

1 AN ACT relating to persons entitled to vote.

2 WHEREAS, school boards exercise significant authority over policies that shape
3 the daily lives and academic futures of public school students; and

4 WHEREAS, permitting residents who are 16 and 17 years of age to vote in school
5 board elections, when approved by a local school board, encourages informed civic
6 participation while preserving local control;

7 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

9 ➔Section 1. KRS 116.025 is amended to read as follows:

- 10 (1) Every person who is a citizen of the United States, a resident of this state, and a
11 resident of the precinct in which he or she offers to vote on or before the day
12 preceding the closing of the registration books for any primary, regular~~general~~, or
13 special election, who possesses on the day of any election the qualifications set
14 forth in Section 145 of the Constitution, exclusive of the durational residency
15 requirements, who is not disqualified under that section or under any other statute,
16 and who is registered as provided in this chapter, may vote for all officers to be
17 elected by the people and on all public questions submitted for determination at that
18 election, in the precinct in which he or she is qualified to vote. Any person who
19 shall have been convicted of any election law offense which is a felony shall not be
20 permitted to vote until his or her civil rights have been restored by executive
21 pardon.
- 22 (2) Any person charged with or indicted for a crime, whether or not in custody for
23 same, who has not yet been convicted of the offense and who is not otherwise
24 ineligible to vote, may vote for all offices to be elected by the people and on all
25 public questions submitted for determination at that election, in the precinct in
26 which he or she is qualified to vote.
- 27 (3) A registered voter who changes his or her place of residence from one (1) precinct

1 to another within the same county while the registration books are closed shall be
2 permitted to update the voting records and to vote in the present election at the
3 appropriate precinct for the current address as set forth in KRS 116.085(3).

4 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any registered voter who
5 changes his or her place of residence from one (1) precinct to another within the
6 same county prior to the closing of the registration books and who fails to transfer
7 his or her registration with the county clerk prior to the date the registration books
8 are closed shall be permitted to vote in the present election at the appropriate
9 precinct for the current address as set forth in KRS 116.085(2).

10 (5) Any registered voter who changes his or her place of residence to a different county
11 while the registration books are closed shall be permitted to vote at the appropriate
12 precinct for his or her former residence in the present election and shall thereafter
13 transfer his or her voter registration.

14 (6) Any registered voter who changes his or her place of residence to a different county
15 and fails to register to vote in the county of current residence prior to the date the
16 registration books are closed shall not be eligible to vote in the present election in
17 the county of current residence or the county of former residence.

18 (7) Any registered voter who changes his or her place of registration to a different state
19 while the registration books are closed in the new state of residence before a
20 presidential election shall be permitted to cast an absentee ballot for President and
21 Vice President only, notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, by mail or at the
22 county clerk's office of the former residence or other place designated by the county
23 board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections.

24 **(8) A person who is sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age on the date of the**
25 **election for which the person seeks to vote may vote only in elections for members**
26 **of a school board, upon adoption of a resolution by a majority of the members of**
27 **that district's school board delivered to the county clerk and State Board of**

1 Elections at least three hundred sixty-five (365) days prior to the regular election
2 in which expanded suffrage is to take effect, provided that the person:

3 (a) Is a resident of the school district in which the election is held;

4 (b) Meets the residency requirements otherwise applicable to voters under
5 Kentucky law;

6 (c) Is a citizen of the United States of America;

7 (d) Has registered in the manner described in KRS 116.045 and in accordance
8 with administrative regulations promulgated by the State Board of
9 Elections; and

10 (e) Is not otherwise disqualified from voting pursuant to the Constitution of
11 Kentucky or applicable statutes.

12 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 116 IS CREATED TO
13 READ AS FOLLOWS:

14 (1) County clerks shall administer the registration and voting of persons sixteen (16)
15 and seventeen (17) years of age who are eligible under Section 1 of this Act using
16 existing polling locations, but may use separate election procedures and
17 registration systems.

18 (2) Voters who are sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) years of age are to receive ballots
19 limited to school board contests.

20 (3) The State Board of Elections shall promulgate administrative regulations in
21 accordance with KRS Chapter 13A as necessary for the administration of this
22 section. These regulations are not limited to, but shall include:

23 (a) A registration form and a process to register persons sixteen (16) and
24 seventeen (17) years of age to vote only in school board elections, which
25 shall conform as nearly as possible to the equivalent form and process used
26 for all other eligible voters;

27 (b) A method to verify the identity of registered voters who are sixteen (16) and

1 seventeen (17) years of age, which shall conform as nearly as possible to the
2 methods used for all other eligible voters under this chapter, and may
3 include a valid photo identification issued by a public or private secondary
4 school located within the Commonwealth;

5 (c) A design of ballots on which voters who are sixteen (16) and seventeen (17)
6 years of age may vote for school board members; and

7 (d) Implementation of the provisions of this section in a manner compatible
8 with the administration of all other elections conducted in this
9 Commonwealth.

10 ➔Section 3. This Act shall apply to school board elections that occur on or after
11 January 1, 2028.