

AN ACT relating to elections.

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

➔ Section 1. KRS 118.127 is amended to read as follows:

(1) A slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor ~~[ filing a notification and declaration pursuant to KRS 118.125 shall list on the notification and declaration the names of the candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor who]~~ shall jointly appear only on the ballot for the regular election, provided that:

(a) The gubernatorial nominee of a political party files with the Secretary of State a declaration of nomination designating the nominee for Lieutenant Governor by no later than 4 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday following the gubernatorial primary; or

(b) The governing authority of the political party causes a certificate of nomination to be filed in accordance with subsection (3) of Section 4 of this Act.

(2) The declaration of nomination shall be:

(a) In the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections; and

(b) Subscribed and sworn to by the candidates before an officer authorized to administer an oath.

(3) Any person designated as the nominee for Lieutenant Governor shall be qualified under the Constitution of Kentucky to serve as Lieutenant Governor and shall be qualified under KRS 116.055 to vote in the primary for the candidates for nomination as the political party's gubernatorial candidate.

(4) If the political party's gubernatorial nominee fails to file a declaration of nomination within the required time under subsection (1)(a) of this section, the nomination for Lieutenant Governor shall be treated as a vacancy in candidacy in accordance with subsection (3) of Section 4 of this Act.

(5) The declaration of nomination 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 regular election ballot as a slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor nominated by the ----- (name of political 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 ----- (political party) voter in the ----- (name of precinct in which candidate is registered) 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 ----- (political party) voter in the ----- (name of precinct in which candidate is registered) precinct; that we believe in the principles of the ----- (name of political 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 will not withdraw for reasons other than those stated in subsection (3) of Section 4 of this Act; that we will not knowingly violate any election law or any law relating to corrupt or fraudulent practices in campaigns or elections in this state, and if finally elected we will qualify for our offices."

The declaration of nomination shall be subscribed and sworn to by the candidates before an officer authorized to administer an oath.

- (6)** The slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor on the ballot in a regular election shall be elected~~nominated~~ jointly by the casting by each voter of a single vote applicable to both offices. No candidate for Governor or Lieutenant

Governor shall appear individually on the ballot for the office~~[nomination]~~ he or she is seeking in a regular election.

➔Section 2. KRS 117.275 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) At the count of the votes in any precinct, any candidate or slate of candidates and any representatives to witness and check the count of the votes therein, who are authorized to be appointed as is provided in subsection (9) of this section, shall be admitted and be permitted to be present and witness the count.
- (2) As soon as the polls are closed, and the last voter has voted, the judges shall immediately lock and seal the voting equipment so that the voting and counting mechanism will be prevented from operation, and they shall sign a certificate stating:
  - (a) That the voting equipment has been locked against voting and sealed;
  - (b) The number of voters, as shown on the public counters;
  - (c) The number registered on the protective or accumulative counter or device, if any; and
  - (d) The number or other designation of the voting equipment, which certificate shall be returned by the judges of election to the officials authorized by law to receive it. The judges shall compare the number of voters, as shown by the counter of the voting equipment, with the number of those who have voted as shown by the protective or accumulative counter or device, if any.
- (3) Where voting equipment is used which does not print the candidates' names along with the total votes received on a general return sheet or record for that equipment, the procedure to be followed shall be as follows:
  - (a) The judges, in the presence of the representatives mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, if any, and of all other persons who may be lawfully within the polling place, shall give full view of all the counter numbers;
  - (b) The judges shall enter, in ink, the total votes cast for each candidate, and slate

- of candidates, and for and against each question on the return sheets; and
- (c) Each precinct election officer shall sign the return sheets, and a copy of the return sheets shall be posted on the precinct door.
- (4) Where voting equipment is used that prints the candidates' names along with the total votes received on a return sheet or record for that equipment, the precinct election officers shall sign the return sheets or record for the voting equipment, which shall be posted on the door of the precinct.
- (5) If any officer shall decline to sign the return sheets, he or she shall state the reason in writing, and a copy thereof, signed by the officer, shall be enclosed with the return sheets.
- (6) Each of the return sheets, if applicable, and the record of the voting equipment shall be enclosed in an envelope. One (1) copy of the return sheets, if applicable, one (1) copy of the record of the voting equipment, and the write-in roll, if any write-in votes were cast in the precinct, shall be directed to the county board of elections of the county in which the election is being held. One (1) copy of the return sheets or record of the voting equipment shall be given to the county clerk of the county in which the election is being held and to each of the local governing bodies of the two (2) dominant political parties, but a local governing body of a dominant political party may decline a copy of the precinct election return by filing a written declination with the county board of elections prior to the election, and upon this declination, a printed copy shall not be issued to the political party so declining. The declination on file shall be effective for that election and any subsequent elections until revoked by the local governing body of a dominant political party by filing a written revocation with the county board of elections. The envelope shall have endorsed thereon a certificate of the election officers, stating the number of the machine, the precinct where it has been used, the number on the seal, and the number on the protective or accumulative counter or device at the close of the polls.

- (7) Following the tabulation of all votes cast in the election, including absentee votes and write-in votes, the county board shall mail a copy of the precinct-by-precinct summary of the tabulation sheets showing the results from each precinct to the State Board of Elections and the county clerk shall mail or deliver the precinct signature rosters from each precinct to the State Board of Elections during the period established by KRS 117.355(3).
- (8) As soon as possible after the completion of the count, the two (2) judges shall return to the county board of elections the keys to the voting machine received and receipted for by them, and the county clerk in which the precinct is located shall have the voting machine properly boxed or securely covered and removed to a proper and secure place of storage.
- (9) In primaries, each candidate~~[, slate of candidates,]~~ or group of candidates may designate to the county board of elections a representative to witness and check the vote count. In regular elections, the governing authority of each political party, each candidate for member of board of education, nonpartisan candidate, independent candidate, or independent ticket may designate a representative to the county board of elections to witness and check the vote count. The county board of elections shall authorize representatives of the news media to witness the vote count.
- (10) If supplemental paper ballots have been approved, as provided in KRS 118.215, after the polls are closed, the two (2) judges shall return to the county clerk's office the locked ballot box, all ballot stubs, spoiled ballots, and unvoted ballots at the same time as the tabulation of votes from the voting machine is delivered. The county clerk shall issue a receipt for the number of ballot stubs, unvoted ballots, spoiled ballots and the ballot box.
- (11) The county board of elections, or its designee, shall count and tally the paper ballots manually or with the use of tabulating equipment which does not involve an additional voting system. The results of the vote tally shall be certified by the

county board of elections to the county clerk and to the Secretary of State.

- (12) The county board of elections shall authorize the candidates, slates of candidates, or their representatives, and representatives of the news media to be present during the counting of the paper ballots.
- (13) Except as otherwise required in this chapter that certain records and papers relating to specified elections be retained for twenty-two (22) months, the county clerk shall retain the voted paper ballots for twenty-two (22) months and the unvoted paper ballots for sixty (60) days after each election day, after which time they shall be destroyed in a manner to render them unreadable by the county board of elections if no contest or recount action has been filed.

➔Section 3. KRS 118.025 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, voting in all **primaries and** elections shall be by secret ballot on voting machines.
- (2) The general laws applying to **primaries, regular elections, and** special~~[, and primary]~~ elections shall apply to **primaries, regular elections, and special elections** conducted with the use of voting machines, and all provisions of the general laws applying to the custody of ballot boxes shall apply, as far as applicable, to the custody of the voting machine.
- (3) **Primaries**~~[Primary elections]~~ for the nomination of candidates~~[or slates of candidates]~~ to be voted for at the next regular election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the third Monday in May of each year.
- (4) The election of all officers of all governmental units shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- (5) If the law authorizes the calling of a special election on a day other than the day of the regular election in November, the election shall be held on a Tuesday.
- (6) If the law requires that a special election be held within a period of time during which the voting machines must be locked as required by KRS 117.295, the special

election shall be held on the fourth Tuesday following the expiration of the period during which the voting machines are locked.

➔Section 4. 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 **and Section 1 of this Act**, every political party shall nominate all of its candidates for elective offices to be voted for at any regular election at a primary 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 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, **or because a political party's gubernatorial nominee has failed to file a declaration of nomination designating his or her nominee for Lieutenant Governor within the time required under subsection (1)(a) of Section 1 of this Act**, the governing authority of the **political** 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 and secretary of the governing authority of the **political** party making it, and shall be filed in the same manner as certificates of nomination at a primary. **When there is a vacancy because a political party's gubernatorial nominee has failed to file a declaration of nomination designating his or her nominee for Lieutenant**

*Governor, the governing authority of the political party shall provide for filling the vacancy, and the certificate of nomination for the political party's nominee for Lieutenant Governor shall be filed within seven (7) days of the Secretary of State's certification of the vacancy.*

- (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 *political* party's nominee was the only political party candidate for the office sought, the governing authority of each *political* party may nominate a candidate for the regular election, provided that no person has sought that *political* 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 5. 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 for the candidates for nomination by the political party at whose hands he or she seeks the nomination, shall have his or her name printed on the official ballot of his or her political 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 political party from the district or jurisdiction from which the candidate seeks nomination. 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) —~~ 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.

~~[(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.]~~

- (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 6. KRS 118.245 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The candidate for office, other than the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, receiving the highest number of votes in a primary~~[election]~~ for the office for which he ***or she*** is a candidate shall be the nominee of his ***or her political*** party for that office and shall receive the certificate of nomination.
- (2) ***A candidate***~~[The slate of candidates]~~ for Governor~~[and Lieutenant Governor]~~ receiving the highest number of votes in a primary shall be the ***nominee***~~[nominees]~~ of that ***political*** party for Governor~~[and Lieutenant Governor]~~, and that ***candidate***~~[slate of candidates]~~ shall receive the certificate of nomination.
- (3) If two (2) or more candidates~~[or slates of candidates]~~ in a primary~~[election]~~ are found to have received the highest and an equal number of votes for nomination to the same office, the election shall be determined by lot in the manner the board directs, in the presence of not less than three (3) other persons. This section does not apply to presidential primaries.

➔SECTION 7. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 118 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) If a vacancy occurs in a candidacy for the office of Lieutenant Governor because of death, disqualification to hold the office sought, or a severe disabling condition that arose after the slate formed a campaign committee, the candidate for the office of Governor on that slate may designate a replacement to fill the candidate vacancy.
- (2) The designation of a replacement shall be on forms filed with the Secretary of State, but only following certification to the candidate for the office of Governor by the Secretary of State that a vacancy exists for a reason specified in subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) If a replacement to fill a candidate vacancy for Lieutenant Governor is made for a reason specified in subsection (1) of this section after the ballots are printed for the regular election, notices informing the voters of the change in composition of the slate shall be printed by the State Board of Elections and sent to the appropriate county clerk to be posted at each precinct polling place. Any votes cast prior to any changes made to the composition of a slate shall be counted as votes cast for the new slate composition.

➔Section 8. KRS 120.055 is amended to read as follows:

Any candidate~~[or slate of candidates]~~ for nomination to office at a primary~~[election]~~ held under the provisions of KRS 118.015 to 118.035 and 118.105 to 118.255, or any candidate for nomination to a city office at a primary~~[election]~~ for which the statutes do not otherwise provide for determining contest elections, for whom a number of votes was cast equal to not less than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast for the successful candidate~~[or slate of candidates]~~ for nomination to the office, may contest the right of the successful candidate~~[or slate of candidates]~~, and of any other candidate~~[or slate of candidates]~~ for nomination to the office, to the nomination, by filing a petition in the

Circuit Court within ten (10) days from the day of the primary~~[election]~~, stating the specific grounds relied upon for the contest, and causing a summons to be issued, returnable in seven (7) days. In the case of candidates~~[or slates of candidates]~~ for offices for the state at large, the petition shall be filed in the Franklin Circuit Court; in the case of other candidates it shall be filed in the Circuit Court of the county in which the contestee resides. The summons may be personally served on the contestee in any county, or it may be served by leaving a copy at his or her home with a member of his or her family over sixteen (16) years of age, or by posting a copy on the door of his or her residence. The contestee shall file his or her answer within seven (7) days after service of summons. The answer may contain grounds of contest in favor of the contestee and against the contestant, but the grounds shall be specifically set out. Any candidate~~[or slate of candidates]~~ who would have been qualified to bring a contest action under this section, who is a party to a recount proceeding brought under KRS 120.095, may, by filing an answer in the recount proceeding within the time allowed by this section for filing grounds of contest, set forth grounds of contest against the petitioner in the recount proceeding. No ground of contest by either party shall be filed or made more definite by amendment after the expiration of the time allowed by this section for filing the original pleading. The contestant may file a reply within five (5) days after answer is filed, which shall complete the pleading, and any affirmative matter in the reply shall be treated as controverted. Upon return of the summons, properly executed, to the office of the circuit clerk of the county in which the action is pending, the clerk shall immediately docket the cause and notify the presiding judge of the court that the contest has been instituted, and the judge shall proceed to a trial of the cause within five (5) days after the issue was joined. In judicial circuits having more than one (1) Circuit Judge, the judge who shall hear the cause shall be determined by lot.

➔Section 9. KRS 120.095 is amended to read as follows:

(1) Any candidate~~[or slate of candidates]~~ voted for at a primary~~[election]~~ held under

KRS 118.015 to 118.035 and 118.105 to 118.255 may request a recount of the ballots by filing a petition with the same court that contest petitions are required to be filed with, within ten (10) days after the day of the primary~~[election]~~, or, if the candidate~~[or slate of candidates]~~ is qualified to bring a contest proceeding under KRS 120.055, by including a request for a recount in his ***or her*** petition instituting the contest proceedings. Any candidate ***who***~~[or slate of candidates that]~~ is a contestee in a contest proceeding under KRS 120.055 may request a recount in his ***or her*** answer filed in the contest proceeding, but in that case the answer shall be filed within five (5) days after the service of process on the petition. When a request for a recount is made, the State Board of Elections or the county board of elections, whichever would issue the certificate of nomination, shall be made a party defendant. The party requesting the recount shall execute a bond with approved surety for the costs of the recount, in an amount to be fixed by the Circuit Judge. Upon the bond being filed, the clerk shall immediately notify the Circuit Judge of the request and the filing of the bond, and the judge shall at once enter an order directing custody of the voting machines, the ballots, boxes, and all papers pertaining to the election to be transferred to the Circuit Court, and fix a day for the recount proceedings to begin. A copy of the order shall be served upon the parties or their counsel in the same manner as notices are required to be served, which shall be deemed sufficient notice of the proceeding. On the day fixed, the court shall proceed to recount the ballots if their integrity is satisfactorily shown and shall complete the recount as soon as practicable, and file and enter of record the results thereof, and direct the state board or county board, whichever would issue the certificate of nomination, to issue a certificate to the party entitled thereto as shown by the recount.

- (2) Any party may appeal from the judgment to the Court of Appeals, in the same manner as provided in KRS 120.075, all of the provisions of which statute shall be

applicable.

- (3) If a proceeding for recount is asked and prosecuted in a contest proceeding, it shall not await the preparation or trial of the contest in the Circuit Court or in the Court of Appeals. The action of the courts shall be final, concluding the parties as to the question of a recount of the ballots, and certificates shall then be issued to the parties entitled thereto.

➔Section 10. KRS 121.015 is amended to read as follows:

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Registry" means the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance;
- (2) "Election" means any primary, regular, or special election to fill vacancies regardless of whether a candidate or slate of candidates is opposed or unopposed in an election. Each primary, regular, or special election shall be considered a separate election;
- (3) "Committee" includes the following:
  - (a) "Campaign committee," which means one (1) or more persons who receive contributions and make expenditures to support or oppose one (1) or more specific candidates or slates of candidates for nomination or election to any state, county, city, or district office, but does not include an entity established solely by a candidate which is managed solely by a candidate and a campaign treasurer and whose name is generic in nature, such as "Friends of (the candidate)," and does not reflect that other persons have structured themselves as a committee, designated officers of the committee, and assigned responsibilities and duties to each officer with the purpose of managing a campaign to support or oppose a candidate in an election;
  - (b) "Caucus campaign committee," which means members of one (1) of the following caucus groups who receive contributions and make expenditures to support or oppose one (1) or more specific candidates or slates of candidates

for nomination or election, or a committee:

1. House Democratic caucus campaign committee;
  2. House Republican caucus campaign committee;
  3. Senate Democratic caucus campaign committee; and
  4. Senate Republican caucus campaign committee;
- (c) "Political issues committee," which means three (3) or more persons joining together to advocate or oppose a constitutional amendment or public question which appears on the ballot if that committee receives or expends money in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000);
- (d) "Permanent committee," which means a group of individuals, including an association, committee or organization, other than a campaign committee, political issues committee, inaugural committee, caucus campaign committee, or party executive committee, which is established as, or intended to be, a permanent organization having as a primary purpose expressly advocating the election or defeat of one (1) or more clearly identified candidates, slates of candidates, or political parties, which functions on a regular basis throughout the year;
- (e) An executive committee of a political party; and
- (f) "Inaugural committee," which means one (1) or more persons who receive contributions and make expenditures in support of inauguration activities for any candidate or slate of candidates elected to any state, county, city, or district office;
- (4) "Contributing organization" means a group which merely contributes to candidates, slates of candidates, campaign committees, caucus campaign committees, or executive committees from time to time from funds derived solely from within the group, and which does not solicit or receive funds from sources outside the group itself. However, any contributions made by the groups in excess of one hundred



dollars (\$100) shall be reported to the registry;

- (5) "Testimonial affair" means an affair held in honor of a person who holds or who is or was a candidate for nomination or election to a political office in this state designed to raise funds for any purpose not charitable, religious, or educational;
- (6) "Contribution" means any:
- (a) Payment, distribution, loan, deposit, or gift of money or other thing of value, to a candidate, his or her agent, a slate of candidates, its authorized agent, a committee, or contributing organization. As used in this subsection, "loan" shall include a guarantee, endorsement, or other form of security where the risk of nonpayment rests with the surety, guarantor, or endorser, as well as with a committee, contributing organization, candidate, slate of candidates, or other primary obligor. No person shall become liable as surety, endorser, or guarantor for any sum in any one (1) election which, when combined with all other contributions the individual makes to a candidate, his or her agent, a slate of candidates, its agent, a committee, or a contributing organization, exceeds the contribution limits provided in KRS 121.150;
  - (b) Payment by any person other than the candidate, his or her authorized treasurer, a slate of candidates, its authorized treasurer, a committee, or a contributing organization, of compensation for the personal services of another person which are rendered to a candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, or for inauguration activities;
  - (c) Goods, advertising, or services with a value of more than one hundred dollars (\$100) in the aggregate in any one (1) election which are furnished to a candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization or for inauguration activities without charge, or at a rate which is less than the rate normally charged for the goods or services; or
  - (d) Payment by any person other than a candidate, his or her authorized treasurer,

a slate of candidates, its authorized treasurer, a committee, or contributing organization for any goods or services with a value of more than one hundred dollars (\$100) in the aggregate in any one (1) election which are utilized by a candidate, slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization, or for inauguration activities;

- (7) Notwithstanding the foregoing meanings of "contribution," the word shall not be construed to include:
- (a) Services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate, a slate of candidates, committee, or contributing organization;
  - (b) A loan of money by any financial institution doing business in Kentucky made in accordance with applicable banking laws and regulations and in the ordinary course of business; or
  - (c) An independent expenditure by any individual or permanent committee;
- (8) "Candidate" means any person who has received contributions or made expenditures, has appointed a campaign treasurer, or has given his or her consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures with a view to bringing about his or her nomination or election to public office, except federal office;
- (9) "Slate of candidates" is defined as follows:
- (a) Between the time a certificate or petition of nomination has been filed for a candidate for the office of Governor under KRS 118.365 and the time the candidate or governing authority of the political party designates a running mate for the office of Lieutenant Governor under Section 1 or 4 of this Act, the slate consists of the candidate for the office of Governor; and
  - (b) After that candidate or political party has designated a running mate under Section 1 or 4 of this Act, that same slate consists of the candidate for the

*office of Governor and the candidate's running mate for the office of Lieutenant Governor*~~[means any two (2) persons who have filed a joint notification and declaration pursuant to KRS 118.127, received contributions or made expenditures, appointed a campaign treasurer, designated a campaign depository, or given their consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures with a view to bringing about their nomination for election to the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor].~~

Unless the context requires otherwise, any provision of law that applies to a candidate shall also apply to a slate of candidates;

- (10) "Knowingly" means, with respect to conduct or to a circumstance described by a statute defining an offense, that a person is aware or should have been aware that his conduct is of that nature or that the circumstance exists;
- (11) "Fundraiser" means an individual who directly solicits and secures contributions on behalf of a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office or an office in a jurisdiction with a population in excess of two hundred thousand (200,000) residents;
- (12) "Independent expenditure" means the expenditure of money or other things of value for a communication which expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate or slate of candidates, and which is made without any coordination, consultation, or cooperation with any candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or any authorized person acting on behalf of any of them, and which is not made in concert with, or at the request or suggestion of any candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or any authorized person acting on behalf of any of them;
- (13) "Electronic reporting" means the use of technology, having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities, by which an individual or other entity submits, compiles, or transmits campaign finance reports

to the registry, or by which the registry receives, stores, analyzes, or discloses the reports;

- (14) "Security procedure" means a procedure employed for the purpose of verifying that an electronic signature, record, or performance is that of a specific person or for detecting changes or errors in the information in an electronic record. The term includes a procedure that requires the use of algorithms or other codes, identifying words or numbers, encryption, or callback or other acknowledgment procedures;
- (15) "Electronic signature" means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record;
- (16) "Filer" means any candidate, a slate of candidates, committee, or other individual or entity required to submit financial disclosure reports to the registry; and
- (17) "Filer-side software" means software provided to or used by the filer that enables transmittal of financial reports to the registry.

➔Section 11. KRS 121.170 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Any committee, except a federally registered out-of-state permanent committee, organized under any provisions of this chapter shall register with the registry, by filing official notice of intention at the time of organization, giving names, addresses, and positions of the officers of the organization, identifying an official contact person of the committee, and designating the candidate or candidates, slate of candidates, or question it is organized to support or oppose on forms prescribed by the registry; except that no campaign committee for a slate of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be registered prior to the filing of a **certificate or petition of nomination for the candidate for Governor under KRS 118.365**~~[joint notification and declaration by the slate of candidates pursuant to KRS 118.125 and 118.127]~~. No entity which is excluded from the definition of "campaign committee" established in KRS 121.015(3)(a) shall be required to

register as a committee with the registry. The name of the committee shall reasonably identify to the public the sponsorship and purpose of the committee. The forms filed with the registry shall require the registrant to clearly identify the specific purpose, sponsorship, and source from which the committee originates; and the registry shall refuse to allow filing by any committee until this requirement has been satisfied.

- (2) Any person who acts as a fundraiser by directly soliciting contributions for an election campaign of a candidate or slate of candidates for statewide-elected state office or an office in a jurisdiction containing in excess of two hundred thousand (200,000) residents shall register with the registry when he or she raises in excess of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in any one (1) election for the campaign committee by filing official notice giving his or her name, address, occupation, employer or, if he or she is self-employed, the name under which he or she is doing business, and all candidates or slates of candidates for whom he or she is soliciting on forms prescribed by the registry. A registered fundraiser shall comply with the campaign finance reporting requirements of KRS 121.180(3), (4), and (5).
- (3) All provisions of KRS 121.160 governing the duties and responsibilities of a candidate, slate of candidates, or campaign treasurer shall apply to a registered committee, except a federally registered out-of-state permanent committee, and a person acting as a campaign fundraiser. In case of the death, resignation, or removal of a campaign treasurer for a permanent committee or executive committee, the chairperson of the permanent committee or executive committee shall, within three (3) days after receiving notice of the vacancy by certified mail, appoint a successor as treasurer for the committee and file the name and address of the successor with the registry. The chairperson of the permanent committee or executive committee shall be accountable as the treasurer for the committee if the chairperson fails to meet this filing requirement.

- (4) The chairperson of a committee and the campaign treasurer shall be separate persons.
- (5) Any federally registered out-of-state permanent committee that contributes to a Kentucky candidate or a slate of candidates shall:
  - (a) File with the registry a copy of its federal registration (Federal Election Commission Form 1 - Committee Registration Form);
  - (b) File with the registry a copy of the Federal Election Commission finance report when a contribution is made to a Kentucky candidate or a slate of candidates; and
  - (c) Contribute not more than the maximum amount permitted for a permanent committee to make under Kentucky law to any candidate or to any slate of candidates for any office in this Commonwealth.
- (6) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a contribution made by a federally registered permanent committee to any candidate or to any slate of candidates for any office in this Commonwealth that complies with the provisions of 2 U.S.C. sec. 441b, 11 C.F.R. sec. 104.10, 11 C.F.R. sec. 106.6, and 11 C.F.R. sec. 114.1-114.12 regarding limitations on contributions by corporations shall be deemed to comply with the campaign finance laws of this Commonwealth prohibiting corporate contributions to candidates or slates of candidates.
- (7) The organization, formation, or registration of a permanent committee by any member of the General Assembly shall be prohibited.
- (8) The official contact person of a permanent committee shall not be a legislative agent as defined in KRS 6.611 or an executive agency lobbyist as defined in KRS 11A.201.

➔Section 12. The following KRS section is repealed:

118.227 Method for filling vacancy in slate of candidates before primary election.