21 RS BR 368

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## AN ACT relating to voting.

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

→ Section 1. KRS 117.085 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) 4 (a) 1. All requests for an application for a mail-in absentee ballot may be 5 transmitted by telephone, facsimile machine, by mail, by electronic mail, 6 or in person. The county clerk shall transmit all *requested* applications 7 for a mail-in absentee ballot to the voter by mail, electronic mail, or in person at the option of the voter, except as provided in paragraph 8 9 (c) of this subsection. Except as otherwise provided in KRS 10 117.077, the mail-in absentee ballot application may be requested by the 11 voter or the spouse, parents, or children of the voter, but shall be 12 restricted to the use of the voter.
- 13 In lieu of requesting an application for a mail-in absentee ballot, a 2. 14 voter may apply for a mail-in absentee ballot through a secure online portal established by the State Board of Elections in administrative 15 16 regulations promulgated under KRS Chapter 13A. The secure online portal shall have the capacity to ensure verification of the identity of 17 the voter through an identity document, as defined in KRS 186.010, on 18 19 file with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. If a voter does not have 20 an identity document on file with the Kentucky Transportation 21 Cabinet, the voter may confirm his or her identity as required under 22 KRS 117.227 by completing the voter's affirmation required under 23 KRS 117.228 and provided on the secure online portal.
- (b)[(a)] Except as otherwise provided in KRS 117.077, a qualified voter may
   apply to cast his or her vote by mail-in absentee ballot if the completed
   application *for the mail-in absentee ballot* is received not later than the close
   of business hours seven (7) days before the election, and if the voter is:

1	1.	A resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter as defined in KRS
2		117A.010;
3	2.	A student who temporarily resides outside the county of his or her
4		residence;
5	3.	Incarcerated in jail and charged with a crime, but has not been convicted
6		of the crime;
7	4.	Changing or has changed his or her place of residence to a different state
8		while the registration books are closed in the new state of residence
9		before an election of electors for President and Vice President of the
10		United States, in which case the voter shall be permitted to cast a mail-in
11		absentee ballot for electors for President and Vice President of the
12		United States only;
13	5.	Temporarily residing outside the state but still eligible to vote in this
14		state;
15	6.	Prevented from voting in person at the polls on election day and from
16		casting an in-person absentee ballot in the county clerk's office on all
17		days in-person absentee voting is conducted because his or her
18		employment location requires him or her to be absent from the county of
19		his or her residence all hours and all days in-person absentee voting is
20		conducted in the county clerk's office;
21	7.	A participant in the Secretary of State's crime victim address
22		confidentiality protection program as authorized by KRS 14.312; or
23	8.	Not able to appear at the polls on election day on the account of age,
24		disability, or illness, and who has not been declared mentally disabled by
25		a court of competent jurisdiction.
26	<u>(c)</u> [(b)]	Residents of Kentucky who are covered voters as defined in KRS
27	117.	A.010 may apply for a mail-in absentee ballot by means of the federal

post-card application, which may be transmitted to the county clerk's office by mail, by facsimile machine, or by means of the electronic transmission system established under KRS 117A.030(4). The federal post-card application may be used to register, reregister, and to apply for a mail-in absentee ballot. If the federal post-card application is received at any time not less than seven (7) days before the election, the county clerk shall affix his or her seal to the application form upon receipt.

8 (d)[(c)] In-person absentee voting shall be conducted in the county clerk's office 9 or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the 10 State Board of Elections during normal business hours for at least the twelve 11 (12) working days before the election. A county board of elections may permit 12 in-person absentee voting to be conducted[<u>on a voting machine]</u> for a period 13 longer than the twelve (12) working days before the election.

14(e)[(d)]A qualified voter may, at any time during normal business hours on15those days in-person absentee voting is conducted in the county clerk's office,16make application in person to the county clerk to vote[ on a voting machine]17in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of18elections and approved by the State Board of Elections, if the voter provides19proof of identification as defined in KRS 117.375 or meets the requirements20of KRS 117.228 and 117.229, and the voter:

Is a resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter as defined in KRS
 117A.010, who will be absent from the county of his or her residence on
 any election day;

# 24 2. Is a student who temporarily resides outside the county of his or her 25 residence;

26 3. Has surgery, or whose spouse has surgery, scheduled that will require
27 hospitalization on election day;

- 1 4. Temporarily resides outside the state, but is still eligible to vote in this 2 state and will be absent from the county of his or her residence on any 3 election day; 4 5. Is a resident of Kentucky who is a uniformed-service voter as defined in 5 KRS 117A.010 confined to a military base on election day, learns of that 6 confinement within seven (7) days or less of an election, and is not 7 eligible for a mail-in absentee ballot under this subsection; 8 6. Is in her last trimester of pregnancy at the time she wishes to vote under 9 this paragraph. The application form for a voter under this subparagraph 10 shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections, which shall contain 11 the woman's sworn statement that she is in fact in her last trimester of 12 pregnancy at the time she wishes to vote; 7. 13 Has not been declared mentally disabled by a court of competent 14 jurisdiction and, on account of age, disability, or illness, is not able to 15 appear at the polls on election day; or 16 8. Is not permitted to vote by a mail-in absentee ballot under paragraph 17 (b) [(a)] of this subsection, but who will be absent from the county of his or her residence on election day. 18 19 <u>(f)[(e)]</u> Voters who change their place of residence to a different state while the 20 registration books are closed in the new state of residence before a presidential 21 election shall be permitted to cast an in-person absentee ballot for President 22 and Vice President only, by making application in person to the county clerk 23 to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place 24 designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board 25 of Elections, up to the close of normal business hours on the day before the 26 election.
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 $(\underline{g})$  [(f)] Any member of the county board of elections, any precinct election

21 RS BR 368

1 officer appointed to serve in a precinct other than that in which he or she is 2 registered, any alternate precinct election officer, any deputy county clerk, any staff for the State Board of Elections, and any staff for the county board of 3 4 elections may vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other 5 place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State 6 Board of Elections, up to the close of normal business hours on the day before 7 the election. The application form for those persons shall be prescribed by the 8 State Board of Elections and, in the case of application by precinct election 9 officers, shall contain a verification of appointment signed by a member of the 10 county board of elections. If an alternate precinct election officer or a precinct 11 election officer appointed to serve in a precinct other than that in which he or 12 she is registered receives his or her appointment while in-person absentee 13 voting is being conducted in the county, the officer may vote on a voting 14 machine] in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county 15 board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, up to the 16 close of normal business hours on the day before the election. Precinct 17 election officers' verification of appointment shall also contain the date of 18 appointment. The applications shall be restricted to the use of the voter only.

19 (h) = (g)The members of the county board of elections or their designees who 20 provide equal representation of both political parties may serve as precinct 21 election officers, without compensation, for all in-person absentee voting 22 performed on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place 23 designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board 24 of Elections. If the members of the county board of elections or their 25 designees serve as precinct election officers for the in-person absentee voting, 26 they shall perform the same duties and exercise the same authority as precinct 27 election officers who serve on the day of an election. If the members of the

- county board of elections or their designees do not serve as precinct election
   officers for in-person absentee voting, the county clerk or deputy county clerks
   shall supervise the in-person absentee voting.
- 4 (i)[(h)] Any individual qualified to appoint challengers for the day of an election
  5 may also appoint challengers to observe all in-person absentee voting
  6 performed at the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county
  7 board of elections[,] and approved by the State Board of Elections, and those
  8 challengers may exercise the same privileges as challengers appointed for
  9 observing voting on the day of an election at a regular polling place.
- 10 (2) The county clerk shall type the name of the voter permitted to vote by mail-in
  absentee ballot on the mail-in absentee ballot application form for that person's use
  and no other. The mail-in absentee ballot application form shall be:
- *(a) Established*[In the form prescribed] by the State Board of Elections <u>in</u>
   *administrative regulations promulgated under KRS Chapter 13A*,
   *and*[which] shall include the voter affirmation form as prescribed in KRS
   117.228(1)(c), *a printed notice of the actual penalty provisions in KRS 117.995(2) and (3)*[, shall bear the seal of the county clerk], and shall contain
   the following information:
- 18 the following information.
- 19 <u>1.</u> Name <u>of the voter;</u>[,]
- 20 <u>2.</u> Residential address: [,]
- 21 <u>3.</u> Precinct;[,]
- 22 <u>4.</u> Party affiliation;[,]
- 23 <u>5.</u> Statement of the reason the person cannot vote in person on election
  24 day;[,]
  - <u>6.</u> Statement of where the voter shall be on election day: [,]
- 26
   <u>7.</u>
   Statement of compliance with residency requirements for voting in the

   27
   precinct:[.]

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1			<u>8.</u> An	instructional statement prescribing the requirements for providing a
2			cop	y of the voter's proof of identification or voter affirmation when
3			app	licable <u>;</u> [,] and
4			<u>9.</u> The	voter's mailing address for a mail-in absentee ballot <u>:</u> [.]
5		<u>(b)</u>	[The mai	l-in absentee ballot application form shall be ]Verified and signed by
6			the voter;	<u>and</u> [,]
7		<u>(c)</u>	Returned	to the county clerk either by mail or in-person with [and the voter
8			shall pro	vide] a copy of the voter's [his or her] proof of identification, as
9			defined i	n KRS 117.375, or the executed voter affirmation as described in
10			KRS 117	7.228(1)(c).[ A notice of the actual penalty provisions in KRS
11			<del>117.995(</del> 2	2) and (5) shall be printed on the mail in absentee ballot application
12			form.]	
13	(3)	(a)	If the cou	inty clerk finds that the voter is properly registered as stated in his or
14			her mail-	in absentee ballot application form and qualifies to receive a mail-in
15			absentee	ballot by mail, <u>the clerk</u> [he or she] shall mail to the voter a mail-in
16			absentee	ballot, two (2) official envelopes for returning the mail-in absentee
17			ballot, an	d instructions for voting.
18		(b)	<u>1. a.</u>	The county clerk shall complete a postal form for a certificate of
19				mailing for mail-in absentee ballots mailed within the fifty (50)
20				states, and it shall be stamped by the postal service when the mail-
21				in absentee ballots are mailed; or
22			<u>b.</u>	The county clerk may use Intelligent Mail barcodes or other
23				methods of tracking all mail-in absentee ballots as may be
24				established by the State Board of Elections in administrative
25				regulations promulgated under KRS Chapter 13A in lieu of the
26				<u>postal form</u> .
27			<u>2.</u> A n	nail-in absentee ballot may be transmitted by facsimile machine or by

21 RS BR 368

the electronic transmission system established under KRS 117A.030(4)
 to a covered voter as defined in KRS 117A.010. The covered voter shall
 be notified of the options for transmittal of the mail-in absentee ballot,
 and the mail-in absentee ballot shall be transmitted by the method
 chosen for receipt by the resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter.

(4) Mail-in absentee ballots which are requested prior to the printing of the mail-in
absentee ballots shall be mailed or otherwise transmitted as provided in subsection
(3) of this section by the county clerk to the voter within three (3) days of the receipt
of the printed ballots. Mail-in absentee ballots requested after the receipt of the
ballots by the county clerk shall be mailed or otherwise transmitted as provided in
subsection (3) of this section to the voter within three (3) days of the receipt of the
request.

13 (5) The county clerk shall cause mail-in absentee ballots to be printed fifty (50) days
prior to each primary or regular election, and forty-five (45) days prior to a special
election.

16 (6)The outer envelope shall bear the words "Absentee Ballot" and the address and 17 official title of the county clerk and shall provide space for the voter's signature, 18 voting address, precinct number, and signatures of two (2) witnesses if the voter 19 signs the form with the use of a mark instead of the voter's signature. A detachable 20 flap on the secrecy envelope shall provide space for the voter's signature, voting 21 address, precinct number, signatures of two (2) witnesses if the voter signs the form 22 with the use of a mark instead of the voter's signature and notice of penalty provided 23 in KRS 117.995(5). The county clerk shall type the voter's address and precinct 24 number in the upper left hand corner of the outer envelope and of the detachable 25 flap on the secrecy envelope immediately below the blank space for the voter's 26 signature. The secrecy envelope shall be blank. The county clerk shall retain the 27 voter's mail-in ballot application form, which shall include the photographed copy

1 of the voter's proof of identification or the voter affirmation as prescribed by KRS 2 117.228(1)(c), and the postal form or Intelligent Mail barcode required by 3 subsection (3) of this section for twenty-two (22) months after the primary or election. 4 5 (7)*(a)* Any person who has received a mail-in absentee ballot by mail, and who has not voted pursuant to KRS 117.086, may cancel his or her ballot and vote in 6 7 person at the polls on election day. Before voting in person the absent voter 8 <u>shall:</u> 9 Return the mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerk's office no later 1. 10 than 4 p.m., prevailing time, on the day prior to the date of the 11 primary or election; or 12 Return the mail-in absentee ballot to an election officer in the precinct 2. where the voter is properly registered on election day during those 13 14 hours the polls are open. [ but who knows at least seven (7) days before 15 the date of the election that he or she will be in his or her county of 16 residence on election day and who has not voted pursuant to the 17 provisions of KRS 117.086 shall cancel his or her mail-in absentee 18 ballot and vote in person. The voter shall return the mail-in absentee 19 ballot to the county clerk's office no later than seven (7) days prior to the 20 date of the election.] 21 **(b)** Upon the return of the mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerk's office, the 22 county clerk shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed ballot or the 23 unmarked ballot the words "Canceled because voter appeared to vote in 24 person." Sealed envelopes so marked shall not be opened. The county clerk 25 shall remove the voter's name from the list of persons who were sent mail-in 26 absentee ballots, and the voter may vote in the precinct in which he or she is 27 properly registered.

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1		<u>(c)</u>	Upon the return of the mail-in absentee ballot to an election officer at the
2			precinct where the voter is properly registered on election day, the election
3			officer shall contact the county clerk and verify to the clerk the return of the
4			mail-in absentee ballot, and the county clerk shall remove the voter's name
5			from the list of persons who were sent mail-in absentee ballots. The county
6			clerk shall then confirm to the election officer that the voter may vote in the
7			precinct in which he or she is properly registered. Upon the county clerk's
8			authorization, the election officer shall mark on the outer envelope of the
9			sealed ballot or the unmarked ballot the words "Canceled because voter
10			appeared to vote in person." Sealed envelopes so marked shall not be
11			opened.
12	(8)	<u>(a)</u>	Any voter qualified for a mail-in absentee ballot who does not receive a
13			requested mail-in absentee ballot within a reasonable amount of time shall
14			contact the county clerk, who shall reissue a second mail-in absentee ballot.
15			The county clerk shall keep a record of the mail-in absentee ballots issued and
16			returned by mail, the in-person absentee voting and federal in-person
17			provisional absentee voting that is performed[ on the voting machine] in the
18			county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections
19			and approved by the State Board of Elections, to verify that only the first
20			voted ballot to be returned by the voter is counted. Upon the return of any
21			mail-in absentee ballot after the first mail-in absentee ballot is returned, the
22			county clerk shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed ballot the words
23			"Canceled because ballot reissued."
24		<u>(b)</u>	1. Any qualified voter who requested but did not receive a mail-in
25			absentee ballot before election day, or who is unable to return a
26			received mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerk or to an election

officer may vote in person in the precinct in which he or she is

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1			properly registered if the voter executes, in the presence of the election
2			officer, a voter's affirmation, on a form prescribed by the State Board
3			of Elections in administrative regulations promulgated under KRS
4			<u>Chapter 13A, affirming:</u>
5			a. The voter requested but did not receive a mail-in absentee ballot;
6			b. The voter has not voted and will not vote in any other precinct or
7			in any other manner; and
8			c. The voter understands that making a false statement on the
9			affirmation is punishable under penalties of perjury, and that
10			voting more than once in a primary or election is a Class D
11			felony.
12			2. Upon receipt of the executed voter's affirmation, the election officer
13			shall contact the county clerk and verify to the clerk the execution of
14			the voter's affirmation, and the county clerk shall remove the voter's
15			name from the list of persons who were sent mail-in absentee ballots.
16			The county clerk shall then confirm to the election officer that the
17			voter may vote in the precinct in which he or she is properly
18			<u>registered.</u>
19			3. The voter affirmation executed under this paragraph shall be
20			processed in the same manner as an oath of voter prescribed by KRS
21			<u>117.245.</u>
22	(9)	<u>(a)</u>	Any covered voter as defined in KRS 117A.010 who has received a mail-in
23			absentee ballot but who knows that he or she will be in the county on election
24			day and who has not voted pursuant to the provisions of KRS 117.086 shall
25			cancel his or her mail-in absentee ballot and vote in person. The voter shall
26			return the mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerk's office on or before
27			election day. Upon the return of the mail-in absentee ballot, the county clerk

shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed mail-in absentee ballot or the
 unmarked mail-in absentee ballot the words "Canceled because voter appeared
 to vote in person." Sealed envelopes so marked shall not be opened.
 If the covered voter is unable to return the mail-in absentee ballot to the

5 county clerk's office on or before election day, at the time he or she votes in 6 person, he or she shall sign *the*[a] written *affirmation*[oath] as *required* 7 under paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of this section to her 8 qualifications on the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections pursuant 9 to KRS 117.245]. The county clerk shall remove the *covered* voter's name 10 from the list of persons who were sent mail-in absentee ballots, provide the 11 covered voter with written authorization to vote at the precinct, or confirm to 12 the election officer that the covered voter may vote, and the covered voter 13 may vote in the precinct in which he or she is properly registered. *The voter* 14 affirmation executed under this subsection shall be processed in the same manner as an oath of voter prescribed by KRS 117.245. 15

16 (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 17 61.884, the information contained in an application for a mail-in absentee ballot shall not be made public until after the close of business hours on the election day 18 19 for which the application applies. This subsection shall not prohibit at any time the 20 disclosure, upon request, of the total number of applications for mail-in absentee 21 ballots that have been filed, or the disclosure to the Secretary of State or the State 22 Board of Elections, if requested or if otherwise required by law, of any information 23 in an application for a mail-in absentee ballot.

- → Section 2. KRS 14.312 is amended to read as follows:
- (1) A program participant who is otherwise qualified to vote may register to vote and
   apply for and submit a mail-in absentee ballot under this section.
- 27 (2) Using the authority granted under KRS 14.318(1), the State Board of Elections shall

1 design a system allowing a county clerk to shield from public view all voting 2 records of a program participant, including the name and address of a program 3 participant, and allowing a program participant to vote by mail-in absentee ballot. 4 This authority may be used to modify statutory or regulatory requirements that 5 would lead to disclosure of the program participant's name and address, but shall 6 not include authority to waive or modify any other requirements relative to the 7 program participant's qualifications to vote, including age and geographic residency. 8 (3) The program participant may receive mail-in absentee ballots for all elections in the 9 jurisdiction in which that individual resides in the same manner as a person 10 requesting an absentee ballot under KRS 117.085[(1)(a)]. The county clerk shall 11 transmit a mail-in absentee ballot to the program participant at the address 12 designated by the participant in his or her application.

13 (4) Neither the name nor the address of a program participant shall be included in any
14 list of registered voters available to the public, including any list inspected under
15 KRS 116.095.

16 → Section 3. KRS 117.165 is amended to read as follows:

17 Upon completing the preparation of the machines in accordance with the provisions (1)18 of KRS 117.155, and not later than the Thursday preceding the day of the election, 19 the county clerk shall notify the members of the county board of elections that the 20 machines are ready for use. The board shall thereupon convene at the office of the 21 county clerk, not later than the Friday preceding the day of the election, and 22 examine the machines to determine whether the requirements of KRS 117.155 have 23 been met. The county board of elections shall publish notice, in accordance with 24 KRS 424.130(1)(d), at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the time when the 25 machines are to be examined by the board. If found in proper order, the members of 26 the county board of elections shall endorse their approval in the book in which the 27 county clerk has entered the numbers of the machines opposite the numbers of the

21 RS BR 368

1 precincts. The clerk shall then deliver all of the keys to the machines to the county 2 board of elections who shall give a receipt for the keys which shall contain 3 identification of the keys. Not later than one (1) hour before the time set for the 4 opening of the polls, the board shall deliver all election supplies including the 5 precinct list, tabulation sheets, and the key to the device covering the registering 6 counters and other keys necessary for the operation of the machine in registering 7 votes, to the election officers of the precinct in which the machine is being used, 8 who shall give the board a receipt containing identification of the keys. The master 9 key and all other keys shall remain in the possession of the county board of 10 elections.

11 (2)Not later than four (4) business days preceding the date set by the county board of 12 elections to conduct absentee voting in accordance with KRS  $117.085 \frac{(1)(c)}{(1)}$ , the 13 county clerk shall notify the members of the county board of elections that the 14 voting machines designated for use during absentee voting are ready for use. The 15 board shall thereupon convene at the office of the county clerk, not later than three 16 (3) business days preceding the date set by the county board of elections to conduct 17 absentee voting, and examine the machines to determine whether the requirements 18 of KRS 117.155 have been met. The county board of elections shall publish notice, 19 in accordance with KRS 424.130(1)(d), at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance 20 of the time when the absentee voting machines are to be examined by the board. If 21 found in proper order, the members of the county board of elections shall endorse 22 their approval in the book in which the county clerk has entered the identification 23 number of the machines designated for use during absentee voting.

(3) Any candidate, one (1) representative of each political party having candidates to be
voted for at the election, and representatives of the news media may be present
when the examination of the machines is made by the county board of elections.

→ Section 4. KRS 117.235 is amended to read as follows:

Page 14 of 17

1	(1)	No	person, other than the election officers, challengers, person assisting voters in
2		acco	ordance with KRS 117.255(3), and a minor child in the company of a voter, shall
3		be p	permitted within the voting room while the vote is being polled, except as
4		follo	ows:
5		(a)	For the purpose of voting;
6		(b)	By authority of the election officers to keep order and enforce the law;
7		(c)	With the express approval of the county board of elections to repair or replace
8			voting equipment that is malfunctioning and to provide additional voting
9			equipment; or
10		(d)	At the voter's discretion, a minor child in the company of a voter may
11			accompany the voter into a voting booth or other private area provided for
12			casting a vote.
13	(2)	No o	officer of election shall do any electioneering on election day.
14	(3)	(a)	No person shall electioneer at the polling place on the day of any election, as
15			established in KRS 118.025, within a distance of one hundred (100) feet of
16			any entrance to a building in which <i>voting is conducted</i> a voting machine is
17			located] if that entrance is unlocked and is used by voters on election day.
18		(b)	No person shall electioneer within the interior of a building or affix any
19			electioneering materials to the exterior or interior of a building where the
20			county clerk's office is located, or any building designated by the county board
21			of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections for absentee voting,
22			during the hours absentee voting is being conducted in the building by the
23			county clerk pursuant to KRS 117.085 <del>[(1)(c)]</del> .
24		(c)	Electioneering shall include the displaying of signs, the distribution of
25			campaign literature, cards, or handbills, the soliciting of signatures to any
26			petition, or the solicitation of votes for or against any bona fide candidate or
27			ballot question in a manner which expressly advocates the election or defeat

Page 15 of 17

of the candidate or expressly advocates the passage or defeat of the ballot question, but shall not include exit polling, bumper stickers affixed to a person's vehicle while parked within or passing through a distance of one hundred (100) feet of any entrance to a building in which a voting machine is located, private property as provided in subsection (7) of this section, or other exceptions established by the State Board of Elections through the promulgation of administrative regulations.

8 (4) No voter shall be permitted to converse with others while in any room in which
9 voting, including absentee voting, is conducted concerning their support or
10 nonsupport of any candidate, party, or issue to be voted on, except as provided in
11 KRS 117.255.

12 (5) Any precinct election officer, county clerk, deputy county clerk, or any law
enforcement official may enforce the election laws and maintain law and order at
the polls and within one hundred (100) feet of any entrance to the building in which *voting is conducted*[the voting machine is located] if that entrance is unlocked and
is used by voters. Assistance may be requested of any law enforcement officer.

17 (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the State Board of
18 Elections may establish a program designed to instill in school children a respect for
19 the democratic principles of voting by conducting in any county a mock election for
20 school children in conjunction with any primary, [or] regular <u>election</u>, or special
21 election. The State Board of Elections shall promulgate administrative regulations
22 regarding the mock elections to <u>ensure</u>[insure] that the regular voting process will
23 not be impaired.

(7) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, nothing in this
 section shall prohibit the displaying of political campaign signs on private property
 or private establishments by a person having a leased or ownership interest in that
 private property or private establishment within the campaign-free zone, regardless

of the distance from the polling place. In the case of a polling location being on
 private property that is leased or otherwise under contract for the purpose of serving
 as a polling location, the provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall be
 applicable to that leased or contracted-for private property.