

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT FORM  
2026 REGULAR SESSION

Amend printed copy of **HB 139/HCS 1**

On page 44, between lines 22 and 23, insert:

"➔ Section 25. KRS 83A.170 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) In any city which has under the provisions of KRS 83A.045 or 83A.050 required nonpartisan city elections, no person shall be elected to city office except as provided in this section or as otherwise provided in this chapter relating to nonpartisan elections.
- (2) No person shall be elected to city office without being nominated in the manner provided in this section at a nonpartisan primary to be held at the time prescribed by KRS Chapters 116 to 121, except as otherwise provided in this chapter. Nonpartisan primaries shall be conducted by the same officers, chosen and acting in the same manner, with the same rights and duties as in regular elections.
- (3) Each applicant for nomination shall, not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later than the last date prescribed by the election law generally for filing notification and declaration forms with the county clerk as provided in KRS 83A.047, file a petition of nomination, which shall be in the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections signed by at least two (2) registered voters in the city. Each voter may sign individual petitions equal to the number of offices to be filled. If a voter signs petitions for more candidates than he or she is authorized, he or she shall be counted as a petitioner for

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Amendment No. HFA

Rep. Rep. Nick Wilson

Committee Amendment

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Amendment

LRC Drafter: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rejected: \_\_\_\_\_

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the candidate whose petition is filed first.

- (4) The county clerk shall examine the petition of each candidate to determine whether it is regular on its face. If there is an error, the county clerk shall notify the candidate by certified mail within twenty-four (24) hours of filing.
- (5) Immediately upon expiration of the time for filing petitions, the county clerk shall have published in accordance with KRS Chapter 424 the names of the applicants as they will appear before the voters at the primary.
- (6) Subsection (5) of this section shall not apply if it appears, immediately upon expiration of the time for filing petitions, that there are not more than two (2) applicants for nomination for each city office to be filled, or, when the nominations are for city legislative body members in cities electing legislative body members at large, and there are no more than twice the number of applicants for nomination for the number of offices to be filled. In that case, the applicants for nomination shall thereby be nominated and no drawing for ballot position nor primary election shall be held for that office.
- (7) The ballot position of a candidate shall not be changed after the ballot position has been designated by the county clerk.
- (8) If, before the time of certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot, any candidate whose petition has been filed in the office of the county clerk dies or notifies the clerk in writing, signed and properly notarized, that he or she will not accept the nomination, the clerk shall not cause the candidate's name to be printed on the ballot.
- (9) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot, any candidate whose name appears thereon shall withdraw pursuant to KRS 118.212, **be disqualified**, or die:
  - (a) Neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall **disclose** **or report on the official certification of**~~tabulate or record~~ the votes cast for the candidate;

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(b) The county clerk shall provide notices to the precinct election officers who shall see that a notice is conspicuously displayed at the polling place advising voters of the change, and that votes for the candidate shall not be disclosed or reported~~tabulated or recorded~~. If the county clerk learns of the death, disqualification, or withdrawal at least five (5) days prior to the election and provides the notices required by this subsection and the precinct officers fail to post the notices at the polling place, the officers shall be guilty of a violation; and

(c) In a primary, if there are only one (1) or two (2) remaining candidates on the ballot for that office, following the withdrawal, disqualification, or death of the other candidate or candidates, neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall disclose or report on the official certification of~~tabulate or record~~ the votes for the remaining candidate or candidates, and the officer with whom the remaining candidate or candidates has filed his or her nomination papers shall immediately issue and file in his or her office a certificate of nomination for that remaining candidate or candidates and send a copy to the remaining candidate or candidates.

(10) Names of applicants for each nomination shall be placed before the voters of the city. The voters shall be instructed to vote for one (1) candidate, except when there is more than one (1) candidate for which voters may vote, the instruction "vote for up to .... candidates" shall be used on the ballot. No party designation or emblem of any kind nor any sign indicating any applicant's political belief or party affiliation shall be used.

(11) Persons qualified to vote at a regular election shall be qualified to vote at a nonpartisan primary and the law applicable to challenges made at a regular election shall be applicable to challenges made at a nonpartisan primary.

(12) Votes shall be counted as provided in general election laws, pursuant to KRS Chapters 116

to 121, and the result shall be published as provided in KRS Chapter 424.

- (13) The two (2) applicants receiving the highest number of votes for nomination for each city office shall be nominated; or where the nominations are for city legislative body members in cities electing legislative body members at large, there shall be nominated the number of applicants receiving the highest number of votes equal to twice the number of offices to be filled. If two (2) candidates are tied for the second highest number of votes in a mayoral election, the names of those two (2) candidates, plus the name of the candidate receiving the highest number of votes, shall be placed upon the ballot.
- (14) At the regular election following a nonpartisan primary, the names of the successful nominees and candidates who have filed a petition of candidacy as provided in this chapter to fill a vacancy shall be placed before the voters.
- (15) The nominee or candidate receiving the greater number of votes cast for each city office shall be elected.
- (16) KRS Chapters 116 to 121 prescribing duties of county clerks and other public officers in the conduct of elections shall be applicable in all respects to nonpartisan city elections, except no election officer or other person within a polling place shall tell or indicate to a voter, by word of mouth or otherwise, the political affiliation of any candidate for city office.

➔Section 26. KRS 83A.175 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The election to fill the regular term of a nonpartisan city office shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in KRS 83A.165 when, in a regular election for nonpartisan city office no candidates nominated to an office as provided in KRS 83A.170 are available due to death, incapacity, or withdrawal, or when city legislative body members are to be elected at large and there are fewer nominees than there are offices to be filled, or when a city has eliminated the primary pursuant to KRS 83A.045.

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- (2) Each candidate shall, not earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year before the year in which the office will appear on the ballot and not later than the last date prescribed by the election law generally for filing petitions of nomination with the county clerk as provided in KRS 83A.047, file a petition for candidacy. The petition shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections and shall be signed by at least two (2) registered voters in the city. Each voter may sign individual petitions equal to the number of offices to be filled. If a voter signs petitions for more candidates than he or she is authorized, he or she shall be counted as a petitioner for the candidate whose petition is filed first.
- (3) The county clerk shall examine the petition of each candidate to determine whether it is regular on its face. If there is an error, the county clerk shall notify the candidate by certified mail within twenty-four (24) hours of filing.
- (4) The ballot position of a candidate shall not be changed after the ballot position has been designated by the county clerk.
- (5) If, before the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot, any candidate whose petition has been filed in the office of the county clerk, dies or notifies the clerk in writing, signed and properly notarized, that he or she will not accept the election, the clerk shall not cause his or her name to be printed on the ballot.
- (6) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot, any candidate whose name appears thereon shall withdraw pursuant to KRS 118.212, **be disqualified**, or die:
  - (a) Neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall **disclose or report on the official certification of** ~~tabulate or record~~ the votes cast for the candidate;
  - (b) The county clerk shall provide notices to the precinct election officers who shall see that a notice is conspicuously displayed at the polling place advising voters of the

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change, and that votes for the candidate shall not be disclosed or reported~~tabulated or recorded~~. If the county clerk learns of the death, disqualification, or withdrawal at least five (5) days prior to the election and provides the notices required by this subsection and the precinct officers fail to post the notices at the polling place, the officers shall be guilty of a violation;

(c) If there is only one (1) remaining candidate on the ballot for that office in a primary, following the withdrawal, disqualification, or death of the other candidate or candidates, neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall disclose or report~~tabulate or record~~ the votes for the remaining candidate, and the officer with whom the remaining candidate has filed his or her nomination papers shall immediately issue and file in his or her office a certificate of nomination for that remaining candidate and send a copy to the remaining candidate.

➔ Section 27. KRS 118.212 is amended to read as follows:

(1) If, before the time of certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot provided in KRS 118.215, any candidate whose notification and declaration or certificate or petition of nomination has been filed in the office of the Secretary of State dies, is disqualified, or notifies the Secretary of State in writing, signed and properly notarized that he or she will not accept the nomination or election, the Secretary of State shall not certify his or her name.

(2) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.215, any candidate whose notification and declaration or certificate or petition of nomination has been filed in the office of the county clerk dies, is disqualified, or notifies the clerk, in the manner described in subsection (1) of this section, that he or she will not accept the nomination or election, the clerk shall ensure that notice is provided to the appropriate precincts as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

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(3) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.215, any candidate whose notification and declaration or certificate or petition of nomination has been filed in the office of the Secretary of State dies, is disqualified, or notifies the Secretary of State in the manner described in subsection (1) of this section, that he or she will not accept the nomination or election, the Secretary of State shall immediately notify the appropriate county clerk, and the clerk shall ensure that notice is provided to the appropriate precincts as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

(4) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.215, any candidate whose name appears on the ballot shall officially withdraw, be disqualified, or die, neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall disclose or report on the official certification of [tabulate or record] the votes cast for the candidate; and, if there is only one (1) remaining candidate on the ballot for that office in a primary election, following the withdrawal, disqualification, or death of the other candidate or candidates, neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall disclose or report on the official certification of [tabulate or record] the votes for the remaining candidate, and the officer with whom the remaining candidate has filed his or her nomination papers shall immediately issue and file in his or her office a certificate of nomination for that remaining candidate and send a copy to the remaining candidate.

(5) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.215, any candidate whose name appears on the ballot shall officially withdraw, be disqualified, or die, the county clerk shall provide a notice to the precinct election officers who shall see that the notice is conspicuously displayed at the polling place advising voters of the change, and that votes for the candidate shall not be disclosed or reported [tabulated or recorded]. If the county clerk learns of the death, disqualification, or withdrawal at least

five (5) days prior to the election and provides the notice required by this subsection and the precinct officers fail to post the notice at the polling place, the precinct officers shall be guilty of a violation subject to a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10) nor more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

➔ Section 28. KRS 118A.150 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) In certification of candidates for judicial office, no reference shall be made to political affiliation.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall not knowingly certify to the county clerk of any county the name of any candidate who has not filed the required nomination or candidacy papers, nor knowingly fail to certify the name of any candidate who has filed the required nomination or candidacy papers.
- (3) No county clerk shall knowingly cause to be printed on any ballots or absentee ballots for any election, the name of a candidate for an office of the Court of Justice who has not been certified in the manner specified in this chapter.
- (4) If, before the time of certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot provided for in this chapter, any candidate whose petition or certificate of nomination or petition for candidacy has been filed, dies, is disqualified, or notifies the Secretary of State in writing, signed and properly notarized, that he or she will not accept the nomination or election, the Secretary of State shall not certify his or her name.
- (5) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot, any candidate whose petition or certificate of nomination or petition for candidacy has been filed, dies, is disqualified, or notifies the Secretary of State in the manner described in subsection (4) of this section, that he or she will not accept the nomination or election, the Secretary of State shall immediately notify the appropriate county clerk, and the clerk shall ensure that notice is provided to the appropriate precincts as provided in subsection (7) of this section.

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(6) If after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot, any candidate whose name appears on the ballot shall withdraw, **be disqualified**, or die, neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall **disclose report on the official certification of**~~tabulate or record~~ the votes cast for the candidate; and, in a primary, if there are only one (1) or two (2) remaining candidates on the ballot for that office, following the withdrawal, **disqualification**, or death of the other candidate or candidates, neither the precinct election officers nor the county board of elections shall **disclose or report on the official certification of**~~tabulate or record~~ the votes for the remaining candidate or candidates, and the officer with whom the remaining candidate or candidates has filed his or her nomination papers shall immediately issue and file in his or her office a certificate of nomination for that remaining candidate or candidates and send a copy to the remaining candidate or candidates.

(7) If, after the certification of candidates who will appear on the ballot, any candidate whose name appears on the ballot shall withdraw pursuant to KRS 118.212, **be disqualified**, or die, the county clerk shall provide notices to the precinct election officers who shall see that a notice is conspicuously displayed at the polling place advising voters of the change, and that votes for the candidate shall not be **disclosed or reported**~~tabulated or recorded~~. If the county clerk learns of the death, **disqualification**, or withdrawal at least five (5) days prior to the election and provides the notices required by this subsection and the precinct officers fail to post the notices at the polling place, the officers shall be guilty of a violation, subject to a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10) nor more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250)."; and

Renumber subsequent sections accordingly.