

**164.011 Council on Postsecondary Education -- Membership -- Terms -- Meetings.
(Effective until July 15, 2026)**

- (1) There is hereby created and established a Council on Postsecondary Education in Kentucky as an agency, instrumentality, and political subdivision of the Commonwealth and a public body corporate and politic having all powers, duties, and responsibilities as are provided to it by law, appointed for a term set by law pursuant to Section 23 of the Constitution of Kentucky. The council shall be composed of the commissioner of education, a faculty member, a student member, and thirteen (13) citizen members appointed by the Governor. The citizen members shall be confirmed by the Senate under KRS 11.160, and the commissioner of education shall serve as a nonvoting ex officio member. Citizen council members shall be selected from a list of nominees provided to the Governor under the nominating process set forth in KRS 164.005. If the General Assembly is not in session at the time of the appointment, persons appointed shall serve prior to confirmation, but the Governor shall seek the consent of the Senate at the next regular session or at an intervening extraordinary session if the matter is included in the call of the General Assembly.
- (2) By no later than thirty (30) days after May 30, 1997, the Governor's Postsecondary Education Nominating Committee shall submit nominations to the Governor as set forth in KRS 164.005. On making appointments to the council, the Governor shall ensure broad geographical and political representation; ensure equal representation of the two (2) sexes, inasmuch as possible; ensure no less than proportional representation of the two (2) leading political parties of the Commonwealth based on the state's voter registration and the political affiliation of each appointee as of December 31 of the year preceding the date of his or her appointment; and ensure that appointments reflect the minority racial composition of the Commonwealth based on the total minority racial population using the most recent census or estimate data from the United States Census Bureau. If the determination of proportional minority representation does not result in a whole number of minority members, it shall be rounded up to the next whole number. A particular political affiliation shall not be a prerequisite to appointment to the council generally; however, if any person is appointed to the council that does not represent either of the two (2) leading political parties of the Commonwealth, the proportional representation by political affiliation requirement shall be determined and satisfied based on the total number of members on the council less any members not affiliated with either of the two (2) leading political parties. In filling vacancies to the council, the Governor shall act so as to provide, inasmuch as possible, equal representation of the two (2) sexes by appointing a member of the sex that is the lesser represented at the time of the appointment. If the remaining membership already has an equal number of males and females, the Governor may appoint a member of either sex. No more than two (2) members of the council shall hold an undergraduate degree from any one (1) Kentucky university, and no more than three (3) voting members of the council shall reside in any one (1) judicial district of the Kentucky Supreme Court as of the date of the appointment. However, change in residency after the date of appointment shall not affect the ability to serve.
- (3) One (1) member shall be a full-time faculty member employed at a state institution

of postsecondary education. The faculty member shall be appointed to a four (4) year term by the Governor from a list of three (3) nominees selected and submitted by majority vote of the ten (10) faculty members who serve as faculty representatives of the boards of trustees and boards of regents of the nine (9) postsecondary education institutions.

- (4) One (1) member shall be enrolled as a full-time student at a state institution of postsecondary education and shall be selected annually in the following manner: not later than June 1 of each year the eight (8) student body presidents of the four (4) year state public institutions of higher education, the two (2) student members to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and one (1) student body president representing the members of the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities shall elect by majority vote three (3) nominees to submit to the Governor. From this list of nominees, the Governor shall appoint a student member.
- (5) In filling any vacancies, the Governor shall ensure the continuing representation upon the council of the broad constituencies as set forth in subsection (2) of this section. Vacancies on the council shall be filled for the unexpired term in accordance with the procedures established for the original appointments.
- (6) Each citizen member shall serve a term of six (6) years unless removed by the Governor for cause, except the initial appointments shall be as follows:
 - (a) Two (2) appointments shall expire December 31, 1997;
 - (b) Three (3) appointments shall expire December 31, 1998;
 - (c) Two (2) appointments shall expire December 31, 1999;
 - (d) Two (2) appointments shall expire December 31, 2000;
 - (e) Two (2) appointments shall expire December 31, 2001; and
 - (f) Two (2) appointments shall expire December 31, 2002.
- (7) Any person, other than the chief state school officer, holding either an elective or appointive state office or who is a member of the governing board of any state university in Kentucky, shall be ineligible for membership or appointment on the council during his term.
- (8) The members of the council shall elect the chair and the vice chair of the council from among the council's membership, and the chair and vice chair shall serve at the pleasure of the council. The chair shall be subject to Senate confirmation in accordance with KRS 11.160. If the person selected as chair is not confirmed by the Senate, he or she shall still retain his or her position on the council, but shall vacate his or her position as chair, and the members shall select a new chair. The vice chair shall serve as chair in the absence of the chair.
- (9) The council shall meet at least quarterly and at other times upon the call of the chair or a majority of the council.
- (10) A quorum shall be a majority of the appointive membership of the council.
- (11) A quorum shall be required to organize and conduct the business of the council, except that an affirmative vote of eight (8) or more appointive members of the entire council shall be required to dismiss from employment the president of the

council, and to adopt or amend the state strategic postsecondary education agenda.

- (12) New appointees to the council shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- (13) New appointees to the council shall complete an orientation and education program set forth in KRS 164.020(24) to be eligible for appointment to a second term.

Effective: April 16, 2026

History: Amended 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 178, sec. 13, effective April 16, 2026. -- Amended 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 120, sec. 8, effective June 27, 2025. -- Amended 2017 Ky. Acts ch. 101, sec. 2, effective March 21, 2017. -- Amended 2016 Ky. Acts ch. 136, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2016. -- Amended 2013 Ky. Acts ch. 124, sec. 5, effective June 25, 2013. -- Amended 1997 (1st Extra. Sess.) Ky. Acts ch. 1, sec. 73, effective May 30, 1997. -- Amended 1994 Ky. Acts ch. 5, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1994. -- Created 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 10, sec. 7, effective July 1, 1992.