the county in which the primary or election is being held, one (1) to the county clerk of the county in which the primary or election is being held and one (1) to the local governing body of each of the two (2) dominant political parties, but a local governing body of a dominant political party may decline a copy of the precinct election return by filing a written declination with the county board of elections prior to the primary or election, and upon this declination, a printed copy shall not be issued to the political party so declining. The declination on file shall be effective for that primary or election and any subsequent elections until revoked by the local governing body of a dominant political party by filing a written revocation with the county board of elections. The envelope shall have endorsed thereon a certificate of the election officers, stating the number of the machine, the precinct where it has been used, the number on the seal, and the number on the protective or accumulative counter or device at the close of the polls. Following the tabulation of all votes cast in the primary or election, including absentee votes and write-in votes, the county board shall mail the tabulation sheets showing the results from each precinct to the State Board of Elections and the county clerk shall mail or deliver the precinct lists from each precinct to the State Board of Elections.

~~(5) In primary elections at which each party's slates of candidates seeking the nomination of their parties for Governor and Lieutenant Governor are voted on, the Secretary of State, upon receiving the certified results of voting from each county's precincts for those offices, shall determine whether a runoff primary shall be necessary for either or both parties pursuant to KRS 118.245. The Secretary of State shall, within twenty-four (24) hours of making his determination, inform the affected slates of candidates,~~

~~the county clerks, the county boards of elections, the State Board of Elections, the Registry of Election Finance, and the news media of his determination, and the date of the runoff primary, which shall be subject to change if an election contest or vote recount shall be requested.~~

~~(6)~~ As soon as possible after the completion of the count, the two (2) judges shall return to the county board of elections the keys to the voting machine received and receipted for by them, and the county clerk in which the precinct is located shall have the voting machine properly boxed or securely covered and removed to a proper and secure place of storage.

~~(6)~~~~(7)~~ In primaries~~[primary elections]~~, each candidate, slate of candidates, or group of candidates may designate to the county board of elections a representative to witness and check the vote count. In regular elections, the governing authority of each political party, each candidate for member of board of education, independent candidate, or independent ticket may designate a representative to the county board of elections to witness and check the vote count. The county board of elections shall authorize representatives of the news media to observe the taking of the tally of votes from the voting machine in each precinct in each primary, regular election or special election.

~~(7)~~~~(8)~~ If supplemental paper ballots have been approved, as provided in KRS 118.215, after the polls are closed, the precinct election officials shall stamp "Unused" on all supplemental paper ballots not used. The election officers shall string all used ballots' stubs upon a string provided for that purpose, and the stubs shall be placed in an envelope. The two (2) judges shall return to the county clerk's office the locked ballot box, all ballot stubs, spoiled ballots, and unused ballots at the same time as the tabulation of votes from the voting machine is delivered. The county clerk shall issue a receipt for the number of ballot stubs, unused ballots, spoiled ballots and the ballot box. The county board of elections, or its designee, shall count and tally the paper ballots manually or with the use of tabulating equipment which does not involve an

additional voting system. The results of the vote tally shall be certified by the county board of elections to the county clerk and to the Secretary of State. The county board of elections shall authorize the candidates, slates of candidates, or their representatives, and representatives of the news media to be present during the counting of the paper ballots. Except as otherwise required in this chapter that certain records and papers relating to specified ***primaries or*** elections be retained for twenty-two (22) months, the county clerk shall retain the paper ballots for sixty (60) days, after which time they shall be destroyed in a manner to render them unreadable by the county board of elections if no contest or recount action has been filed.

âSection 25. KRS 117.295 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) For a period of ten (10) days following any primary~~[election]~~, and for a period of thirty (30) days following any general or special election, the voting machine shall remain locked against voting, except that it may be opened and all the data and figures therein examined, upon the order of any court of competent jurisdiction, or judge thereof, or by direction of any legislative committee authorized and empowered to investigate and report upon contested elections affected by the use of a voting machine, and all the data and figures shall be examined by the court, judge or committee in the presence of the officer having the custody of the machine. In the event of a contest of election, the court in which the contest is pending or the committee before which the contest is being heard may, upon motion of any party to the contest, issue an order requiring that the voting machines shall remain continuously locked for further time as may be reasonable or necessary, with due regard for the preparation of the machines for a succeeding primary,~~[runoff primary]~~ regular ***election***, or special election, but in no event shall the order compel that the machines remain locked to a time within thirty (30) days next preceding any approaching primary,~~[runoff primary]~~ regular ***election***, or special election.
- (2) During the period when the machine is required to be kept locked, the keys thereto shall remain in the possession of the county board of elections. After that period, it

shall be the duty of the county board of elections to return the keys to the custody of the county clerk.

âSection 25. KRS 118.025 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, voting in all elections shall be by secret ballot on voting machines.
- (2) The general laws applying to regular ~~and~~ special *elections and primaries* ~~primary, and runoff primary elections~~ shall apply to elections conducted with the use of voting machines, and all provisions of the general laws applying to the custody of ballot boxes shall apply, as far as applicable, to the custody of the voting machine.
- (3) *Primaries* ~~Primary elections~~ for the nomination of candidates or slates of candidates to be voted for at the next regular election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the third Monday in *August* ~~May~~ of each year.
- (4) ~~{A runoff primary shall be held thirty-five (35) days after the date of the May primary, if it shall be necessary, pursuant to KRS 118.245, unless that date falls on a holiday; in that case, a runoff primary shall be held on the succeeding Tuesday. However, if either a primary election is contested or a recount of the votes cast in a primary is requested, a runoff primary shall be held on the first Tuesday following the thirty-fifth day following the conclusion of any contest proceeding or recount, if it shall be necessary, unless that date falls on a holiday; in that case, a runoff primary shall be held on the succeeding Tuesday. }~~The election of all officers of all governmental units shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- (5) If the law authorizes the calling of a special election on a day other than the day of the regular election in November, the election shall be held on a Tuesday.
- (6) If the law requires that a special election be held within a period of time during which the voting machines must be locked as required by KRS 117.295, the special election shall be held on the fourth Tuesday following the expiration of the period during which the voting machines are locked.

Section 25. KRS 118.035 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The polls shall be opened on the day of a primary, ~~runoff primary,~~ special election, or regular election at 6 a.m., prevailing time, and shall remain open until each voter who is waiting in line at the polls at 6 p.m., prevailing time, has voted. At 6 p.m., prevailing time, if voters are waiting at the polls to vote, the precinct election sheriff shall announce that a voter wishing to vote must immediately get in line. When all voters waiting at the polls at that time are in line, the precinct election sheriff shall then determine which voter is the last in line, and that voter shall be the last voter permitted to vote. The precinct election sheriff shall wait in line with the last voter who shall be permitted to vote until that voter has voted and shall inform a voter who subsequently arrives at the polls that no one shall be permitted to vote after the last voter in line at 6 p.m., prevailing time. After the last voter waiting in line at 6 p.m., prevailing time, has voted, the polls shall then be closed.
- (2) As provided in Section 148 of the Constitution of Kentucky, any person entitled to a vote at any election in this state shall, if he has made application for leave prior to the day he appears before the county clerk to request an application for or to execute an absentee ballot, be entitled to absent himself from any services or employment in which he is then engaged or employed for a reasonable time, but not less than four (4) hours on the day he appears before the clerk to request an application for or to execute an absentee ballot, during normal business hours of the office of the clerk or to cast his ballot on the day of the election between the time of opening and closing the polls. The employer may specify the hours during which an employee may absent himself.
- (3) No person shall be penalized for taking a reasonable time off to vote, unless, under circumstances which did not prohibit him from voting, he fails to vote. Any qualified voter who exercises his right to voting leave under this section but fails to cast his vote, under circumstances which did not prohibit him from voting, may be subject to disciplinary action.

- (4) Any person selected to serve as an election officer shall be entitled to absent himself from any services or employment in which he is then engaged or employed for a period of an entire day to attend training or to serve as an election officer. The person shall not, because of so absenting himself, be liable to any penalty. The employer may specify the hours during which the employee may absent himself. No person shall refuse an employee the privilege hereby conferred, or discharge or threaten to discharge an employee or subject an employee to a penalty, because of the exercise of the privilege.

âSection 25. KRS 118.165 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in KRS Chapters 116 to 121, candidates for offices to be voted for by the electors of one (1) county or of a district less than one (1) county, except members of Congress and members of the General Assembly, shall file their nomination papers with the county clerk of the county not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year the office will appear on the ballot and not later than the last Tuesday in ~~April~~January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary ~~election~~. Candidates for offices to be voted for by the electors of more than one (1) county, and for members of Congress and members of the General Assembly, shall file their nomination papers with the Secretary of State not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year the office will appear on the ballot and not later than the last Tuesday in ~~April~~January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary ~~election~~. All nomination papers shall be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing when filed on the last date on which the papers may be filed.
- (2) The Secretary of State or the county clerk shall examine the notification and declaration form of each candidate to determine whether it is regular on its face. If there is an error, the proper officer shall notify the candidate by certified mail within twenty-four (24) hours of filing.

âSection 25. KRS 118.215 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) After the order of the names has been determined as provided in KRS 118.225, the Secretary of State shall certify, to the county clerks of the respective counties entitled to participate in the nomination or election of the respective candidates, the name, place of residence, and party of each candidate or slate of candidates for each office, as specified in the nomination papers or certificates and petitions of nomination filed with him, and shall designate the device with which the candidate groups, slates of candidates, or lists of candidates of each party shall be printed, in the order in which they are to appear on the ballot, with precedence to be given to the party that polled the highest number of votes at the preceding election for presidential electors, followed by the political party which received the second highest number of votes, with the order of any other political parties and independents to be determined by lot. Candidates for county offices and local state offices shall be listed in the following order: Commonwealth's attorney, circuit clerk, property valuation administrator, county judge/executive, county attorney, county clerk, sheriff, jailer, county commissioner, coroner, justice of the peace, and constable. The names of candidates for President and Vice President shall be certified in lieu of certifying the names of the candidates for presidential electors. The names shall be certified as follows:
 - (a) Not later than the second Monday after the filing deadline for the primary;
 - (b) ~~Not less than twenty-five (25) days before a runoff primary;~~
 - ~~(c)~~ Not later than the second Monday after the filing deadline for the general election, except as provided in paragraph ~~(c)~~~~(d)~~ of this subsection; and
 - ~~(c)~~~~(d)~~ Not later than the Monday after the Friday following the first Tuesday in September preceding a general election, for those years in which there is an election for President and Vice President of the United States.
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, all independent candidates or slates of candidates whose nominating petitions are filed with the county clerk or the Secretary of State shall be listed under the title and device

designated by them as provided in KRS 118.315, or if none is designated, under the word "independent," and shall be placed on the ballot in a separate column or columns or in a separate line or lines according to the office which they seek. The order in which independent candidates or slates of candidates shall appear on the ballot shall be determined by lot by the county clerk. If the same device is selected by two (2) groups of petitioners, it shall be given to the first selecting it and the county clerk shall permit the other group to select a suitable device. This section shall not apply to candidates for municipal offices which come under subsection (3) of this section.

- (3) The ballots used at any election in which city officers are to be elected as provided in subsection (2) of this section shall contain the names of candidates for the city offices grouped according to the offices they seek, and the candidates shall be immediately arranged with and designated by the title of office they seek. The order in which the names of the candidates for each office are to be printed on the ballot shall be determined by lot. Each group of candidates for each separate office for which the candidates are to be elected shall be clearly separated from other groups on the ballot and spaced to avoid confusion on the part of the voter.
- (4) The Secretary of State shall not knowingly certify to the county clerk of any county the name of any candidate or slate of candidates who has not filed the required nomination papers, nor knowingly fail to certify the name of any candidate or slate of candidates who has filed the required nomination papers.
- (5) If the county clerk determines that the number of certified candidates or slates of candidates cannot be placed on a ballot which can be accommodated by the voting machines currently in use by the county, he shall so notify the State Board of Elections not later than the last Tuesday in May~~February~~ preceding the primary or the last Tuesday in September~~August~~ preceding the general election. The State Board of Elections shall meet within five (5) days of the notice, review the ballot conditions, and determine whether supplemental paper ballots are necessary for the

election. Upon approval of the State Board of Elections, supplemental paper ballots may be used for nonpartisan candidates or slates of candidates for an office or offices and public questions submitted for a yes or no vote. All candidates or slates of candidates for any particular office shall be placed either on the machine ballot or on the paper ballot. Supplemental paper ballots may also be used to conduct the voting, in the instance of a small precinct as provided in KRS 117.066.

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

âSection 25. KRS 118.225 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) For the purpose of determining the order in which the names of candidates or slates of candidates to be voted for by the electors of the entire state shall be certified and printed on the ballots with the designation of the respective offices, the Secretary of State shall prepare lists of the counties of each congressional district of the state. He shall arrange the surnames of all candidates or slates of candidates for each office in alphabetical order for the First Congressional District, and the names shall be certified in this order to the county clerks of all the counties comprising that district. For each succeeding congressional district, taken in numerical order, the name appearing first for each office in the last preceding district shall be placed last, and the name appearing second in the last preceding district shall be placed first, and each other name shall be moved up one (1) place. The lists shall be certified accordingly.
- (2) For all other offices for which nomination papers and petitions are filed with the Secretary of State, the order of names of candidates for each office shall be determined by lot at a public drawing to be held in the office of the Secretary of State at 2 p.m., standard time, on the Thursday following the last Tuesday in ~~April~~January preceding the primary~~[, twenty-six (26) days before a runoff primary,]~~ or the Thursday following the second Tuesday in August preceding the general election.
- (3) For all offices for which nomination papers and petitions are filed in the office of the county clerk, the order in which the names of candidates for each office are to be

printed on the ballot shall be determined by lot at a public drawing in the office of the county clerk at 2 p.m., standard time, on the Thursday following the last Tuesday in ~~April~~January before the primary or the Thursday following the second Tuesday in August preceding the general election.

- (4) If the number of certified candidates or slates of candidates cannot be placed on a ballot which can be accommodated on voting machines currently in use in the county, the county clerk shall notify the State Board of Elections, as provided in KRS 118.215.

âSection 25. KRS 118.245 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The candidate for office, other than the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, receiving the highest number of votes in a primary~~[election]~~ for the office for which he is a candidate shall be the nominee of his party for that office and shall receive the certificate of nomination.
- ~~(2) A slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor that receives not less than forty percent (40%) of its party's votes cast shall be the nominee of its party for those offices and that slate of candidates shall receive the certificate of nomination; except that if two (2) slates of candidates receive forty percent (40%) or more of their party's votes, the slate receiving the higher number of votes shall be its party's nominee, and no runoff primary shall be conducted.~~
- ~~(3) A slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor that receives the highest number of its party's votes but which number is less than forty percent (40%) of the votes cast for all slates of candidates of that party, shall be required to participate in a runoff primary with the slate of candidates of the same party receiving the second highest number of votes.~~
- ~~(4)~~ The slate of candidates ***for Governor and Lieutenant Governor*** receiving the highest number of votes in a ~~runoff~~ primary shall be the nominees of that party for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, and that slate of candidates shall receive the certificate of nomination.

~~(3)(5) [Subject to the foregoing provisions relating to a runoff primary, if two (2) or more slates of candidates in a primary election are found to have received the next highest and equal number of votes for the nomination for election to the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the slate which will appear on the ballot in a runoff primary shall be determined by lot in the manner the state board directs, in the presence of not less than three (3) other persons.~~

~~(6) Subject to the foregoing provisions relating to a runoff primary,]If two (2) or more candidates or slates of candidates in a[runoff primary or] primary[election] are found to have received the highest and an equal number of votes for nomination to the same office, the election shall be determined by lot in the manner the board directs, in the presence of not less than three (3) other persons. This section does not apply to presidential primaries.~~

âSection 25. KRS 118.367 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) An independent candidate required to file nomination papers pursuant to KRS 118.365(5) shall be required to file a statement-of-candidacy form with the same office at which nomination papers are filed. Candidates for federal office and candidates for mayor or legislative body in cities of the second to sixth class participating in partisan elections shall not be required to file a statement-of-candidacy form. The statement-of-candidacy form shall be filed not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later than **the last Tuesday in April**[~~]~~ preceding the day fixed by law for holding of general elections for the offices sought.[~~If the office in which the statement-of-candidacy form is to be filed is closed on April 1, the form may be filed on the next business day.~~] The statement-of-candidacy form shall be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time when filed on the last day on which papers are permitted to be filed. No person shall file a statement-of-candidacy form for more than one (1) public office during an election cycle.
- (2) The statement-of-candidacy form shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections.

The statement-of-candidacy form shall be signed by the candidate upon filing. No charge shall be assessed for the filing of a statement-of-candidacy form. The Secretary of State and county clerks shall examine the statement-of-candidacy form of each candidate who files the form to determine if there is an error. If an error has occurred, the candidate shall be notified by certified mail within twenty-four (24) hours.

âSection 25. KRS 118.561 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Subject to KRS 118.555, on the first Tuesday~~[after the third Monday]~~ in February~~[May]~~, in each presidential election year, the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall conduct presidential preference primaries~~[primary elections]~~ within each political party.
- (2) Hours of voting shall be in accordance with KRS 118.035.
- (3) The cost of election, officials, and the entire method of conducting the presidential preference primary shall be in accordance with Kentucky statutory provisions on primaries~~[primary elections]~~.

âSection 25. KRS 118.581 is amended to read as follows:

The State Board of Elections shall convene in Frankfort on the second Tuesday in December~~[January]~~ preceding a presidential preference primary. At the meeting required by this section, the board shall nominate as presidential preference primary candidates all those candidates of the political parties for the office of President of the United States who have qualified for matching federal campaign funds. Immediately upon completion of this requirement, the board shall transmit a list of all the nominees selected to the Secretary of State and shall also release the list to the news media.

âSection 25. KRS 118.591 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Any person seeking the endorsement by a political party for the office of President of the United States, or any group organized in this state on behalf of, and with the consent of, the person, may file with the Secretary of State certified petitions signed by five thousand (5,000) persons who, at the time they sign, are registered and

qualified voters in the Commonwealth and are affiliated, by registration, with the same political party as the candidate for whom petitions are filed.

- (2) The petitions shall be filed by the petitioners with the Secretary of State no later than forty-five (45) days~~[the last Tuesday in January]~~ preceding a presidential preference primary.
- (3) The petitions shall state:
 - (a) The name of the candidate for nomination and the party of which he is a member; and
 - (b) The name and address of the chairman of the group circulating such petition.
- (4) The Secretary of State shall determine the sufficiency of petitions filed with him and shall immediately communicate his determination to the chairman of the group which has filed the petitions.
- (5) In lieu of the petition requirements of subsections (1) to (4) of this section, a candidate may qualify to appear on the presidential preference primary ballot of his political party by filing with the Secretary of State, no later than forty-five (45) days~~[the last Tuesday in January]~~ preceding a presidential preference primary, a notice of candidacy signed by the candidate and either of the following:
 - (a) A certification by the Federal Election Commission that, by the filing deadline, the candidate has qualified for matching federal campaign funds; or
 - (b) Evidence that, by the filing deadline, the candidate's name is qualified to appear on the presidential preference primary ballot of his political party in at least twenty (20) other states.
- (6) The Secretary of State shall determine the sufficiency of the documentation provided pursuant to subsection (5) of this section and shall immediately communicate his determination to the candidate or his agent.

âSection 25. KRS 118.601 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The Secretary of State shall contact each person who has been nominated by petition, or who has been nominated pursuant to KRS 118.591(5) and (6), and notify him in

writing by certified mail, with return receipt requested, that his name will appear as a candidate on the Kentucky presidential primary ballot of his party.

- (2) The order in which the names of candidates for a presidential preference primary are to be printed on the ballot shall be determined by lot at a public drawing in the office of the Secretary of State at 2 p.m., standard time, on the Thursday following the filing deadlines established in Section 16 of this Act, ~~last Tuesday in January~~ preceding the presidential preference primary.
- (3) Not later than the third Tuesday in January ~~February~~ preceding the presidential preference primary, and after the order of the names has been determined as provided by subsection (2) of this section, the Secretary of State shall certify to each county clerk the name, place of residence, and party of each candidate, as specified in the notice of candidacy forms or petitions filed with him and shall designate the device with which the candidates of each party shall be printed, in the order in which they are to appear on the ballot, with precedence to be given to the party that polled the highest number of votes at the preceding election for presidential electors, followed by the political party which received the second highest number of votes.

âSection 25. KRS 118.651 is amended to read as follows:

It shall be the responsibility of the state chairman of each political party to notify his party's national committee, no later than one (1) day after the filing deadlines established in Section 16 of this Act ~~January 30~~ of each year in which such presidential primary shall be conducted, of the provisions contained herein relating to the automatic vote on the first ballot as required under KRS 118.551 to 118.641.

âSection 25. KRS 118A.060 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in KRS 118A.100, no person's name shall appear on a ballot label or absentee ballot for an office of the Court of Justice without first having been nominated as provided in this section.
- (2) Each candidate for nomination shall file a petition for nomination with the Secretary of State not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of

the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later than the last Tuesday in ~~April~~January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary~~-election~~ for the office. The petition shall be sworn to before an officer authorized to administer an oath by the candidate and by not less than two (2) registered voters from the district or circuit from which he seeks nomination. The petition shall be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing when filed on the last date on which the papers are permitted to be filed.

- (3) The petition for nomination shall be in the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections. The petition shall include a declaration sworn to by the candidate, that he or she possesses all the constitutional and statutory requirements of the office for which the candidate has filed. Titles, ranks, or spurious phrases shall not be accepted on the petition and shall not be printed on the ballots as part of the candidate's name; however, nicknames, initials, and contractions of given names may be acceptable as the candidate's name.
- (4) The Secretary of State shall examine the petition of each candidate to determine whether it is regular on its face. If there is an error, the Secretary of State shall notify the candidate by certified mail within twenty-four (24) hours of filing. The order of names on the ballot for each district or circuit, and numbered division thereof if divisions exist, shall be determined by lot at a public drawing to be held in the office of the Secretary of State at 2 p.m., standard time, on the Thursday following the last Tuesday in ~~April~~January preceding the primary~~-election~~.
- (5) Not later than the third Tuesday in ~~May~~February preceding the primary~~-election~~, and after the order of names on the ballot has been determined as required in subsection (4) of this section, the Secretary of State shall:
 - (a) Certify to the county clerks of the respective counties entitled to participate in the election of the various candidates, the name and place of residence of each candidate for each office, by district or circuit, and numbered division thereof if divisions exist, as specified in the petitions for nomination filed with him; and

- (b) Designate for the county clerks the office of the Court of Justice with which the names of candidates shall be printed and the order in which they are to appear on the ballot.
- (6) The ballot position of a candidate shall not be changed after the ballot position has been designated by the county clerk.
- (7) The county clerks of each county shall cause to be printed on the ballot labels for the voting machines and on the special ballots for the primary the names of the candidates for offices in the Court of Justice.
- (8) The names of the candidates shall be placed on the voting machine in a separate column or columns or in a separate line or lines and identified by the words "Judicial Ballot." The words "Vote for one," or "Vote for one in each division," shall be printed on the ballot in an appropriate location. The office, numbered division thereof if divisions exist, and the candidates therefor shall be clearly labeled. No party designation or emblem of any kind, nor any sign indicating any candidate's political belief or party affiliation, shall be used on voting machines or special ballots.
- (9) The two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes for nomination for justice or judge of a district or circuit, or numbered division thereof if divisions exist, shall be nominated. Certificates of nomination shall be issued as provided in KRS 118A.190.
- (10) If it appears after expiration of the time for filing petitions for nomination that there are not more than two (2) candidates who have filed the necessary petitions for a place on the ballot in the regular election, no drawing for ballot position shall be held and the Secretary of State shall immediately issue and file in his office certificates of nomination, and send copies to the candidates.

âSection 25. KRS 121.015 is amended to read as follows:

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Registry" means the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance;
- (2) "Election" means any primary, ~~runoff primary,~~ regular ***election***, or special election

to fill vacancies regardless of whether a candidate or slate of candidates is opposed or unopposed in an election. Each primary,~~runoff primary,~~ regular *election*, or special election shall be considered a separate election;

- (3) "Committee" includes the following:
- (a) "Campaign committee," which means one (1) or more persons who receive contributions and make expenditures to support or oppose one (1) or more specific candidates or slates of candidates for nomination or election to any state, county, city, or district office, but does not include an entity established solely by a candidate which is managed solely by a candidate and a campaign treasurer and whose name is generic in nature, such as "Friends of (the candidate)," and does not reflect that other persons have structured themselves as a committee, designated officers of the committee, and assigned responsibilities and duties to each officer with the purpose of managing a campaign to support or oppose a candidate in an election;
 - (b) "Caucus campaign committee," which means members of one (1) of the following caucus groups who receive contributions and make expenditures to support or oppose one (1) or more specific candidates or slates of candidates for nomination or election, or a committee:
 - 1. House Democratic caucus campaign committee;
 - 2. House Republican caucus campaign committee;
 - 3. Senate Democratic caucus campaign committee; and
 - 4. Senate Republican caucus campaign committee;
 - (c) "Political issues committee," which means three (3) or more persons joining together to advocate or oppose a constitutional amendment or public question which appears on the ballot if that committee receives or expends money in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000);
 - (d) "Permanent committee," which means a group of individuals, including an association, committee or organization, other than a campaign committee,

political issues committee, inaugural committee, caucus campaign committee, or party executive committee, which is established as, or intended to be, a permanent organization having as a primary purpose expressly advocating the election or defeat of one (1) or more clearly identified candidates, slates of candidates, or political parties, which functions on a regular basis throughout the year;

- (e) An executive committee of a political party; and
 - (f) "Inaugural committee," which means one (1) or more persons who receive contributions and make expenditures in support of inauguration activities for any candidate or slate of candidates elected to any state, county, city, or district office;
- (4) "Contributing organization" means a group which merely contributes to candidates, slates of candidates, campaign committees, caucus campaign committees, or executive committees from time to time from funds derived solely from within the group, and which does not solicit or receive funds from sources outside the group itself. However, any contributions made by the groups in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be reported to the registry;
- (5) "Testimonial affair" means an affair held in honor of a person who holds or who is or was a candidate for nomination or election to a political office in this state designed to raise funds for any purpose not charitable, religious, or educational;
- (6) "Contribution" means any:
- (a) Payment, distribution, loan, deposit, or gift of money or other thing of value, to a candidate, his agent, a slate of candidates, its authorized agent, a committee, or contributing organization. As used in this subsection, "loan" shall include a guarantee, endorsement, or other form of security where the risk of nonpayment rests with the surety, guarantor, or endorser, as well as with a committee, contributing organization, candidate, slate of candidates, or other primary obligor. No person shall become liable as surety, endorser, or guarantor for any

sum in any one (1) election which, when combined with all other contributions the individual makes to a candidate, his agent, a slate of candidates, its agent, a committee, or a contributing organization, exceeds the contribution limits provided in KRS 121.150;

- (b) Payment by any person other than the candidate, his authorized treasurer, a slate of candidates, its authorized treasurer, a committee, or a contributing organization, of compensation for the personal services of another person which are rendered to a candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, or for inauguration activities;
 - (c) Goods, advertising, or services with a value of more than one hundred dollars (\$100) in the aggregate in any one (1) election which are furnished to a candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization or for inauguration activities without charge, or at a rate which is less than the rate normally charged for the goods or services; or
 - (d) Payment by any person other than a candidate, his authorized treasurer, a slate of candidates, its authorized treasurer, a committee, or contributing organization for any goods or services with a value of more than one hundred dollars (\$100) in the aggregate in any one (1) election which are utilized by a candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, or for inauguration activities;
- (7) Notwithstanding the foregoing meanings of "contribution," the word shall not be construed to include:
- (a) Services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate, a slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization;
 - (b) A loan of money by any financial institution doing business in Kentucky made in accordance with applicable banking laws and regulations and in the ordinary course of business; or

- (c) An independent expenditure by any individual or permanent committee;
- (8) "Candidate" means any person who has received contributions or made expenditures, has appointed a campaign treasurer, or has given his consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures with a view to bringing about his nomination or election to public office, except federal office;
- (9) "Slate of candidates" means any two (2) persons who have filed a joint notification and declaration pursuant to KRS 118.127, received contributions or made expenditures, appointed a campaign treasurer, designated a campaign depository, or given their consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures with a view to bringing about their nomination for election to the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Unless the context requires otherwise, any provision of law that applies to a candidate shall also apply to a slate of candidates;
- (10) "Knowingly" means, with respect to conduct or to a circumstance described by a statute defining an offense, that a person is aware or should have been aware that his conduct is of that nature or that the circumstance exists;
- (11) "Fundraiser" means an individual who directly solicits and secures contributions on behalf of a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office or an office in a jurisdiction with a population in excess of two hundred thousand (200,000) residents;
- (12) "Independent expenditure" means the expenditure of money or other things of value for a communication which expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or slate of candidates, and which is made without any coordination, consultation, or cooperation with any candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or any authorized person acting on behalf of any of them, and which is not made in concert with, or at the request or suggestion of any candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or any authorized person acting on behalf of any of them;
- (13) "Electronic reporting" means the use of technology, having electrical, digital,

magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities, by which an individual or other entity submits, compiles, or transmits campaign finance reports to the registry, or by which the registry receives, stores, analyzes, or discloses the reports;

- (14) "Security procedure" means a procedure employed for the purpose of verifying that an electronic signature, record, or performance is that of a specific person or for detecting changes or errors in the information in an electronic record. The term includes a procedure that requires the use of algorithms or other codes, identifying words or numbers, encryption, or callback or other acknowledgment procedures;
- (15) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record;
- (16) "Filer" means any candidate, a slate of candidates, committee, or other individual or entity required to submit financial disclosure reports to the registry; and
- (17) "Filer-side software" means software provided to or used by the filer that enables transmittal of financial reports to the registry.

âSection 25. KRS 121.150 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) No contribution shall be made or received, directly or indirectly, other than an independent expenditure, to support inauguration activities or to support or defeat a candidate, slate of candidates, constitutional amendment, or public question which will appear on the ballot in an election, except through the duly appointed campaign manager, or campaign treasurer of the candidate, slate of candidates, or registered committee. Any person making an independent expenditure, shall report these expenditures when the expenditures by that person exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate in any one (1) election, on a form provided or using a format approved by the registry and shall sign a statement on the form, under penalty of perjury, that the expenditure was an actual independent expenditure and that there was no prior communication with the campaign on whose behalf it was made.

- (2) Except as provided in KRS 121.180(10), the solicitation from and contributions by campaign committees, caucus campaign committees, political issues committees, permanent committees, and party executive committees to any religious, charitable, civic, eleemosynary, or other causes or organizations established primarily for the public good is expressly prohibited; except that it shall not be construed as a violation of this section for a candidate or a slate of candidates to contribute to religious, civic, or charitable groups.
- (3) No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone acting on their behalf, shall accept any anonymous contribution in excess of fifty dollars (\$50), and all anonymous contributions in excess of fifty dollars (\$50) shall be returned to the donor, if the donor can be determined. If no donor is found, the contribution shall escheat to the state. No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone acting on their behalf shall accept anonymous contributions in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in the aggregate in any one (1) election. Anonymous contributions in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in the aggregate which are received in any one (1) election shall escheat to the state.
- (4) No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall accept a cash contribution in excess of fifty dollars (\$50) in the aggregate from each contributor in any one (1) election. No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall accept a cashier's check or money order in excess of the maximum cash contribution limit unless the instrument clearly identifies both the payor and the payee. A contribution made by cashier's check or money order which identifies both the payor and payee shall be treated as a contribution made by check for purposes of the contribution limits contained in this section. No person shall make a cash contribution in excess of fifty dollars (\$50) in the aggregate in any one (1) election to a candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone

on their behalf.

- (5) No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall accept any contribution in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) from any person who shall not become eighteen (18) years of age on or before the day of the next general election.
- (6) No candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, political issues committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf, shall accept a contribution of more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) from any person, permanent committee, or contributing organization in any one (1) election; except that no candidate for school board, his campaign committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf shall accept a contribution of more than one hundred dollars (\$100) from any person or more than two hundred dollars (\$200) from any permanent committee or contributing organization in any one (1) election. No person, permanent committee, or contributing organization shall contribute more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to any one (1) candidate, campaign committee, political issues committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf, in any one (1) election; except that no person shall contribute more than one hundred dollars (\$100) and no permanent committee or contributing organization shall contribute more than two hundred dollars (\$200) to any one (1) school board candidate, his campaign committee, nor anyone acting on their behalf, in any one (1) election.
- (7) Permanent committees or contributing organizations affiliated by bylaw structure or by registration, as determined by the Registry of Election Finance, shall be considered as one (1) committee for purposes of applying the contribution limits of subsection (6) of this section.
- (8) No permanent committee shall contribute funds to another permanent committee for the purpose of circumventing contribution limits of subsection (6) of this section.
- (9) No person shall contribute funds to a permanent committee, political issues committee, or contributing organization for the purpose of circumventing the

contribution limits of subsection (6) of this section.

- (10) No person shall contribute more than one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) to all permanent committees and contributing organizations in any one (1) year.
- (11) No person shall contribute more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to the state executive committee of a political party and its subdivisions and affiliates in any one (1) year. No person shall contribute more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to a caucus campaign committee in any one (1) year. Contributions a person makes to any executive committee other than the state executive committee in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in any one (1) year shall be deposited in a separate account which the state executive committee maintains for the exclusive purpose of paying administrative costs incurred by the political party.
- (12) No person shall make a payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money to another person to contribute to a candidate, a slate of candidates, committee, contributing organization, or anyone on their behalf. No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf shall accept a contribution made by one (1) person who has received a payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money from another person to contribute to a candidate, a slate of candidates, committee, contributing organization, or anyone on their behalf.
- (13) No candidates running as a slate for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall make combined total personal loans to their committee in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in any one (1) election. No candidate for any other statewide elected state office shall lend to his committee any amount in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in any one (1) election. In campaigning for all other offices, no candidate shall lend to his committee more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in any one (1) election.
- (14) Subject to the provisions of subsection ~~(18)~~~~(19)~~ of this section, no candidate or slate of candidates for nomination to any state, county, city, or district office, nor their

campaign committees, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit or accept contributions for primary election expenses after the date of the primary. No person other than the candidate or slate of candidates shall contribute for primary election expenses after the date of the primary.

~~(15)~~ Subject to the provisions of subsection ~~(19)~~ of this section, no slate of candidates for nomination for election to the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, nor its campaign committees, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit or accept contributions for runoff primary election expenses after the date of the runoff primary. No person other than the slated candidates shall contribute for runoff primary election expenses after the date of the runoff primary.

~~(16)~~ Subject to the provisions of subsection ~~(18)~~~~(19)~~ of this section, no candidate or slate of candidates for any state, county, city, or district office at a regular election, nor their campaign committees, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit or accept contributions for regular election expenses after the date of the regular election. No person other than the candidate or slate of candidates shall contribute for regular election expenses after the date of the regular election.

~~(16)~~~~(17)~~ Subject to the provisions of subsection ~~(18)~~~~(19)~~ of this section, no candidate or slate of candidates for nomination or election to any state, county, city, or district office, nor their campaign committees, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit or accept contributions for special election expenses after the date of the special election. No person other than the candidate or slate of candidates shall contribute for special election expenses after the date of the special election.

~~(17)~~~~(18)~~ The provisions of subsections (14) and ~~(15)~~~~(16)~~ of this section shall apply only to those candidates in a primary or a regular election which shall be conducted subsequent to January 1, 1989. The provisions of subsection (16)~~subsections (15) and (17)~~ of this section shall apply only to those candidates or slates of candidates in a ~~runoff primary or~~ special election which shall be conducted subsequent to January 1, 1993.

~~(18)~~~~(19)~~ A candidate, slate of candidates, or a campaign committee may solicit and accept contributions after the date of a primary election, ~~runoff primary election,~~ regular election, or special election to defray necessary expenses that arise after the date of the election associated with election contests, recounts, and recanvasses of a specific election, complaints regarding alleged campaign finance violations that are filed with the registry pertaining to a specific election, or other legal actions pertaining to a specific election to which a candidate, slate of candidates, or campaign committee is a party. Reports of contributions received and expenditures made after the date of the specific election shall be made in accordance with KRS 121.180.

~~(19)~~~~(20)~~ No slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor or their immediate families shall loan any money, service, or other thing of value to their campaign, and all moneys, services, or other things of value which are loaned shall be deemed a contribution, which may not be recovered by the slate of candidates, except to the extent of a combined total of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

~~(20)~~~~(21)~~ No candidate, slate of candidates, committee, except a political issues committee, or contributing organization, nor anyone on their behalf, shall knowingly accept a contribution from a corporation, directly or indirectly.

~~(21)~~~~(22)~~ Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the ability of a corporation to administer its permanent committee insofar as its actions can be deemed not to influence an election as prohibited by KRS 121.025.

~~(22)~~~~(23)~~ No candidate, slate of candidates, or committee, nor anyone on their behalf, shall solicit a contribution of money or services from a state employee, whether or not the employee is covered by the classified service provisions of KRS Chapter 18A. However, it shall not be a violation of this subsection for a state employee to receive a solicitation directed to him as a registered voter in an identified precinct as part of an overall plan to contact voters not identified as state employees.

~~(23)~~~~(24)~~ (a) A candidate or a slate of candidates for elective public office shall not

accept contributions from permanent committees which, in the aggregate, exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total contributions accepted by the candidate or a slate of candidates in any one (1) election or ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in any one (1) election, whichever is the greater amount. The percentage of the total contributions or dollar amounts of contributions accepted by a candidate or a slate of candidates in an election that is accepted from permanent committees shall be calculated as of the day of each election. Funds in a candidate's or a slate of candidates' campaign account which are carried forward from one (1) election to another shall not be considered in calculating the acceptable percentage or dollar amount of contributions which may be accepted from permanent committees for the election for which the funds are carried forward. A candidate or a slate of candidates may, without penalty, contribute funds to his campaign account not later than sixty (60) days following the election so as not to exceed the permitted percentage or dollar amount of contributions which may be accepted from permanent committees or the candidate or a slate of candidates may, not later than sixty (60) days after the end of the election, refund any excess permanent committee contributions on a pro rata basis to the permanent committees whose contributions are accepted after the aggregate limit has been reached.

- (b) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection regarding the receipt of aggregate contributions from permanent committees in any one (1) election shall also apply separately to the receipt of aggregate contributions from executive committees of any county, district, state, or federal political party in any one (1) election.
- (c) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection regarding the receipt of aggregate contributions from permanent committees in any one (1) election shall also apply separately to the receipt of aggregate contributions from caucus campaign committees.

~~(24)~~~~(25)~~ No candidate or slate of candidates for any office in this state shall accept a contribution, including an in-kind contribution, which is made from funds in a federal campaign account. No person shall make a contribution, including an in-kind contribution, from funds in a federal campaign account to any candidate or slate of candidates for any office in this state.

âSection 25. KRS 121.180 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) Any candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee shall be exempt from filing any preelection finance reports required by subsection (3) of this section if the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman files a form prescribed and furnished by the registry stating that contributions will not be accepted or expended in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in any one (1) election to further the candidacy or to support or oppose a constitutional amendment or public question which will appear on the ballot. For a candidate for judicial office who desires to be exempt from filing preelection campaign finance reports as provided in this paragraph, the request for exemption shall be filed by the campaign treasurer of the candidate's campaign committee, but the candidate shall be personally liable for any violation if the campaign treasurer accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the limit and shall be subject to the same penalties as a candidate as provided in subparagraph (1)1. or 2. of this subsection. A separate form shall be required for each primary,~~runoff primary,~~ regular ***election***, or special election in which the candidate or slate of candidates participates or in which the public question appears on the ballot, unless the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman indicates on a request for exemption that the request will be applicable to more than one (1) election. The form shall be filed with the same office with which a candidate or slate of candidates files nomination papers or, in the case of a political issues committee, with the registry.

- (b) Any candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee shall be exempt from filing any campaign finance reports required by subsections (3) and (4) of this section if the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman files a form prescribed and furnished by the registry stating that currently no contributions have been received and that contributions will not be accepted or expended in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in any one (1) election. For a candidate for judicial office who desires to be exempt from filing any campaign finance reports as provided in this paragraph, the request for exemption shall be filed by the campaign treasurer of the candidate's campaign committee, but the candidate shall be personally liable for any violation if the campaign treasurer accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the limit and shall be subject to the same penalties as a candidate as provided in subparagraph (1)1. or 2. of this subsection. A separate form shall be required for each primary,~~runoff primary,~~ regular *election*, or special election in which the candidate or slate of candidates participates or in which the public question appears on the ballot, unless the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman indicates on a request for exemption that the request will be applicable to more than one (1) election. The form shall be filed with the same office with which a candidate or slate of candidates files nomination papers or, in the case of a political issues committee, with the registry.
- (c) For a primary~~election~~, a candidate or slate of candidates shall file a request for exemption not later than the deadline for filing nomination papers and, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline.~~For a runoff primary election, a slate of candidates shall file its request for exemption not later than five (5) days after the date of the preceding primary election and shall be bound by its terms~~

~~unless rescinded in writing not later than ten (10) days after the date of the preceding primary election.]~~ For a regular election, a candidate or slate of candidates shall file or rescind in writing a request for exemption not later than twenty-five (25) days after the date of the preceding primary election,~~[or runoff primary, if one is held,]~~ except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection. For a special election, a candidate or slate of candidates shall file a request for exemption not later than ten (10) days after the candidate or slate of candidates is nominated for a special election and shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than twenty-five (25) days after the date on which the nomination for a special election is made. A political issues committee chairman shall file a request for exemption not later than ten (10) days after the date on which the committee registers with the registry and shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the date on which the request for exemption is filed.

- (d) 1. A candidate or slate of candidates that revokes a request for exemption in a timely manner may exercise the remaining option or may file all reports required of a candidate intending to raise or spend in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in an election. If a candidate or slate of candidates elects to exercise a different option, the candidate or slate of candidates shall file the appropriate form with the officer who received the filing papers of the candidate or slate of candidates not later than the deadline for filing a revocation.
2. A candidate for any city or county office or for any school board office, who is exempted from some or all campaign finance reporting requirements pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection but who accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the exempted amount in an election, shall file all applicable reports required for the remainder of that election, based upon the amount of contributions or

expenditures the candidate accepts or receives in that election. The filing of applicable required reports by a candidate after the exempted amount is exceeded shall serve as notice to the registry that the initial exemption has been rescinded. No further notice to the registry shall be required and no penalty for exceeding the initial exempted amount shall be imposed against the candidate, except for failure to file applicable reports required after the exempted amount is exceeded.

- (e) Any candidate or slate of candidates that is subject to an August filing deadline and that intends to execute a request for exemption shall file the appropriate request for exemption not later than the filing deadline and, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline. A candidate or slate of candidates that is covered by this paragraph shall have the same reversion rights as those provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.
- (f) Any candidate or slate of candidates that will appear on the ballot in a regular election that has signed either request for exemption for that election may exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection if a candidate or slate of candidates that is subject to an August filing deadline subsequently files in opposition to the candidate or slate of candidates. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, a candidate or slate of candidates covered by this paragraph shall comply with the deadline for rescission provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.
- (g) Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, any candidate or slate of candidates that has filed a request for exemption for a regular election that later is opposed by a person who has filed a declaration of intent to receive write-in votes may rescind the request for exemption and

exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.

- (h) Any candidate or slate of candidates that has filed a request for exemption may petition the registry to determine whether another person is campaigning as a write-in candidate prior to having filed a declaration of intent to receive write-in votes, and, if the registry determines upon a preponderance of the evidence that a person who may later be a write-in candidate is conducting a campaign, the candidate or slate of candidates, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, may petition the registry to permit the candidate or slate of candidates to exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.
- (i) If the opponent of a candidate or slate of candidates is replaced due to his withdrawal because of death, disability, or disqualification, the candidate or slate of candidates, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, may exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection not later than fifteen (15) days after the party executive committee nominates a replacement for the withdrawn candidate or slate of candidates.
- (j) A person intending to be a write-in candidate for any office in a regular or special election may execute a request for exemption under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection and shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline for the regular or special election. A person intending to be a write-in candidate who revokes a request for exemption in a timely manner may exercise the remaining exemption option or may file all reports required of a candidate intending to raise or spend in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in an election. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, a person intending to be a write-in candidate who elects to exercise a different exemption option shall

file the appropriate form with the officer who received the initial request for exemption not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline for the regular or special election.

- (k) Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, the campaign committee of any candidate or slate of candidates that has filed a request for exemption or a political issues committee whose chairman has filed a request for exemption shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in a timely manner and no new request for exemption has been executed.
- (l)
 - 1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, any candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee that is exempt from filing campaign finance reports pursuant to paragraph (a), (b), (e), or (j) of this subsection that accepts contributions or makes expenditures, or whose campaign treasurer accepts contributions or makes expenditures, in excess of the applicable limit in any one (1) election without rescinding the request for exemption in a timely manner shall comply with all applicable reporting requirements and, in lieu of other penalties prescribed by law, pay a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) plus the amount by which the spending limit was exceeded.
 - 2. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, a candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or political issues committee that is exempt from filing campaign finance reports pursuant to paragraph (a), (b), (e), or (j) of this subsection that knowingly accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the applicable spending limit in any one (1) election without rescinding the request for exemption in a timely manner shall comply with all applicable reporting requirements and shall be guilty of a Class D felony.
- (2) (a) State and county executive committees, and caucus campaign committees shall make a full report, upon a prescribed form, to the registry, of all money, loans,

or other things of value, received from any source, and expenditures authorized, incurred, or made, since the date of the last report, including:

1. For each contribution of any amount made by a permanent committee, the name and business address of the permanent committee, the date of the contribution, the amount contributed, and a description of the major business, social, or political interest represented by the permanent committee;
 2. For other contributions in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100), the full name, address, age if less than the legal voting age, the date of the contribution, the amount of the contribution, and the employer and occupation of each contributor. If the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business shall be listed;
 3. The total amount of cash contributions received during the reporting period; and
 4. A complete statement of expenditures authorized, incurred, or made. The complete statement of expenditures shall include the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25), and the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure.
- (b) This report shall be in the hands of the registry or postmarked within five (5) days after the thirtieth day following the primary~~[-runoff primary if slates of candidates of that party participate,]~~ and *the* regular *election*~~[elections]~~. If an individual gives a reportable contribution to a caucus campaign committee or to a state or county executive committee with the intention that the contribution or a portion of the contribution go to a candidate or slate of candidates, the name of the contributor and the sum shall be indicated on the committee report. The receipts and expenditures of funds remitted to each political party under KRS 141.071 to 141.073 shall be separately accounted for and reported to the registry in the manner required by KRS 121.230. The separate report may be made a

separate section within the report required, by this subsection, to be in the hands of the registry or postmarked within five (5) days after the thirtieth day following each regular election.

- (3) (a) Except for candidates or slates of candidates, campaign committees, or political issues committees exempted from reporting requirements pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, each campaign treasurer of a candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or political issues committee who accepts contributions or expends, expects to accept contributions or expend, or contracts to expend more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in any one (1) election, and each fundraiser who secures contributions in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in any one (1) election, shall make a full report to the registry, on a form provided or using a format approved by the registry, of all money, loans, or other things of value, received from any source, and expenditures authorized, incurred, and made, since the date of the last report, including:
1. For each contribution of any amount made by a permanent committee, the name and business address of the permanent committee, the date of the contribution, the amount contributed, and a description of the major business, social, or political interest represented by the permanent committee;
 2. For each contribution in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) made to a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office, or to a campaign committee for a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office, the date, name, address, occupation, and employer of each contributor and the spouse of the contributor or, if the contributor or spouse of the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business, and the amount contributed by each contributor; and
 3. For each contribution in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) made to any candidate or campaign committee other than those specified in

subparagraph 2. or a political issues committee, the full name, address, age if less than the legal voting age, the date of the contribution, the amount of the contribution, and the employer and occupation of each other contributor. If the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business shall be listed;

4. The total amount of cash contributions received during the reporting period; and
 5. A complete statement of all expenditures authorized, incurred, or made. The complete statement of expenditures shall include the name, address, and occupation of each person to whom an expenditure is made in excess of twenty-five dollars (\$25), and the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure.
- (b) Reports of all candidates, slates of candidates, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall be made as follows:
1. Candidates as defined in KRS 121.015(8), slates of candidates, campaign committees, political issues committees, and fundraisers which register in the year before the year an election in which the candidate, a slate of candidates, or public question shall appear on the ballot, shall file financial reports with the registry at the end of the first calendar quarter after persons become candidates or slates of candidates, or following registration of the committee or fundraiser, and each calendar quarter thereafter, ending with the last calendar quarter of that year. Candidates, slates of candidates, committees, and registered fundraisers shall make all reports required by this section during the year in which the election takes place;
 2. All candidates, slates of candidates, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall make reports on the thirty-second day preceding an election, including all previous contributions and

expenditures;

3. All candidates, slates of candidates, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall make reports on the fifteenth day preceding the date of the election; and
 4. All reports to the registry shall be received by the registry or postmarked within five (5) days after each filing deadline.
- (4) Except for candidates, slates of candidates, and political issues committees, exempted pursuant to subsection (1)(b) of this section, all candidates, regardless of funds received or expended, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall make post-election reports within thirty (30) days after the election.
- (5) In making the preceding reports, the total gross receipts from each of the following categories shall be listed: proceeds from the sale of tickets for events such as testimonial affairs, dinners, luncheons, rallies, and similar fundraising events, mass collections made at the events, and sales of items such as campaign pins, buttons, hats, ties, literature, and similar materials. When any individual purchase or the aggregate purchases of any item enumerated above from a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office or a campaign committee for a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100), the purchaser shall be identified by name, address, age, if less than the legal voting age, occupation, and employer and the employer of the spouse of the purchaser or, if the purchaser or the spouse of the purchaser is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business, and the amount of the purchase. When any individual purchase or the aggregate purchases of any item enumerated above from any candidate or campaign committee other than a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office or campaign committee for a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100), the purchaser shall be identified by name, address, age if less than the legal voting age,

occupation, and employer, or if the purchaser is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business, and the amount of the purchase. The lists shall be maintained by the campaign treasurer, political issues committee treasurer, registered fundraiser, or other sponsor for inspection by the registry for six (6) years following the date of the election.

- (6) Each permanent committee, except a federally registered out-of-state permanent committee, inaugural committee, or contributing organization shall make a full report to the registry, on a form provided or using a format approved by the registry, of all money, loans, or other things of value, received by it from any source, and all expenditures authorized, incurred, or made, since the date of the last report, including:
- (a) For each contribution of any amount made by a permanent committee, the name and business address of the permanent committee, the date of the contribution, the amount contributed, and a description of the major business, social, or political interest represented by the permanent committee;
 - (b) For other contributions in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100), the full name, address, age if under the legal voting age, the date of the contribution, the amount of the contribution, and the employer and occupation of each contributor. If the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business shall be listed;
 - (c) An aggregate amount of cash contributions, the amount contributed by each contributor, and the date of each contribution; and
 - (d) A complete statement of all expenditures authorized, incurred, or made, including independent expenditures. This report shall be made by a permanent committee, inaugural committee, or contributing organization to the registry on the last day of the first calendar quarter following the registration of the committee with the registry and on the last day of each succeeding calendar quarter until such time as the committee terminates. A contributing

organization shall file a report of contributions received and expenditures on a form provided or using a format approved by the registry not later than the last day of each calendar quarter in which contributions are received or expenditures are made. All reports to the registry shall be postmarked or received not later than five (5) days after each filing deadline.

- (7) If the final statement of a candidate, campaign committee, or political issues committee shows an unexpended balance of contributions, continuing debts and obligations, or an expenditure deficit, the campaign treasurer shall file with the registry a supplemental statement of contributions and expenditures not more than thirty (30) days after the deadline for filing the final statement. Subsequent supplemental statements shall be filed annually, to be received by the registry or postmarked not later than ten (10) days after November 1 of each year, until the account shows no unexpended balance, continuing debts and obligations, expenditures, or deficit, or until the year before the candidate or a slate of candidates seeks to appear on the ballot for the same office for which the funds in the campaign account were originally contributed, in which case the candidate or a slate of candidates shall file the supplemental annual report not later than ten (10) days after November 1 of that year or at the end of the first calendar quarter of that year after the candidate or slate of candidates files nomination papers for the next year's primary or regular election. All contributions shall be subject to KRS 121.150.
- (8) All reports filed under the provisions of this chapter shall be a matter of public record open to inspection by any member of the public immediately upon receipt of the report by the registry. A duplicate paper copy of each report filed either on paper or electronically with the registry shall be filed by the candidate, slate of candidates, or committee with the county clerk in the county in which the candidate or persons running as a slate of candidates reside at the same time. County clerks shall maintain these reports for public inspection for a period of one (1) year from the date the last report is required to be filed.

- (9) A candidate or slate of candidates is relieved of the duty personally to file reports and keep records of receipts and expenditures if the candidate or slate states in writing or on forms provided by the registry that:
- (a) Within five (5) business days after personally receiving any contributions, the candidate or slate of candidates shall surrender possession of the contributions to the treasurer of their principal campaign committee without expending any of the proceeds thereof. No contributions shall be commingled with the candidate's or slated candidates' personal funds or accounts. Contributions received by check, money order, or other written instrument shall be endorsed directly to the campaign committee and shall not be cashed or redeemed by the candidate;
 - (b) The candidate or slate of candidates shall not make any unreimbursed expenditure for the campaign, except that this paragraph does not preclude a candidate or slate from making an expenditure from personal funds to the designated principal campaign committee, which shall be reported by the committee as a contribution received; and
 - (c) The waiver shall continue in effect as long as the candidate or slate of candidates complies with the conditions under which it was granted.
- (10) No candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, political issues committee, or contributing organization shall use or permit the use of contributions or funds solicited or received for the person or in support of or opposition to a public issue which will appear on the ballot to further the candidacy of the person for a different public office, to support or oppose a different public issue, or to further the candidacy of any other person for public office; except that nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to prohibit a candidate or slate of candidates from using funds in the campaign account to purchase admission tickets for any fundraising event or testimonial affair for another candidate or slate of candidates if the amount of the purchase does not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) per event or affair. Any funds or

contributions solicited or received by or on behalf of a candidate, slate of candidates, or any committee, which has been organized in whole or in part to further any candidacy for the same person or to support or oppose the same public issue, shall be deemed to have been solicited or received for the current candidacy or for the election on the public issue if the funds or contributions are solicited or received at any time prior to the regular election for which the candidate, slate of candidates, or public issue is on the ballot. Any unexpended balance of funds not otherwise obligated for the payment of expenses incurred to further a political issue or the candidacy of a person shall, in whole or in part, at the election of the candidate or committee, escheat to the State Treasury, be returned pro rata to all contributors, or, in the case of a partisan candidate, be transferred to a caucus campaign committee, or to the state or county executive committee of the political party of which the candidate is a member except that a candidate, committee, or an official may retain the funds to further the same public issue or to seek election to the same office or may donate the funds to any charitable, nonprofit, or educational institution recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any successor thereto.

- (11) (a) Any publisher of newspapers or magazines, owner or lessor of billboards, or any other person, company, corporation, or business organization offering its communications or advertising services for hire to the public who receives funds for the purchase of advertising services or material, shall file with the registry a copy of the material or communication purchased which supports or opposes any slate of candidates or committee; a copy of the receipt for the funds paid; the name and address of each purchaser; and the source of the funds for the purchase if different than the purchaser.
- (b) A radio or television station or network that receives funds for the purchase of advertising services or material that supports or opposes a slate of candidates or committee shall file with the registry a copy of the documentation of paid

political campaign advertisements that is required to be maintained by the Federal Communications Commission, along with a cover letter from the manager of the station or network or the manager's designee.

- (c) All information required to be reported by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection shall be in the hands of the registry or postmarked not later than the thirtieth day following the primary~~[, runoff primary,]~~ and *the* regular *election*~~[elections]~~ that are held subsequent to the date that the broadcasting or printing of the advertisement occurs.
 - (d) The provisions of this subsection shall apply only to purchases of advertising services or material to support or oppose a slate of candidates for election to the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor.
 - (e) Notwithstanding KRS 121.990, penalties for violation of this subsection shall be assessed in accordance with the provisions of KRS 121.140(2).
- (12) (a) For the purposes of this subsection, "election cycle," as applied to contributions, expenditures, or loans to support or oppose a candidate for a particular office, means the period of time beginning January 1 following a regular election for the office and ending December 31 following the next regular election for that office.
- (b) For the purpose of this subsection, "election cycle," as applied to contributions, expenditures, or loans to support or oppose a constitutional amendment or public question which appears on the ballot, means the period of time beginning January 1 following a regular election for any state legislative office and ending December 31 following the next regular election for any state legislative office.
- (c) If adequate and appropriate agency funds are available to implement this subsection, beginning on January 1, 2002, the option of electronic reporting shall be made available by the registry for all of the following:
1. Candidates for statewide office and slates of candidates that during the election cycle receive contributions or loans in the aggregate of twenty-

five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or more, or at any time have a balance in a campaign account or accounts in the aggregate of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or more;

2. Candidates for the General Assembly that during the election cycle receive contributions or loans in the aggregate of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500), or at any time have a balance in an aggregate of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) or more; and
 3. Campaign committees, political issues committees, permanent committees, registered fundraisers, contributing organizations, and individuals and entities making independent expenditures that during the election cycle receive contributions or loans in an aggregate of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or more, make expenditures in an aggregate of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or more, or at any time have a balance in an aggregate of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or more.
- (13) Filers specified in subsection (12) of this section shall also continue to file required campaign finance reports in paper format until the registry deems it is no longer necessary. The paper copy shall continue to be the official version for audit and other legal purposes.
- (14) Filers not required to file reports electronically, as set forth in this section, are strongly encouraged to do so voluntarily.
- (15) The date that an electronic or on-line report shall be deemed to have been filed with the registry shall be the date on which it is received by the registry.
- (16) All electronic or on-line filers shall affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the report filed with the registry is complete and accurate.
- (17) Filers who submit computer disks which are not readable, cannot be copied, or are not accompanied by any requisite paper copy shall be deemed to not be in compliance with the requirements set forth in this section.

(18) No candidate is obligated to file any reports electronically.

âSECTION 25. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 118 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) The presidential preference primary shall be held in accordance with KRS 118.561 to coincide with the Tuesday in early February of a presidential election year when the greatest number of states hold primaries to select delegates to national conventions at which each party's presidential candidates are officially nominated.
- (2) However, if the day specified in KRS 118.561 does not coincide with the primaries identified in subsection (1) of this section, and the General Assembly is not in session to alter the date set forth in KRS 118.561 to coincide with such primaries, the Secretary of State shall make a recommendation to the State Board of Elections to change the presidential preference primary date and the State Board of Elections shall revise the date to coincide with the primaries identified in subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) The State Board of Elections shall give notice to the Legislative Research Commission of the required date change.
- (4) The State Board of Elections shall through the promulgation of administrative regulations establish procedures for election officials to follow.

âSection 25. Whereas the filing deadline and primary date in the Commonwealth do not give candidates adequate time to prepare for their candidacy, an emergency is declared to exist and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming law.