

1 AN ACT relating to elections.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 118.165 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) Except as provided in KRS Chapters 116 to 121, candidates for offices to be voted
5 for by the electors of one (1) county or of a district less than one (1) county, except
6 members of Congress and members of the General Assembly, shall file their
7 nomination papers with the county clerk of the county not earlier than the first
8 Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year the
9 office will appear on the ballot and not later than the last Tuesday in January
10 preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary. Candidates for offices to be
11 voted for by the electors of more than one (1) county, and for members of Congress
12 and members of the General Assembly, shall file their nomination papers with the
13 Secretary of State not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in
14 November of the year preceding the year the office will appear on the ballot and not
15 later than the last Tuesday in January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the
16 primary. Signatures for nomination papers shall not be affixed on the document to
17 be filed prior to the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year
18 preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot. All nomination
19 papers shall be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing when filed
20 on the last date on which the papers may be filed.

21 ***(2) For those elected offices under this section that require a license to practice law***
22 ***in the courts of the Commonwealth, each candidate for nomination shall file with***
23 ***their nomination papers, a Certificate of Good Standing issued by the Kentucky***
24 ***Bar Association demonstrating proof of his or her license to practice law in the***
25 ***courts of the Commonwealth. When making the request for a Certificate of Good***
26 ***Standing, obtaining discipline or grievance history is not required, nor is a***
27 ***Certificate of Admissions required.***

1 ~~(3)~~~~(2)~~ The Secretary of State or the county clerk shall examine the notification and
2 declaration form of each candidate to determine whether it is regular on its face. If
3 there is an error, the proper officer shall notify the candidate by certified mail within
4 twenty-four (24) hours of filing.

5 ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ A judge who elected to retire as a Senior Status Special Judge in accordance
6 with KRS 21.580 shall not become a candidate or a nominee for any elected office
7 during the five (5) year term prescribed in KRS 21.580(1)(a)1., regardless of the
8 number of days served by the judge acting as a Senior Status Special Judge.

9 ➔Section 2. KRS 118A.060 is amended to read as follows:

10 (1) Except as provided in KRS 118A.100, no person's name shall appear on a ballot
11 label or absentee ballot for an office of the Court of Justice without first having
12 been nominated as provided in this section.

13 (2) Each candidate for nomination shall file a petition for nomination with the Secretary
14 of State not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of
15 the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later
16 than the last Tuesday in January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the
17 primary~~election~~ for the office. The petition shall be sworn to before an officer
18 authorized to administer an oath by the candidate and by not less than two (2)
19 registered voters from the district or circuit from which he or she seeks nomination.
20 Signatures for nomination papers shall not be affixed on the document to be filed
21 prior to the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year
22 preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot. The petition shall
23 be filed no later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing when filed on the last
24 date on which the papers are permitted to be filed.

25 (3) The petition for nomination shall be in the form prescribed by the State Board of
26 Elections. The petition shall include a declaration sworn to by the candidate, that he
27 or she possesses all the constitutional and statutory requirements of the office for

1 which the candidate has filed. Titles, ranks, or spurious phrases shall not be
2 accepted on the petition and shall not be printed on the ballots as part of the
3 candidate's name; however, nicknames, initials, and contractions of given names
4 may be acceptable as the candidate's name.

5 **(4) For those elected offices under this section that require a license to practice law**
6 **in the courts of the Commonwealth, each candidate for nomination shall file with**
7 **their nomination papers, a Certificate of Good Standing issued by the Kentucky**
8 **Bar Association demonstrating proof of his or her license to practice law in the**
9 **courts of the Commonwealth. When making the request for a Certificate of Good**
10 **Standing, obtaining discipline or grievance history is not required, nor is a**
11 **Certificate of Admissions required.**

12 ~~(5)(4)~~ The Secretary of State shall examine the petition of each candidate to
13 determine whether it is regular on its face. If there is an error, the Secretary of State
14 shall notify the candidate by certified mail within twenty-four (24) hours of filing.
15 The order of names on the ballot for each district or circuit, and numbered division
16 thereof if divisions exist, shall be determined by lot at a public drawing to be held in
17 the office of the Secretary of State at 2 p.m., standard time, on the Thursday
18 following the last Tuesday in January preceding the primary~~election~~.

19 ~~(6)(5)~~ Not later than the date set forth in KRS 118.215(1)(a) preceding the primary~~election~~,
20 and after the order of names on the ballot has been determined as required
21 in subsection (4) of this section, the Secretary of State shall:

22 (a) Certify to the county clerks of the respective counties entitled to participate in
23 the election of the various candidates, the name and place of residence of each
24 candidate for each office, by district or circuit, and numbered division thereof
25 if divisions exist, as specified in the petitions for nomination filed with him;
26 and

27 (b) Designate for the county clerks the office of the Court of Justice with which

1 the names of candidates shall be printed and the order in which they are to
2 appear on the ballot.

3 ~~(7)~~~~(6)~~ The ballot position of a candidate shall not be changed after the ballot position
4 has been designated by the Secretary of State.

5 ~~(8)~~~~(7)~~ The county clerks of each county shall cause to be printed on the ballot labels
6 for the voting machines and on the special ballots for the primary the names of the
7 candidates for offices in the Court of Justice.

8 ~~(9)~~~~(8)~~ The names of the candidates shall be placed on the voting machine in a
9 separate column or columns or in a separate line or lines and identified by the words
10 "Judicial Ballot." The words "Vote for one," or "Vote for one in each division,"
11 shall be printed on the ballot in an appropriate location. The office, numbered
12 division thereof if divisions exist, and the candidates therefor shall be clearly
13 labeled. No party designation or emblem of any kind, nor any sign indicating any
14 candidate's political belief or party affiliation, shall be used on voting machines or
15 special ballots.

16 ~~(10)~~~~(9)~~ The two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes for nomination
17 for justice or judge of a district or circuit, or numbered division thereof if divisions
18 exist, shall be nominated. Certificates of nomination shall be issued as provided in
19 KRS 118A.190.

20 ~~(11)~~~~(10)~~ If it appears after expiration of the time for filing petitions for nomination that
21 there are not more than two (2) candidates who have filed the necessary petitions for
22 a place on the ballot in the regular election, no drawing for ballot position shall be
23 held and the Secretary of State shall immediately issue and file in the Secretary's
24 office certificates of nomination, and send copies to the candidates.