

**Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2020 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 440

Bill #: SB 44

Document ID #: 1851

Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to elections.

Sponsor: Senator Reginald L. Thomas

Unit of Government: City County Urban-County
Unified Local
 Charter County Consolidated Local Government

Office(s) Impacted: County Clerks

Requirement: Mandatory Optional

Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government

SB 44 creates a new section of KRS Chapter 117 to allow registered voters residing in counties with a populations of 90,000 or more to be able to vote at any designated voting location within the county as approved by the State Board of Elections upon petition by the county board of elections. The petition shall include the type and number of machines to be used at a location and the plan for additional workers at the locations.

Each location shall maintain separate precinct rosters for each precinct and voters shall cast their votes only on those ballots certified for their precinct. Subsequently, these locations must have the ability to scan ballots from each precinct within the county.

Precinct election officers shall meet the same requirements as officers at other locations except they are not required to reside in any specific precinct.

The voting location shall not replace a statutorily required location except as provided for herein and shall be located in an area with a concentration of voters working outside their

election precincts. Such concentrations may be reflective of business, commercial, or industrial areas where significant voters might commute to their work locales.

This would currently affect 9 counties eventually expanding to 12 counties by 2040 based on population projections obtained from the Kentucky State Data Center at the University of Louisville and reflected in the chart below:

2020		2025		2030		2035		2040	
Jefferson	790,010	Jefferson	815,058	Jefferson	837,477	Jefferson	857,013	Jefferson	875,459
Fayette	333,580	Fayette	354,318	Fayette	375,637	Fayette	397,513	Fayette	419,813
Kenton	169,386	Kenton	173,041	Kenton	176,039	Kenton	178,392	Boone	191,093
Boone	139,018	Boone	150,928	Boone	163,722	Boone	177,141	Warren	183,705
Warren	133,207	Warren	144,676	Warren	157,013	Warren	170,139	Kenton	180,412
Hardin	112,494	Hardin	118,413	Hardin	124,137	Hardin	129,638	Hardin	134,901
Daviess	102,033	Daviess	104,517	Daviess	106,676	Daviess	108,502	Daviess	110,129
Campbell	92,898	Madison	95,773	Madison	99,688	Madison	103,064	Madison	106,301
Madison	91,774	Campbell	93,427	Campbell	93,473	Bullitt	95,170	Oldham	99,124
				Bullitt	91,527	Campbell	93,028	Bullitt	98,245
						Oldham	90,346	Scott	97,745
								Campbell	92,192

The fiscal impact of SB 44 on these counties is expected to be significant if county boards of elections petition and receive approval from the State Board of Elections to implement county-wide voting options. The primary costs will depend on the number of machines the county puts into service. There will also be personnel costs regarding staffing and the related training necessary to staff the additional locations.

Per KRS 117.105, fiscal courts are responsible for purchasing or leasing voting machines to be used in regular, special, and primary elections. The approximate cost to purchase a voting machine is \$6,250. Within Franklin County, each precinct has two voting machines. Counties may purchase or lease voting machines through the sale of bonds or receipt of grant money.

Per KRS 117.045, each precinct is required to have 4 election officers (2 judges, 1 clerk, and 1 sheriff of election). Per statute, each election officer is paid a minimum of \$10 for attending a mandatory training session before Election Day and a minimum of \$60 per Election Day and mileage. Within Franklin County, election officers receive \$20 for training and \$145 for working on Election Day. KRS 117.343, does provide for reimbursement of 0.50 per registered voter to the counties for the cost of employing personnel necessary to conduct elections.

KRS 117.066 does currently allow for the precincts with a small number of voters to utilize voting facilities and election officers of larger precincts.

In the case of a precinct comprised of a small number of registered voters, the county board of elections may, pursuant to KRS 117.055, utilize the facilities of another precinct as a voting location. Additionally, the county board of elections may petition the State Board of Elections to allow the precinct election officers of the larger precinct to serve as precinct election officers for the precinct that is the subject of the petition.

The Secretary of State states that a major issue with this legislation is the cost involved in having county-wide ballots available at additional locations.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

Part II refers to the bill as introduced.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Kentucky Data Center, Secretary of State; Franklin County Clerk

Preparer: Wendell F. Butler **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 1/28/20