

1 AN ACT proposing an amendment to Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky
2 relating to voting rights.

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

4 ➔Section 1. Are you in favor of amending Section 145 of the Constitution of
5 Kentucky to grant the General Assembly the authority to establish standards for giving
6 persons convicted of certain felonies the right to vote, excluding persons committing
7 treason, bribery involving elections, a sex offense, or an offense against a child? The full
8 text of the proposed amendment is set forth in Section 2 below.

9 ➔Section 2. It is proposed that Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky be
10 amended to read as follows:

11 Every citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years who has resided in
12 the state one year, and in the county six months, and the precinct in which he offers to
13 vote sixty days next preceding the election, shall be a voter in said precinct and not
14 elsewhere but the following persons are excepted and shall not have the right to vote.

15 1. Persons convicted in any court of competent jurisdiction of treason, or felony,
16 or bribery in an election, or of such high misdemeanor as the General Assembly may
17 declare shall operate as an exclusion from the right of suffrage, but persons hereby
18 excluded may be restored to their civil rights by executive pardon. **Persons convicted of**
19 **such crimes as the General Assembly may declare eligible, not including any offense**
20 **that is treason, bribery in an election, a sex offense, a violent offense, or an offense**
21 **committed against a child, may be restored to their voting rights as provided by the**
22 **General Assembly.**

23 2. **Persons convicted in any court of competent jurisdiction of any felony**
24 **offense not deemed eligible for restoration of civil rights pursuant to this section shall**
25 **not have the right to vote unless the person has been restored to his or her civil rights**
26 **by executive pardon.**

27 3. **Persons who have had their right to vote previously restored under this**

1 *section other than by executive pardon and who subsequently have been convicted in*
 2 *any court of competent jurisdiction of any felony shall not have the right to vote unless*
 3 *the person is restored to his or her civil rights by executive pardon.*

4 **4.** Persons who, at the time of the election, are in confinement under the
 5 judgment of a court for some penal offense *shall not have the right to vote in the*
 6 *election.*

7 **5.** *Persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities or serious mental*
 8 *illnesses who have been adjudicated as disabled and who have not retained their voting*
 9 *rights or had those rights restored.* ~~[3. Idiots and insane Persons.]~~

10 ➔Section 3. This amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the
 11 Commonwealth for their ratification or rejection at the time and in the manner provided
 12 for under Sections 256 and 257 of the Constitution and under Sections 4 and 5 of this
 13 Act.

14 ➔Section 4. Notwithstanding any language in KRS 118.415 to the contrary, the
 15 Secretary of State shall cause the text of Section of 1 of this Act and the entirety of the
 16 proposed amendment to the Constitution of Kentucky contained in Section 2 of this Act
 17 to be published at least one (1) time in a newspaper of general circulation published in
 18 this state, and shall also cause to be published at the same time and in the same manner
 19 the fact that the amendment will be submitted to the voters for their acceptance or
 20 rejection at the next regular election at which members of the General Assembly are to be
 21 voted for. The publication required by this section and KRS 118.415 shall be made no
 22 later than the first Tuesday in August preceding the election at which the amendment is to
 23 be voted on.

24 ➔Section 5. Notwithstanding any language in KRS 118.415 to the contrary, the
 25 Secretary of State, not later than the second Monday after the second Tuesday in August
 26 preceding the next regular election at which members of the General Assembly are to be
 27 chosen in a year in which there is not an election for President and Vice President of the

1 United States, or not later than the Thursday after the first Tuesday in September
2 preceding a regular election in a year in which there is an election for President and Vice
3 President of the United States, shall certify the text of Section 1 of this Act and the
4 entirety of the proposed amendment to the Constitution of Kentucky contained in Section
5 2 of this Act to the county clerk of each county, and the county clerk shall have the text of
6 Section 1 of this Act and the entirety of the amendment contained in Section 2 of this Act,
7 as so certified, indicated on the ballots provided to the voters in paper or electronic form
8 as applicable to the voting machines in use in each county or precinct.