

1 AN ACT proposing to amend Sections 97, 99, 119, and 122 of the Constitution of  
2 Kentucky relating to terms of Constitutional offices.

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

4 ➔Section 1. Are you in favor of changing the terms of Circuit Court Clerks and  
5 Commonwealth's Attorneys from six-year terms to eight-year terms beginning in 2024,  
6 terms of County Attorneys and judges of the district court from four-year terms to eight-  
7 year terms beginning in 2022, and requiring district judges to have been a licensed  
8 attorney for at least eight years beginning in 2022 by amending the Constitution of  
9 Kentucky to read as stated below?

10 ➔Section 2. It is proposed that Section 97 of the Constitution of Kentucky be  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 In the year two thousand ***twenty-four***, and every ***eight***~~[six]~~ years thereafter, there  
13 shall be an election in each county for a Circuit Court Clerk, and for a Commonwealth's  
14 Attorney, in each circuit court district, unless that office be abolished, who shall hold  
15 their respective offices for ***eight***~~[six]~~ years from the first Monday in January after their  
16 election, and until the election and qualification of their successors.

17 ➔Section 3. It is proposed that Section 99 of the Constitution of Kentucky be  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 ***(1)*** At the regular election in nineteen hundred and ninety-eight and every four  
20 years thereafter, there shall be elected in each county a Judge of the County Court, a  
21 County Court Clerk,~~[a County Attorney,]~~ Sheriff, Jailer, Coroner, Surveyor and  
22 Assessor, and in each Justice's District one Justice of the Peace and one Constable, who  
23 shall enter upon the discharge of the duties of their offices on the first Monday in January  
24 after their election, and who shall hold their offices four years until the election and  
25 qualification of their successors.

26 ***(2) In the year two thousand twenty-two, and every eight years thereafter, there***  
27 ***shall be elected in each county a County Attorney, who shall enter upon the discharge***

1 of the duties of his or her office on the first Monday in January after his or her  
 2 election, who shall hold the office for eight years until the election and qualification of  
 3 his or her successor.

4 ➔Section 4. It is proposed that Section 119 of the Constitution of Kentucky be  
 5 amended to read as follows:

6 Justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Court of Appeals, ~~and~~ circuit  
 7 court, and district court shall severally hold their offices for terms of eight years~~, and~~  
 8 ~~judges of the district court for terms of four years].~~ All terms commence on the first  
 9 Monday in January next succeeding the regular election for the office. No justice or  
 10 judge may be deprived of his term of office by redistricting, or by a reduction in the  
 11 number of justices or judges.

12 ➔Section 5. It is proposed that Section 122 of the Constitution of Kentucky be  
 13 amended to read as follows:

14 To be eligible to serve as a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the Court of  
 15 Appeals, Circuit Court or District Court a person must be a citizen of the United States,  
 16 licensed to practice law in the courts of this Commonwealth, and have been a resident of  
 17 this Commonwealth and of the district from which he is elected for two years next  
 18 preceding his taking office. In addition, to be eligible to serve as a justice of the Supreme  
 19 Court or judge of the Court of Appeals or Circuit Court a person must have been a  
 20 licensed attorney for at least eight years. Beginning in the year two thousand and  
 21 twenty-two, no district judge shall serve who has not been a licensed attorney for at least  
 22 eight~~two~~ years.

23 ➔Section 6. The eight-year licensure requirement for District Judges as set forth  
 24 in Section 5 of this Act shall not apply to any person serving as a District Judge on the  
 25 effective date of this Act.

26 ➔Section 7. This amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the  
 27 Commonwealth for their ratification or rejection at the time and in the manner provided

1 for under Sections 256 and 257 of the Constitution and under Sections 7 and 8 of this  
2 Act.

3       ➔Section 8. Notwithstanding any language in KRS 118.415 to the contrary, the  
4 Secretary of State shall cause the entirety of the proposed amendment to the Constitution  
5 of Kentucky contained in Sections 1 to 5 of this Act to be published at least one time in a  
6 newspaper of general circulation published in this state, and shall also cause to be  
7 published at the same time and in the same manner the fact that the amendment will be  
8 submitted to the voters for their acceptance or rejection at the next regular election at  
9 which members of the General Assembly are to be voted for. The publication required by  
10 this section and KRS 118.415 shall be made no later than the first Tuesday in August  
11 preceding the election at which the amendment is to be voted on.

12       ➔Section 9. Notwithstanding any language in KRS 118.415 to the contrary, the  
13 Secretary of State, not later than the second Monday after the second Tuesday in August  
14 preceding the next regular election at which members of the General Assembly are to be  
15 chosen in a year in which there is not an election for President and Vice President of the  
16 United States, or not later than the Thursday after the first Tuesday in September  
17 preceding a regular election in a year in which there is an election for President and Vice  
18 President of the United States, shall certify the entirety of the proposed amendment to the  
19 Constitution of Kentucky contained in Sections 1 to 5 of this Act to the county clerk of  
20 each county, and the county clerk shall have the entirety of the amendment, as so  
21 certified, indicated on the ballots provided to the voters in paper or electronic form as  
22 applicable to the voting machines in use in each county or precinct.