

1 AN ACT relating to the judiciary.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 21A.010 is amended to read as follows:

4 **(1) Until the General Assembly enacts congressional and state legislative**  
5 **redistricting legislation following receipt of the decennial United States Census of**

6 **Population for the year 2020,** the Commonwealth is divided into seven (7)

7 Supreme Court districts composed as follows:

8 ~~(a)(1)~~ First District: Allen, Ballard, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle,  
9 Christian, Crittenden, Edmonson, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins,  
10 Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg,  
11 Simpson, Todd, Trigg, and Webster Counties.

12 ~~(b)(2)~~ Second District: Barren, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Daviess, Grayson,  
13 Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, Larue, Meade, Ohio, Union, and Warren  
14 Counties.

15 ~~(c)(3)~~ Third District: Adair, Bell, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Estill,  
16 Garrard, Green, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, Lincoln, Marion,  
17 McCreary, Metcalfe, Monroe, Nelson, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor,  
18 Washington, Wayne, and Whitley Counties.

19 ~~(d)(4)~~ Fourth District: Jefferson County.

20 ~~(e)(5)~~ Fifth District: Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Fayette, Franklin,  
21 Jessamine, Madison, Mercer, Scott, and Woodford Counties.

22 ~~(f)(6)~~ Sixth District: Bath, Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Fleming,  
23 Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Henry, Kenton, Lewis, Mason, Nicholas, Oldham,  
24 Owen, Pendleton, Robertson, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble Counties.

25 ~~(g)(7)~~ Seventh District: Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Elliott, Floyd, Greenup,  
26 Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Lawrence, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee,  
27 Montgomery, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Rowan, and Wolfe

1 Counties.

2 **(2) Upon the enactment of congressional and state legislative redistricting legislation**  
3 **following receipt of the decennial United States Census of Population for the year**  
4 **2020, and the enactment of redistricting legislation following receipt of each**  
5 **decennial United States Census of Population thereafter, the Commonwealth**  
6 **shall be divided into the same number of Supreme Court districts as the number**  
7 **of congressional districts apportioned to the state, with the same boundaries.**

8 ➔Section 2. KRS 21A.020 is amended to read as follows:

9 **(1) Elections for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and for the** Justices of the  
10 Supreme Court **from the numbered Supreme Court districts** shall be held at the  
11 **time of a regular election**~~elections~~, and every eight (8) years thereafter.~~;~~ **Unless**  
12 **the enactment of redistricting legislation results in the elimination of any**  
13 **Supreme Court district, the elections shall be held** as follows:

14 **(a)**~~(1)~~ In the fifth district, in **2024**~~[1976]~~;

15 **(b)**~~(2)~~ In the third district, in **2026**~~[1978]~~;

16 **(c)**~~(3)~~ In the seventh district, in **2020**~~[1980]~~~~;~~~~and~~

17 **(d)**~~(4)~~ In the first, second, fourth and sixth districts, in **2022; and**

18 **(e) For the Chief Justice, in 2024**~~[1982]~~.

19 **(2) Whenever the boundaries or number of the Supreme Court districts are required**  
20 **to be changed as a result of the enactment of congressional and state legislative**  
21 **redistricting legislation by the General Assembly following receipt of the**  
22 **decennial United States Census of Population, the General Assembly shall**  
23 **designate the numerical identification for each district. The Justices serving prior**  
24 **to the redistricting shall continue in office, and the law providing for the**  
25 **redistricting shall, where necessary, specify the newly established districts which**  
26 **they shall represent for the remainder of their terms.**

27 ➔Section 3. KRS 22A.010 is amended to read as follows:

1 (1) The Court of Appeals shall consist of ~~fourteen (14) judges, with~~ two (2) judges  
2 from each of ~~the~~ ~~seven (7)~~ Court of Appeals districts.

3 (2) The districts of the Court of Appeals shall correspond in geographical dimensions to  
4 the districts of the Supreme Court, as defined in KRS Chapter 21A.

5 ➔Section 4. KRS 118A.020 is amended to read as follows:

6 **(1) A Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall be elected on a statewide, nonpartisan**  
7 **basis.**

8 **(2)** Justices of the Supreme Court shall be elected **on a statewide, nonpartisan basis**  
9 from **each of** the Supreme Court districts established by KRS Chapter 21A.

10 ➔Section 5. KRS 118A.060 is amended to read as follows:

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

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

26 (3) The petition for nomination shall be in the form prescribed by the State Board of  
27 Elections. The petition shall include a declaration sworn to by the candidate, that he

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

6 (4) The Secretary of State shall examine the petition of each candidate to determine  
7 whether it is regular on its face. If there is an error, the Secretary of State shall  
8 notify the candidate by certified mail within twenty-four (24) hours of filing. The  
9 order of names on the ballot for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and for each  
10 justice or judge of a district or circuit, and numbered division if divisions exist,  
11 shall be determined by lot at a public drawing to be held in the office of the  
12 Secretary of State at 2 p.m., standard time, on the Thursday following the filing  
13 deadline for the primary as established in this section and in KRS 83A.045 and  
14 118.165.

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

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

23 (b) Designate for the county clerks the office of the Court of Justice with which  
24 the names of candidates shall be printed and the order in which they are to  
25 appear on the ballot.

26 (6) The ballot position of a candidate shall not be changed after the ballot position has  
27 been designated by the Secretary of State.

- 1 (7) The county clerks of each county shall cause to be printed on the ballot labels for  
2 the voting machines and on the special ballots for the primary the names of the  
3 candidates for offices in the Court of Justice.
- 4 (8) The names of the candidates shall be placed on the voting machine in a separate  
5 column or columns or in a separate line or lines and identified by the words  
6 "Judicial Ballot." The words "Vote for one," or "Vote for one in each division,"  
7 shall be printed on the ballot in an appropriate location. The office, numbered  
8 division if divisions exist, and the candidates shall be clearly labeled. No party  
9 designation or emblem of any kind, nor any sign indicating any candidate's political  
10 belief or party affiliation, shall be used on voting machines or special ballots.
- 11 (9) The two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes for nomination for  
12 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, justice or judge of a district or circuit, or  
13 numbered division if divisions exist, shall be nominated. Certificates of nomination  
14 shall be issued as provided in KRS 118A.190.
- 15 (10) If it appears after expiration of the time for filing petitions for nomination that there  
16 are not more than two (2) candidates who have filed the necessary petitions for a  
17 place on the ballot in the regular election, no drawing for ballot position shall be  
18 held and the Secretary of State shall immediately issue and file in the Secretary's  
19 office certificates of nomination, and send copies to the candidates.
- 20 ➔Section 6. KRS 118A.090 is amended to read as follows:
- 21 (1) For the regular election, the order of names on the ballot for the Chief Justice of  
22 the Supreme Court, and for justice or judge of each district or circuit, and  
23 numbered division if divisions exist, shall be determined by lot at a public drawing  
24 to be held in the office of the Secretary of State at 2 p.m., standard time, on the  
25 Thursday following the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June preceding the  
26 regular election, except as provided in KRS 118A.100(6).
- 27 (2) Not later than the date set forth in KRS 118.215(1)(b) after the filing deadline for

1 the regular election in a year in which there is no election for President and Vice  
2 President of the United States, or not later than the date set forth in KRS  
3 118.215(1)(c) preceding a regular election in a year in which there is an election for  
4 President and Vice President of the United States, and after the order of names on  
5 the ballot has been determined as required in subsection (1) of this section, the  
6 Secretary of State shall:

7 (a) Certify to the county clerks of the respective counties entitled to participate in  
8 the election of the various candidates, the name and place of residence of each  
9 candidate for each office, by district or circuit, and numbered division if  
10 divisions exist, as certified under KRS 118A.060; and

11 (b) Designate for the county clerks the office of the Court of Justice with which  
12 the names of candidates shall be printed and the order in which they are to  
13 appear on the ballot.

14 (3) The ballot position of a candidate shall not be changed after the ballot position has  
15 been designated by the Secretary of State. The county clerks of each county shall  
16 cause to be printed on the ballot labels for the voting machines and on the special  
17 ballots for the regular elections the names of the candidates for offices of the Court  
18 of Justice.

19 (4) The names of the candidates shall be placed on the voting machine in a separate  
20 column or columns or in a separate line or lines and identified by the words  
21 "Judicial Ballot," and in such a manner that the casting of a vote for all of the  
22 candidates of a political party will not operate to cast a vote for judicial candidates.  
23 The words "Vote for one" or "Vote for one in each division," shall be printed on the  
24 ballot in an appropriate location. The office, numbered division thereof if divisions  
25 exist, and the candidates therefor shall be clearly labeled. No party designation or  
26 emblem of any kind, nor any sign indicating any candidate's political belief or party  
27 affiliation, shall be used on voting machines or special ballots.

1 (5) The candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast at the regular election for a  
2 district or circuit, or for a numbered division thereof if divisions exist, shall be  
3 elected.

4 ➔Section 7. This Act shall take effect upon the ratification, in the regular election  
5 of November 3, 2020, of a Constitutional amendment proposing to correspond the  
6 number of Supreme Court districts to the number of Congressional districts apportioned  
7 to Kentucky, with the same boundaries, and further providing that the justices shall be  
8 elected by the qualified voters of this state. If such an amendment is not ratified, this Act  
9 shall be void.