

CHAPTER 66

(HB 427)

AN ACT relating to judges.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 118.105 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section and in KRS 118.115, every political party shall nominate all of its candidates for elective offices to be voted for at any regular election at a primary~~{election}~~ held as provided in this chapter, and the governing authority of any political party shall have no power to nominate any candidate for any elective office or to provide any method of nominating candidates for any elective office other than by *a* primary~~{elections}~~ as provided in this chapter.
- (2) Any political organization not constituting a political party as defined in KRS 118.015 may make its nominations as provided in KRS 118.325.
- (3) If a vacancy occurs in the nomination of an unopposed candidate or in a nomination made by the primary before the certification of candidates for the regular election made under KRS 118.215, because of death, disqualification to hold the office sought, or severe disabling condition which arose after the nomination, the governing authority of the party may provide for filling the vacancy, but only following certification to the governing authority, by the Secretary of State, that a vacancy exists for a reason specified in this subsection. When such a nomination has been made, the certificate of nomination shall be signed by the *chair*~~{chairman}~~ and secretary of the governing authority of the party making it, and shall be filed in the same manner as certificates of nomination at a primary~~{election}~~.
- (4) If a vacancy occurs in the nomination of an unopposed candidate or in a nomination made by the primary before the certification of candidates for the regular election, and if that party's nominee was the only political party candidate for the office sought, the governing authority of each party may nominate a candidate for the regular election, provided that no person has sought that party's nomination by filing a notification and declaration.
- (5) If a vacancy occurs in the nomination of a candidate under the conditions of subsection (3) or (4) of this section prior to September 15 preceding the day of the regular election, certificates of nomination for replacement candidates shall be filed in the same manner as provided in subsections (3) and (4) not later than 4 p.m. ten (10) days after the vacancy occurs, excluding weekends and legal holidays. If a vacancy occurs in the nomination of a candidate under the conditions of subsection (3) or (4) of this section on or after September 15 preceding the date of the regular election, certificates of nomination for replacement candidates shall be filed in the same manner as provided in subsections (3) and (4) not later than 4 p.m. five (5) days after the vacancy occurs, excluding weekends and legal holidays.
- (6) If a vacancy in candidacy described in subsection (5) of this section occurs later than the second Thursday preceding the date of the regular election, no certificates of nomination shall be filed and any candidate whose name does not appear on the ballot may seek election by write-in voting pursuant to KRS 117.265.
- (7) This section does not apply to candidates for members of boards of education, or presidential electors, nor to candidates participating in nonpartisan elections. ***However, regardless of the number of days served by a judge acting as a Senior Status Special Judge, a judge who elected to retire as a Senior Status Special Judge in accordance with KRS 21.580 shall not become a candidate for any elected office during the five (5) year term prescribed in KRS 21.580(1)(a)1.***

➔Section 2. KRS 118.115 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b) of KRS 83A.045 governing vacancies in candidacy, candidates for unexpired terms to be filled at a regular election shall be nominated at the primary next preceding the regular election, if the vacancy occurred not less than one hundred thirty-four (134) days before the primary. If the vacancy occurred less than one hundred thirty-four (134) days before the primary, the nomination shall be made in a manner determined by the governing authority of the political party concerned. In the preparation of ballots, candidates for full terms shall be grouped together, and candidates for unexpired terms shall be grouped together, under appropriate headings, so that the voter may easily distinguish the candidates for full terms from the candidates for unexpired terms.

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

➔Section 3. 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 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 January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary. Signatures for nomination papers shall not be affixed on the document to be filed 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. 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.
- (3) ***A judge who elected to retire as a Senior Status Special Judge in accordance with KRS 21.580 shall not become a candidate or a nominee for any elected office during the five (5) year term prescribed in KRS 21.580(1)(a)1., regardless of the number of days served by the judge acting as a Senior Status Special Judge.***

➔Section 4. KRS 118.305 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in KRS 118.345, and subject to the provisions of subsections (2), (3), and (4) of this section, the county clerk of each county shall cause to be printed for the voting machines and on the absentee ballots for the regular election the names of the following persons:
- (a) Candidates of a political party, as defined in KRS 118.015, who have received certificates of nomination at the preceding primary~~election~~, or certificates of nomination under KRS 118.185, and whose certificates of nomination have been filed with the Secretary of State or the appropriate county clerk;
- (b) Candidates of a political party, as defined in KRS 118.015, who have been nominated for an unexpired term in a manner determined by the governing authority of the party, as provided in KRS 118.115, and whose evidences of nomination have been filed with the Secretary of State or the appropriate county clerk within the time prescribed in this chapter;
- (c) Candidates of a political party, as defined in KRS 118.015, who have been nominated by the governing authority of the party to fill a vacancy in the candidacy of a person nominated at the preceding primary election, as provided in KRS 118.105, and whose certificates of nomination have been filed with the Secretary of State or the appropriate county clerk, by at least the date provided by the election law generally for such filing;
- (d) Candidates who have been nominated by a political organization as provided in KRS 118.325 and whose certificates or petitions of nomination have been filed with the Secretary of State or the appropriate county clerk within the time prescribed in this chapter;
- (e) Independent candidates who have been nominated by petition as provided in KRS 118.315, and whose petitions of nomination have been filed with the Secretary of State or the appropriate county clerk within the time prescribed in this chapter;
- (f) Successful nominees of all nonpartisan primaries which shall have been conducted;
- (g) Candidates who have filed a petition of candidacy as shall be required to fill a vacancy which shall appear on the ballot;

- (h) The county clerk shall determine whether the name of any replacement candidate who has been nominated as provided in KRS 118.105(5) may be placed on the machine ballot or ballot cards and whether the voting machine may be reprogrammed to count the votes cast for that candidate or whether the ballot or ballot cards must be reprinted to accommodate votes cast for any replacement candidate and shall take the appropriate action to accommodate the replacement of any candidate. If the county clerk determines that the name of any replacement candidate cannot be accommodated on the existing ballot or ballot cards and if there is insufficient time before the election to reprint the entire ballot, the county clerk shall request approval to use supplemental paper ballots for voting for that office only in the same manner as permitted for other situations as provided in KRS 118.215(5), and, if approved, shall have an adequate number of supplemental paper ballots printed for voting for that office and only votes cast for that office by means of the supplemental paper ballots shall be tabulated and recorded by the precinct election officers and county board of elections. All actions by a county clerk, the State Board of Elections, and the Secretary of State which are necessary to provide for voting at a regular election for candidates nominated pursuant to KRS 118.105(5) shall be carried out with all possible speed. When a candidate has been replaced as provided in KRS 118.105(5) after absentee ballots have been printed and distributed for the regular election, neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall tabulate or record any absentee votes cast for the candidate who was replaced. If ballots are reprinted or supplemental paper ballots are printed, or if voting machines must be reprogrammed to count the votes cast for a replacement candidate, the costs for the printing and reprogramming shall be paid by the political party who has nominated a replacement candidate, or proportionately by each political party if each party nominates a replacement candidate;
- (i) Candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, of those political parties and organizations who have nominated presidential electors as provided in KRS 118.325, if the certificate of nomination of the electors has been filed with the Secretary of State within the time prescribed in this chapter;
- (j) Candidates for soil and water district supervisors who have been nominated by petition as provided in KRS 262.210; and
- (k) Candidates for city office for which no nonpartisan primary has been conducted in a city which requires nonpartisan city elections.
- (2) Any candidate for city office who is defeated in a partisan or nonpartisan primary~~[election]~~ shall be ineligible as a candidate for the same office in the regular election.
- (3) Candidates for members of boards of education shall have their names printed on ballot labels and absentee ballots for the regular election only after filing as provided in KRS 160.220.
- (4) Except as provided in KRS 118.105 and 118.115,~~[the name of]~~ no *candidate's name*~~[candidate]~~ shall be printed upon the ballot labels and absentee ballots for any regular election as the nominee of any political party, as defined in KRS 118.015, or under the emblem of any political party, as so defined, except those candidates who have been duly and regularly nominated as nominees of that party at a primary~~[election]~~ held as provided in this chapter.
- (5) No county clerk shall knowingly cause to be printed, upon the ballot labels or absentee ballots for any regular election, the name of any candidate of a political party, as defined in KRS 118.015, who has not been nominated in the manner provided in the primary election laws or the name of any candidate who is not in compliance with the restrictions concerning party registration and candidacy provided in of KRS 118.315(1).
- (6) The names of candidates for President and Vice President shall be certified in lieu of certifying the names of the candidates for presidential electors.
- (7) When a vacancy occurs in an elective office which is required by law to be filled temporarily by appointment, the officer or body designated by law to make the appointment, or in the case of an office to be filled by appointment from a list of nominations, the officer or body designated by law to make the nominations, shall immediately notify in writing both the county clerk and Secretary of State of the vacancy.
- (8) *A judge who elected to retire as a Senior Status Special Judge in accordance with KRS 21.580 shall not become a candidate or a nominee for any elected office during the five (5) year term prescribed in KRS 21.580(1)(a)1., regardless of the number of days served by the judge acting as a Senior Status Special Judge.*

➔Section 5. 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 or her, complying with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section. No person whose registration status is as a registered member of a political party shall be eligible to election as an independent, or political organization, or political group candidate, nor shall any person be eligible to election as an independent, or political organization, or political group candidate whose registration status was as a registered member of a political party on January 1 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(7), 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, excluding President of the United States in accordance with KRS 118.591(1), shall not be affixed on the document to be filed 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. Signatures for nomination papers shall not be affixed on the document to be filed 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 or board of education member, 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 the date he or she affixes the signature, address of residence, and date of birth. Failure of a voter to include the signature affixation date, date of birth, and address of residence shall result in the signature not being counted. If any person joins in nominating, by petition, more than one (1) nominee for any office to be filled, he or she 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 or her 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.
- (5) ***A judge who elected to retire as a Senior Status Special Judge in accordance with KRS 21.580 shall not become a candidate or a nominee for any elected office during the five (5) year term prescribed in KRS 21.580(1)(a)1., regardless of the number of days served by the judge acting as a Senior Status Special Judge.***

➔Section 6. KRS 118.325 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Any political organization not constituting a political party within the meaning of KRS 118.015 but whose candidate received two percent (2%) of the vote of the state at the last preceding election for presidential electors may nominate, by a convention or primary~~election~~ held by the party in accordance with its constitution and bylaws, candidates for any offices to be voted for at any regular election, except the office of member of a board of education, for which nominations shall be made as provided in KRS 160.220. Any political party, as defined in KRS 118.015, and any political organization not constituting such a political party but whose candidate received two percent (2%) of the vote of the state at the last preceding election for presidential electors, may nominate, by a convention or primary~~election~~ held by the party or organization in accordance with its constitution and bylaws, as many electors of President and Vice President of the United States as this state is entitled to elect.
- (2) The certificate of nomination by such a convention or primary~~election~~ shall be in writing, shall contain the name of each person nominated, his **or her** residence and the office to which he **or she** is nominated, and shall designate a title for the party or principle that such convention or primary~~election~~ represents, together with any simple figure or device by which its list of candidates may be designated on the voting machines. The

certificate shall be signed by the presiding officer and secretary of the convention, or by the ~~chair~~~~chairman~~ and secretary of the county, city, or district committee, who shall add to their signatures their respective places of residence, and acknowledge the same before an officer duly authorized to administer oaths. A certificate of the acknowledgment shall be appended to the certificate of nomination. In the case of electors of President and Vice President of the United States the certificate of nomination shall state the names of the candidates of the party for President and Vice President.

- (3) Any person desiring to become a candidate for an office, the nomination to which is to be made by a convention pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section, except for the office of elector of President and Vice President of the United States, shall file a statement with the official designated in KRS 118.165 with whom notification and declaration forms are filed for the office. The form of the statement shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections. Such statement shall be filed as prescribed by KRS 118.365.
- (4) If the certificate of nomination of any state convention requests that the figure or device selected by such convention be used to designate the candidates of such party on the voting machines for all elections throughout the state, that figure or device shall be used until changed by request of a subsequent state convention of the same party. The device may be any appropriate symbol other than the coat of arms or seal of this state or of the United States, the national flag, or any other emblem common to the people at large.
- (5) In case of death, resignation, or removal of any such candidate subsequent to nomination and before the certification of candidates for the regular election made under KRS 118.215, the ~~chair~~~~chairman~~ of the state, county, or city district committee shall fill the vacancy, unless a supplemental certificate or petition of nomination is filed. In the case of electors of President and Vice President of the United States, a vacancy may be filled by the ~~chair~~~~chairman~~ of the state committee at any time before the meeting of the electors, whether the vacancy occurs before or after the election.
- (6) If any political party entitled to nominate by convention fails to do so, the names of all nominees by petition for any office who are designated in their petition as members and candidates of that party shall be printed under the device and title on the voting machines as if nominated by a convention. If two (2) or more persons who have filed certificates of nomination under this section claim to be the nominee of the same political party, the governing authority of that party shall designate to the Secretary of State and county clerk, in writing, which of the candidates is entitled to the party emblem. If there are two (2) or more contending executive committees of the same party in the county or district, the county or district executive committee that is recognized by the state governing authority of the party, by the written certificate of its ~~chair~~~~chairman~~, shall be recognized by the Secretary of State and county clerk.
- (7) ***A judge who elected to retire as a Senior Status Special Judge in accordance with KRS 21.580 shall not become a candidate or a nominee for any elected office during the five (5) year term prescribed in KRS 21.580(1)(a)1., regardless of the number of days served by the judge acting as a Senior Status Special Judge.***

➔Section 7. KRS 118.375 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) If a vacancy occurs in any elective office less than one hundred thirty-four (134) days before the primary or at any time after the primary, but not less than three (3) months before the regular election, independent, or political organization, or political group candidates may file their petitions at the time and place provided in KRS 118.365, subject to the restrictions concerning party registration and candidacy provided in KRS 118.315(1).
- (2) ***A judge who elected to retire as a Senior Status Special Judge in accordance with KRS 21.580 shall not become a candidate or a nominee for any elected office during the five (5) year term prescribed in KRS 21.580(1)(a)1., regardless of the number of days served by the judge acting as a Senior Status Special Judge.***

➔Section 8. KRS 118A.100 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Candidates for an unexpired term of a judicial office to be filled at a regular election shall be nominated at the primary next preceding the regular election in the manner prescribed in KRS 118A.060 if the vacancy occurs not later than the second Tuesday in January preceding the primary. If the vacancy occurs on or after that date, the election to fill the unexpired term shall be held in accordance with the procedures described in this section and Section 152 of the Constitution of Kentucky.
- (2) If in a regular election for judicial office no candidates nominated as provided in KRS 118A.060 are available due to death, incapacity, or withdrawal, and the candidates have not been replaced as provided in KRS

118A.060, the election to fill the regular term shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in subsections (3) through (11) of this section.

- (3) Each candidate 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 election for the unexpired term will be held and not later than the second Tuesday in August preceding the day fixed by law for holding the regular election for the unexpired term. The petition shall be sworn to by the candidate and by not less than two (2) registered voters from the district or circuit from which he or she seeks nomination, before an officer authorized to administer an oath. Signatures for nomination papers shall not be affixed on the document to be filed 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. 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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 second Tuesday in August preceding the regular election.
- (7) Not later than the date set forth in KRS 118.215 and after the order of names on the ballot has been determined as required in subsection (6) 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 the Secretary of State; 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.
- (8) The ballot position of a candidate shall not be changed after the ballot position has been designated by the county clerk.
- (9) The county clerks of each county shall cause to be printed on the ballot labels for the voting machines and on the absentee ballots for the regular election the names of the candidates for offices of the Court of Justice.
- (10) 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," and in a manner so that the casting of a vote for all of the candidates of a political party will not operate to cast a vote for judicial candidates. The words "Vote for one" or "Vote for one in each division," shall be printed on the 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.
- (11) The candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast at the regular election for a district or circuit, or for a numbered division thereof if divisions exist, shall be elected.
- (12) ***A judge who elected to retire as a Senior Status Special Judge in accordance with KRS 21.580 shall not become a candidate or a nominee for any elected office during the five (5) year term prescribed in KRS 21.580(1)(a)1., regardless of the number of days served by the judge acting as a Senior Status Special Judge.***

➔Section 9. KRS 118A.080 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) No person who was a candidate for nomination for any office of the Court of Justice in a primary~~[election]~~ and who, before the succeeding regular election, is declared by the final judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction to have violated, in the primary~~[election]~~, any provision of KRS Chapter 121, or to be responsible for such violation by others, shall have his ***or her*** name placed on the ballot for any office to be voted for in

the succeeding regular election. However, if such judgment is subsequently reversed prior to the time of printing of the ballots, the candidate's name shall be restored on the ballot.

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

Signed by Governor March 21, 2013.