

118.212 When candidate's name not to be certified or printed on ballot -- Effect of death or withdrawal of candidate -- Notice required at polls -- Penalty.

- (1) If, before the time of certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot provided in KRS 118.215, any candidate whose notification and declaration or certificate or petition of nomination has been filed in the office of the Secretary of State dies or notifies the Secretary of State in writing, signed and properly notarized that he will not accept the nomination or election, the Secretary of State shall not certify his name.
- (2) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.215, any candidate whose notification and declaration or certificate or petition of nomination has been filed in the office of the county clerk dies or notifies the clerk, in the manner described in subsection (1) of this section, that he will not accept the nomination or election, the clerk shall ensure that notice is provided to the appropriate precincts as provided in subsection (5) of this section.
- (3) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.215, any candidate whose notification and declaration or certificate or petition of nomination has been filed in the office of the Secretary of State dies or notifies the Secretary of State in the manner described in subsection (1) of this section, that he will not accept the nomination or election, the Secretary of State shall immediately notify the appropriate county clerk, and the clerk shall ensure that notice is provided to the appropriate precincts as provided in subsection (5) of this section.
- (4) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.215, any candidate whose name appears on the ballot shall officially withdraw or die, neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall tabulate or record the votes cast for the candidate; and, if there is only one (1) remaining candidate on the ballot for that office in a primary election, following the withdrawal or death of the other candidate or candidates, neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall tabulate or record the votes for the remaining candidate, and the officer with whom the remaining candidate has filed his or her nomination papers shall immediately issue and file in his or her office a certificate of nomination for that remaining candidate and send a copy to the remaining candidate.
- (5) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.215, any candidate whose name appears on the ballot shall officially withdraw or die, the county clerk shall provide a notice to the precinct election officers who shall see that the notice is conspicuously displayed at the polling place advising voters of the change, and that votes for the candidate shall not be tabulated or recorded. If the county clerk learns of the death or withdrawal at least five (5) days prior to the election and provides the notice required by this subsection and the precinct officers fail to post the notice at the polling place, the precinct officers shall be guilty of a violation subject to a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10) nor more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

Effective: June 27, 2025

History: Amended 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 125, sec. 17, effective June 27, 2025. --

Amended 2003 Ky. Acts ch. 101, sec. 1, effective June 24, 2003. -- Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 2, sec. 4, effective July 15, 1998. -- Amended 1990 Ky. Acts ch. 48, sec. 41, effective July 13, 1990. -- Amended 1986 Ky. Acts ch. 470, sec. 24, effective July 15, 1986. -- Amended 1984 Ky. Acts ch. 185, sec. 12, effective July 13, 1984. -- Created 1976 Ky. Acts ch. 247, sec. 8, effective June 19, 1976.