

## CHAPTER 275

(HB 777)

AN ACT relating to candidates for office.

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

Section 1. KRS 118.125 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in KRS 118.155, any person who is qualified under the provisions of KRS 116.055 to vote in any primary election for the candidates for nomination by the party at whose hands he seeks the nomination, shall have his name printed on the official ballot of his party for an office to which he is eligible in that primary, upon filing, with the Secretary of State or county clerk, as appropriate, at the proper time, a notification and declaration.
- (2) The notification and declaration shall be in the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections. It shall be signed by the candidate and by not less than two (2) registered voters of the same party from the district or jurisdiction from which the candidate seeks nomination.
  - (a) The notification and declaration for a candidate for an office other than Governor or Lieutenant Governor shall include the following oath:

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

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

- (b) The notification and declaration for a slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall include the following oath:

"For the purpose of having our names placed on the official primary election ballot as a slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor for nomination by the -- ---- Party, I, -----, (name of candidate for Governor in full as desired on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.129), do solemnly swear that my residence address is ---- (street, route, highway, city if applicable, county, state, and zip code), that my mailing address, if different, is ----- (post office address), and that I am a registered ----- (party) voter in ----- precinct; and I, -----, (name of candidate for Lieutenant Governor in full as desired on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.129), do solemnly swear that my residence address is ----- (street, route, highway, city if applicable, county, state, and zip code), that my

mailing address, if different, is ----- (post office address), and that I am a registered ----  
 -- (party) voter in ----- precinct; that we believe in the principles of the ----- Party, and  
 intend to support its principles and policies; ***that we meet all the statutory and  
 constitutional qualifications for the offices which we are seeking***; that we will accept  
 the nomination and not withdraw for reasons other than those stated in KRS 118.105(3);  
 that we will not knowingly violate any election law or any law relating to corrupt or  
 fraudulent practice in campaigns or elections in this state, and if finally elected we will  
 qualify for our offices."

The declaration shall be subscribed and sworn to ***before an officer authorized to  
 administer an oath*** by the ***candidate and by the two (2) voters making the declaration  
 and signing the petition for office***~~[persons making it before an officer authorized to  
 administer an oath]~~.

- (3) When the notice and declaration has been filed with the Secretary of State or county clerk, as appropriate, and certified according to KRS 118.165, the Secretary of State or county clerk, as appropriate, shall have the candidate's name printed on the ballot according to the provisions of this chapter, except as provided in KRS 118.185.
- (4) Titles, ranks, or spurious phrases shall not be accepted on the filing papers 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.

Section 2. KRS 118.315 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) A candidate for any office to be voted for at any regular election may be nominated by a petition of electors qualified to vote for him, complying with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section. No person who is a registered member of a political party shall be eligible to election as an independent candidate, nor shall any person be eligible to election as an independent candidate who was a registered member of a political party on December 31 immediately preceding the regular election for which the person seeks to be a candidate. This restriction shall not apply to candidates to those offices specified in KRS 118.105(5), for supervisor of a soil and water conservation district, for candidates for mayor or legislative body in cities of the second to sixth class, or to candidates participating in nonpartisan elections.
- (2) The form of the petition shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections. It shall be signed by the candidate and by registered voters from the district or jurisdiction from which the candidate seeks nomination. ***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.*** Signatures for a petition of nomination for a candidate seeking any office shall not be solicited prior to the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot. A petition of nomination for a state officer, or any officer for whom all the electors of the state are entitled to vote, shall contain five thousand (5,000) petitioners; for a representative in Congress from any congressional district, or for any officer from any other district except as herein provided, four hundred (400) petitioners; for a county officer, member of the General Assembly, or Commonwealth's attorney, one hundred (100) petitioners; for a soil and water conservation district supervisor, twenty-five (25) petitioners; for a city officer, two (2) petitioners; and for an officer of a division less than a county, except as herein

provided, twenty (20) petitioners. It shall not be necessary that the signatures of the petition be appended to one (1) paper. Each petitioner shall include his residence, Social Security number or date of birth, and post-office address. Failure of a voter to include his Social Security number or date of birth and address shall result in his signature not being counted. If any person joins in nominating, by petition, more than one (1) nominee for any office to be filled, he shall be counted as a petitioner for the candidate whose petition is filed first, except a petitioner for the nomination of candidates for soil and water conservation district supervisors may be counted for every petition to which his signature is affixed.

- (3) Titles, ranks, or spurious phrases shall not be accepted on the filing papers 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 accepted as the candidate's name.
- (4) The Secretary of State and county clerks shall examine the petitions of all candidates who file with them to determine whether each petition is regular on its face. If there is an error, the Secretary of State or the county clerk shall notify the candidate by certified mail within twenty-four (24) hours of filing.

Section 3. 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 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***~~[signed]~~ 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 January preceding the primary election.
- (5) Not later than the third Tuesday in 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.

**Approved March 31, 2000**