

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Andy Beshear**  
GOVERNOR

Kentucky State Office Building  
501 High Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-2611  
Fax: (502) 564-2517

**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE**  
**GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 139 OF THE 2026 REGULAR SESSION**

*I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:*

House Bill 139 of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

*As written, House Bill 139 would make it more difficult for Kentuckians to vote, erode the independence of the judiciary in elections, expand the authority of the State Board of Elections to share sensitive voter information with the federal government, and give part-time legislators more authority to shift campaign funds between accounts than ever before in our history. As with previous election-related bills passed by this General Assembly, the foxes are guarding the henhouse.*

*House Bill 139 decreases the number and types of proof a voter may use to demonstrate identification in order to vote – even if the voter signs a statement affirming his or her citizenship, birthdate, current address, and qualifications to vote at that precinct. House Bill 139 also does away with the ability of an election officer to sign an affirmation form that he or she personally knows the voter and can confirm the voter's identification. Each election cycle, Kentucky conducts free and fair elections. Yet, in session after session, the General Assembly continues to pass legislation to make it more difficult for eligible Kentuckians to vote, without showing any evidence of voter fraud.*

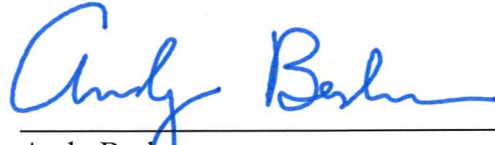
*The bill would also allow judicial candidates to publicly disclose their political party, including by communicating political viewpoints, setting a dangerous new precedent in the Commonwealth. It is paramount to our judicial system that judges be impartial in all cases that come before them. As such, judicial candidates should have no role in partisan politics. House Bill 139 would also weaken voter's trust in government by allowing the State Board of Elections increased authority to transfer protected personal information of all qualified registered voters in Kentucky without voter consent.*

*Finally, House Bill 139 would allow members of the General Assembly to transfer campaign funds from one type of campaign account to another when seeking statewide constitutional office – something no other candidate or elected official is allowed to do. In 2011, the then-Senate President ran for governor. He could not transfer remaining funds in his legislative campaign account to his account for governor. Under this bill, the current Senate President would be able*

*to do so, giving him or other legislators an advantage over sitting constitutional officers or members of Congress.*

*For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 139.*

This, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026.



---

Andy Beshear  
Governor