

1 AN ACT relating to elections.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 117.035 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) There shall be a county board of elections, which shall, at the direction and under
5 the supervision of the State Board of Elections, administer the election laws and the
6 registration and purgation of voters within the county.
- 7 (2) (a) The county board of elections shall consist of the county clerk, the sheriff,
8 and two (2) members appointed by the State Board of Elections not later than
9 July 1 following the election of persons to statewide office, for a term of four
10 (4) years and until their successors are appointed.
- 11 (b) The sheriff shall not serve on the county board of elections during any year ~~in~~
12 ~~which~~ he or she is a candidate, but he or she may~~shall~~ recommend that a
13 deputy sheriff be~~to the board~~ a temporary replacement to serve in his or her
14 place. If the sheriff cannot serve because he or she is sick, injured,
15 incapacitated, or otherwise unavailable~~incapacitated~~, he or she may
16 recommend a deputy sheriff or other temporary replacement to serve in his or
17 her place until the sheriff may resume his or her duties or a vacancy in office
18 is declared.
- 19 (c) The county clerk may, at his or her option, continue to serve on the county
20 board of elections during a year in which he or she is a candidate. If the
21 county clerk elects not to serve, he or she shall recommend a temporary
22 replacement to serve in his or her place. If the county clerk cannot serve
23 because he or she is sick, injured, or otherwise incapacitated, he or she may
24 recommend a temporary replacement to serve in his or her place until the
25 county clerk may resume his or her duties or a vacancy in office is declared.
- 26 (d) 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 61.080, service on the county
27 board of elections shall be compatible with the holding of any other

- 1 county, urban-county government, charter county, consolidated local
2 government, unified local government, or city office.
- 3 2. The members shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age, qualified
4 voters in the county from which they are appointed, and shall not have
5 been convicted of any election law offense.
- 6 3. One (1) member shall be appointed from a list of five (5) names
7 submitted by the county executive committee of each political party as
8 defined in KRS 118.015. If there are two (2) or more contending
9 executive committees of the same political party in any county, the one
10 recognized by the written certificate of the chair~~chairman~~ of the state
11 central committee of the political party shall be the one authorized to
12 submit the lists.
- 13 4. If the State Board of Elections does not receive the list as required by
14 subparagraph 3. of this paragraph for each political party for each county
15 by the deadline established in paragraph (a) of this subsection or within
16 one (1) month of a vacancy, then the chair of the state central
17 committees for the political parties may submit lists of five (5) names of
18 qualified residents from the remaining counties by August 1 following
19 the election of persons to statewide office or within two (2) months of a
20 vacancy.
- 21 5. If the State Board of Elections does not receive a list from either the
22 county executive committee under subparagraph 3. of this paragraph or
23 the chair of the state executive committee under subparagraph 4. of this
24 paragraph, then the State Board of Elections shall appoint a qualified
25 resident from the county at its next regularly scheduled meeting in
26 September following the election of persons to statewide office or
27 within three (3) months of a vacancy.

- 1 6. A member appointed by the State Board of Elections may be removed
2 by the State Board of Elections for cause.
- 3 7. A member appointed by the State Board of Elections may be removed
4 by the State Board of Elections upon a request approved by a two-thirds
5 (2/3) vote of the full membership of the county executive committee that
6 submitted the member's name. The county executive shall provide
7 conclusive evidence of the committee's membership and evidence of the
8 committee's two-thirds (2/3) vote before the State Board of Elections
9 removes any member appointed by the State Board of Elections.
- 10 8. If an appointee is temporarily unable to act, a temporary appointee shall
11 be named by the State Board of Elections. A temporary appointee shall
12 serve until the original appointee notifies the State Board of Elections
13 that he or she is able to resume his or her term.
- 14 9. A member appointed by the State Board of Elections shall not serve on
15 the board if he or she is a candidate for public office, and the member
16 shall resign upon filing papers to become a candidate for public office or
17 shall be removed from office by the State Board of Elections. A member
18 who resigns or is removed because of his or her candidacy shall not
19 resume his or her term following the completion of the candidacy.
- 20 10. Vacancies and temporary vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as
21 provided for original appointments, and the person appointed to fill the
22 vacancy or temporary vacancy shall be of the same political party as his
23 or her predecessor.
- 24 (e) Compensation and payment of actual expenses of members shall be set by the
25 fiscal court either as an amount payable on an annual basis, or as an amount
26 payable on a per diem basis of not less than fifteen dollars (\$15) nor more than
27 one hundred dollars (\$100) for each day the board meets.

- 1 (3) A majority of the county board of elections shall constitute a quorum. The county
 2 clerk shall serve as chair~~[chairman]~~ of the meetings and may vote. In case of a tie,
 3 the chair~~[chairman]~~ may cast an additional vote. Records shall be kept of all
 4 proceedings, and the records shall be public and kept at the office of the county
 5 clerk.
- 6 (4) The county board of elections shall meet as follows:
- 7 (a) During years in which a primary or regular election is scheduled, the
 8 county board of elections shall meet at least once every other^[a] month and
 9 may meet more frequently if necessary upon the call of the chair or upon
 10 written agreement of two (2) or more members of the board. Notice of any
 11 specially called meeting shall be given as prescribed by KRS 61.823.
- 12 (b) During years in which no primary or regular election is scheduled, the
 13 county board of elections shall meet upon the call of the chair or upon
 14 written agreement of two (2) or more members of the board. Notice of any
 15 specially called meeting shall be given as prescribed by KRS 61.823.
- 16 (c) The county board of elections shall meet and stay in session on primary,
 17 regular election, and special election days to correct clerical errors and rule
 18 on questions regarding voter registration and may make to the election officers
 19 such certifications as may be necessary. On election days, appeals may be
 20 made to a Circuit Judge, but a ruling of the county board of elections shall be
 21 reversed only upon a finding that it was arbitrary and capricious.
- 22 (5) The county board of elections may employ, on a bipartisan basis, a staff sufficient
 23 to carry out the duties assigned to the county board of elections.
- 24 ➔Section 2. KRS 117.075 is amended to read as follows:
- 25 (1) Any qualified voter who has not been declared mentally disabled by a court of
 26 competent jurisdiction, and who, on account of age, disability or illness, is not able
 27 to appear at the polls on election day may vote by a mail-in absentee ballot pursuant

1 to subsection (2) of this section or in person pursuant to KRS 117.085.

2 (2) At least **fourteen (14)**~~[seven (7)]~~ days prior to the date of the election and prior to
 3 the close of normal business hours, a qualified voter may present to the county clerk
 4 by mail, **facsimile machine, electronic mail,** or in person, **at the option of the**
 5 **voter,** his or her **completed** application for a mail-in absentee ballot containing a
 6 verified statement that his or her inability to appear is due to age, disability, or
 7 illness. The request for the mail-in absentee ballot application may be made by
 8 telephone, facsimile machine, mail, **electronic mail,** or in person, **at the option of**
 9 **the voter.** Within three (3) days of receipt of the request, the county clerk shall mail
 10 to the voter a mail-in absentee ballot and envelopes, and the voter shall cast his or
 11 her vote in accordance with KRS 117.086. The mail-in absentee ballot shall be
 12 returned by the voter to the county clerk by mail.

13 (3) Ballots furnished pursuant to the provisions of this section shall include the slates of
 14 candidates and all candidates for which the voter is entitled to vote.

15 ➔Section 3. KRS 117.085 is amended to read as follows:

16 (1) All requests for an application for a mail-in absentee ballot may be transmitted by
 17 telephone, facsimile machine, by mail, by electronic mail, or in person, **at the**
 18 **option of the voter.** The county clerk shall transmit all applications for a mail-in
 19 absentee ballot **to the voter** by mail, **facsimile machine, electronic mail,**~~[to the~~
 20 ~~voter]~~ or in person, **at the option of the voter,** except as provided in paragraph (b) of
 21 this subsection. The mail-in absentee ballot application may be requested by the
 22 voter or the spouse, parents, or children of the voter, but shall be restricted to the
 23 use of the voter. **A completed mail-in absentee ballot application may be returned**
 24 **to the county clerk by mail, electronic mail, facsimile machine, or in person, at**
 25 **the option of the voter.** Except for qualified voters who apply pursuant to the
 26 requirements of KRS 117.075 and 117.077, those who are incarcerated in jail but
 27 have yet to be convicted, those who are uniformed-service voters as defined in KRS

1 117A.010 that are confined to a military base on election day, and persons who
2 qualify under paragraph (a)7. of this subsection, mail-in absentee ballots shall not
3 be mailed to a voter's residential address located in the county in which the voter is
4 registered. The county clerk shall provide a mail-in absentee ballot, two (2) official
5 envelopes for returning the mail-in absentee ballot, and instructions for voting to a
6 voter who presents a completed application for mail-in absentee ballot as provided
7 in this section and who is properly registered as stated in his or her mail-in absentee
8 ballot application.

9 (a) A qualified voter may apply to cast his or her vote by mail-in absentee ballot
10 if the ***completed*** application is received not later than the close of business
11 hours ***fourteen (14)***~~seven (7)~~ days before the election, and if the voter is:

- 12 1. Permitted to vote by a mail-in absentee ballot pursuant to KRS 117.075;
- 13 2. A resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter as defined in KRS
14 117A.010;
- 15 3. A student who temporarily resides outside the county of his or her
16 residence;
- 17 4. Incarcerated in jail and charged with a crime, but has not been convicted
18 of the crime;
- 19 5. Changing or has changed his or her place of residence to a different state
20 while the registration books are closed in the new state of residence
21 before an election of electors for President and Vice President of the
22 United States, in which case the voter shall be permitted to cast a mail-in
23 absentee ballot for electors for President and Vice President of the
24 United States only;
- 25 6. Temporarily residing outside the state but still eligible to vote in this
26 state;
- 27 7. Prevented from voting in person at the polls on election day and from

1 casting an in-person absentee ballot in the county clerk's office on all
2 days in-person absentee voting is conducted because his or her
3 employment location requires him or her to be absent from the county of
4 his or her residence all hours and all days in-person absentee voting is
5 conducted in the county clerk's office; or

6 8. A participant in the Secretary of State's crime victim address
7 confidentiality protection program as authorized by KRS 14.312.

8 (b) Residents of Kentucky who are covered voters as defined in KRS 117A.010
9 may apply for a mail-in absentee ballot by means of the federal post-card
10 application, which may be transmitted to the county clerk's office by mail, by
11 facsimile machine, or by means of the electronic transmission system
12 established under KRS 117A.030(4). The federal post-card application may be
13 used to register, reregister, and to apply for a mail-in absentee ballot. If the
14 federal post-card application is received at any time not less than fourteen
15 (14)~~seven (7)~~ days before the election, the county clerk shall affix his or her
16 seal to the application form upon receipt.

17 (c) In-person absentee voting shall be conducted in the county clerk's office or
18 other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the
19 State Board of Elections during normal business hours for at least the twelve
20 (12) working days before the election. A county board of elections may permit
21 in-person absentee voting to be conducted on a voting machine for a period
22 longer than the twelve (12) working days before the election.

23 (d) Any qualified voter in the county of his or her residence who is not permitted
24 to vote by a mail-in absentee ballot under paragraph (a) of this subsection who
25 will be absent from the county of his or her residence on any election day may,
26 at any time during normal business hours on those days in-person absentee
27 voting is conducted in the county clerk's office, make application in person to

1 the county clerk to cast an in-person absentee vote on a voting machine in the
2 county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections
3 and approved by the State Board of Elections.

4 (e) A qualified voter may, at any time during normal business hours on those days
5 in-person absentee voting is conducted in the county clerk's office, make
6 application in person to the county clerk to vote on a voting machine in the
7 county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections
8 and approved by the State Board of Elections, if the voter:

- 9 1. Is a resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter as defined in KRS
10 117A.010, who will be absent from the county of his or her residence on
11 any election day;
- 12 2. Is a student who temporarily resides outside the county of his or her
13 residence;
- 14 3. Has surgery, or whose spouse has surgery, scheduled that will require
15 hospitalization on election day;
- 16 4. Temporarily resides outside the state, but is still eligible to vote in this
17 state and will be absent from the county of his or her residence on any
18 election day;
- 19 5. Is a resident of Kentucky who is a uniformed-service voter as defined in
20 KRS 117A.010 confined to a military base on election day, learns of that
21 confinement within seven (7) days or less of an election, and is not
22 eligible for a mail-in absentee ballot under this subsection;
- 23 6. Is in her last trimester of pregnancy at the time she wishes to vote under
24 this paragraph. The application form for a voter under this subparagraph
25 shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections, which shall contain
26 the woman's sworn statement that she is in fact in her last trimester of
27 pregnancy at the time she wishes to vote; or

- 1 7. Has not been declared mentally disabled by a court of competent
2 jurisdiction and, on account of age, disability, or illness, is not able to
3 appear at the polls on election day.
- 4 (f) Voters who change their place of residence to a different state while the
5 registration books are closed in the new state of residence before a presidential
6 election shall be permitted to cast an in-person absentee ballot for President
7 and Vice President only, by making application in person to the county clerk
8 to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place
9 designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board
10 of Elections, up to the close of normal business hours on the day before the
11 election.
- 12 (g) Any member of the county board of elections, any precinct election officer
13 appointed to serve in a precinct other than that in which he or she is registered,
14 any alternate precinct election officer, any deputy county clerk, any staff for
15 the State Board of Elections, and any staff for the county board of elections
16 may vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place
17 designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board
18 of Elections, up to the close of normal business hours on the day before the
19 election. The application form for those persons shall be prescribed by the
20 State Board of Elections and, in the case of application by precinct election
21 officers, shall contain a verification of appointment signed by a member of the
22 county board of elections. If an alternate precinct election officer or a precinct
23 election officer appointed to serve in a precinct other than that in which he or
24 she is registered receives his or her appointment while in-person absentee
25 voting is being conducted in the county, the officer may vote on a voting
26 machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county
27 board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, up to the

1 close of normal business hours on the day before the election. Precinct
2 election officers' verification of appointment shall also contain the date of
3 appointment. The applications shall be restricted to the use of the voter only.

4 (h) The members of the county board of elections or their designees who provide
5 equal representation of both political parties may serve as precinct election
6 officers, without compensation, for all in-person absentee voting performed
7 on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by
8 the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections. If
9 the members of the county board of elections or their designees serve as
10 precinct election officers for the in-person absentee voting, they shall perform
11 the same duties and exercise the same authority as precinct election officers
12 who serve on the day of an election. If the members of the county board of
13 elections or their designees do not serve as precinct election officers for in-
14 person absentee voting, the county clerk or deputy county clerks shall
15 supervise the in-person absentee voting.

16 (i) Any individual qualified to appoint challengers for the day of an election may
17 also appoint challengers to observe all in-person absentee voting performed at
18 the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of
19 elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, and those challengers
20 may exercise the same privileges as challengers appointed for observing
21 voting on the day of an election at a regular polling place.

22 (2) The county clerk shall type the name of the voter permitted to vote by mail-in
23 absentee ballot on the mail-in absentee ballot application form for that person's use
24 and no other. The mail-in absentee ballot application form shall be in the form
25 prescribed by the State Board of Elections, shall bear the seal of the county clerk,
26 and shall contain the following information: name, residential address, precinct,
27 party affiliation, statement of the reason the person cannot vote in person on

1 election day, statement of where the voter shall be on election day, statement of
2 compliance with residency requirements for voting in the precinct, and the voter's
3 mailing address for a mail-in absentee ballot. The mail-in absentee ballot
4 application form shall be verified and signed by the voter. A notice of the actual
5 penalty provisions in KRS 117.995(2) and (5) shall be printed on the mail-in
6 absentee ballot application form.

7 (3) If the county clerk finds that the voter is properly registered as stated in his or her
8 mail-in absentee ballot application form and qualifies to receive a mail-in absentee
9 ballot by mail, he or she shall mail to the voter a mail-in absentee ballot, two (2)
10 official envelopes for returning the mail-in absentee ballot, and instructions for
11 voting. The county clerk shall complete a postal form for a certificate of mailing for
12 mail-in absentee ballots mailed within the fifty (50) states, and it shall be stamped
13 by the postal service when the mail-in absentee ballots are mailed. A mail-in
14 absentee ballot may be transmitted by facsimile machine or by the electronic
15 transmission system established under KRS 117A.030(4) to a covered voter as
16 defined in KRS 117A.010. The covered voter shall be notified of the options for
17 transmittal of the mail-in absentee ballot, and the mail-in absentee ballot shall be
18 transmitted by the method chosen for receipt by the resident of Kentucky who is a
19 covered voter.

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

27 (5) The county clerk shall cause mail-in absentee ballots to be printed fifty (50) days

1 prior to each primary or regular election, and forty-five (45) days prior to a special
2 election.

3 (6) The outer envelope shall bear the words "Absentee Ballot" and the address and
4 official title of the county clerk and shall provide space for the voter's signature,
5 voting address, precinct number, and signatures of two (2) witnesses if the voter
6 signs the form with the use of a mark instead of the voter's signature. A detachable
7 flap on the inner envelope shall provide space for the voter's signature, voting
8 address, precinct number, signatures of two (2) witnesses if the voter signs the form
9 with the use of a mark instead of the voter's signature and notice of penalty provided
10 in KRS 117.995(5). The county clerk shall type the voter's address and precinct
11 number in the upper left hand corner of the outer envelope and of the detachable
12 flap on the inner envelope immediately below the blank space for the voter's
13 signature. The inner envelope shall be blank. The county clerk shall retain the mail-
14 in ballot application form and the postal form required by subsection (3) of this
15 section for twenty-two (22) months after the election.

16 (7) Any person who has received a mail-in absentee ballot by mail but who knows at
17 least seven (7) days before the date of the election that he or she will be in his or her
18 county of residence on election day and who has not voted pursuant to the
19 provisions of KRS 117.086 shall cancel his or her mail-in absentee ballot and vote
20 in person. The voter shall return the mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerk's
21 office no later than seven (7) days prior to the date of the election. Upon the return
22 of the mail-in absentee ballot, the county clerk shall mark on the outer envelope of
23 the sealed ballot or the unmarked ballot the words "Canceled because voter
24 appeared to vote in person." Sealed envelopes so marked shall not be opened. The
25 county clerk shall remove the voter's name from the list of persons who were sent
26 mail-in absentee ballots, and the voter may vote in the precinct in which he or she is
27 properly registered.

1 (8) (a) Any voter qualified for a mail-in absentee ballot who does not receive a
2 requested mail-in absentee ballot within a reasonable amount of time
3 ~~may~~^{shall} contact the county clerk, who shall reissue a second mail-in
4 absentee ballot. The county clerk shall keep a record of the mail-in absentee
5 ballots issued and returned by mail, and the in-person absentee voting that is
6 performed on the voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place
7 designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board
8 of Elections, to verify that only the first voted ballot to be returned by the
9 voter is counted. Upon the return of any ballot after the first ballot is returned,
10 the county clerk shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed ballot the
11 words "Canceled because ballot reissued."

12 (b) Any voter qualified for a mail-in absentee ballot who has applied for, but
13 not received, a requested mail-in absentee ballot may appear in person on
14 election day, and he or she shall sign a written oath as to his or her
15 qualifications on the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections. The
16 county clerk shall remove the voter's name from the list of persons who
17 were sent mail-in absentee ballots and provide the voter with written
18 authorization to vote at the precinct, and the voter may vote in the precinct
19 in which he or she is properly registered. The oaths signed in accordance
20 with this paragraph shall be attended and processed as provided in KRS
21 117.245.

22 (c) Any voter qualified for a mail-in absentee ballot who has applied for, but
23 not received, a requested mail-in absentee ballot may appear in person
24 during the days that in-person absentee votes are cast on the voting
25 machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county
26 board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections. The voter
27 shall sign a written oath as to his or her qualifications on the form

1 *prescribed by the State Board of Elections. The county clerk shall remove*
2 *the voter's name from the list of persons who were sent mail-in absentee*
3 *ballots, and the voter shall be allowed to vote on an in-person absentee*
4 *ballot. The oaths signed in accordance with this paragraph shall be*
5 *attended and processed as provided in KRS 117.245.*

6 (9) Any covered voter as defined in KRS 117A.010 who has received a mail-in
7 absentee ballot but who knows that he or she will be in the county on election day
8 and who has not voted pursuant to the provisions of KRS 117.086 shall cancel his
9 or her mail-in absentee ballot and vote in person. The voter shall return the mail-in
10 absentee ballot to the county clerk's office on or before election day. Upon the
11 return of the mail-in absentee ballot, the county clerk shall mark on the outer
12 envelope of the sealed mail-in absentee ballot or the unmarked mail-in absentee
13 ballot the words "Canceled because voter appeared to vote in person." Sealed
14 envelopes so marked shall not be opened. If the covered voter is unable to return the
15 mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerk's office on or before election day, at the
16 time he or she votes in person, he or she shall sign a written oath as to his or her
17 qualifications on the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections pursuant to
18 KRS 117.245. The county clerk shall remove the voter's name from the list of
19 persons who were sent mail-in absentee ballots, provide the voter with written
20 authorization to vote at the precinct, and the voter may vote in the precinct in which
21 he or she is properly registered.

22 (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to
23 61.884, the information contained in an application for a mail-in absentee ballot
24 shall not be made public until after the close of business hours on the election day
25 for which the application applies. This subsection shall not prohibit at any time the
26 disclosure, upon request, of the total number of applications for mail-in absentee
27 ballots that have been filed, or the disclosure to the Secretary of State or the State

1 Board of Elections, if requested or if otherwise required by law, of any information
2 in an application for a mail-in absentee ballot.

3 ➔Section 4. KRS 117.145 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) At least forty-five (45)~~fifteen (15)~~ days before any special election, and at least
5 fifty (50) days before any primary or regular election, the county clerk of each
6 county shall cause to be printed and ready for use ballot labels for each candidate
7 who, and each question which, is entitled to be voted upon in such election. The
8 ballot labels shall be printed on clear white paper or other material which shall be
9 furnished by the printer. They shall be printed in black ink, in plain, clear type
10 clearly legible to a person with normal vision, and shall be of a size to fit the ballot
11 frames. The labels shall include the necessary party designations.

12 (2) Each county clerk shall have printed a sufficient number of paper absentee ballots.
13 The absentee ballot shall be used for voting by absent voters; by precinct officers
14 who have been assigned to a precinct other than their own; by members of a county
15 board of elections; by voters so disabled by age, infirmity or illness as to be unable
16 to appear at the polls; and for voting in an emergency situation. The ballot stubs
17 shall be consecutively numbered and the county board shall keep a record, by
18 number, of all absentee ballots used for any of the purposes listed herein.

19 (3) No later than the Friday preceding a special or regular election, the county clerk
20 shall equip the voting machines with the necessary supplies for the purpose of
21 write-in votes. The county clerk shall also attach a pencil or pen to the voting
22 machine for write-in purposes.

23 (4) If supplemental paper ballots have been approved as provided in KRS 118.215, the
24 county clerk shall cause to be printed a sufficient number of paper ballots for the
25 registered voters of each precinct. The paper ballots shall have stubs which are
26 numbered consecutively. The quality of paper on which the supplemental paper
27 ballots are printed shall be determined by regulations promulgated by the secretary

1 of the Finance and Administration Cabinet.

2 ➔Section 5. KRS 117.265 is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) A voter may, at any regular or special election, cast a write-in vote for any person
4 qualified as provided in subsection (2) or (3) of this section, whose name does not
5 appear upon the ballot label for any office, by writing the name of his or her choice
6 upon the appropriate device for the office being voted on provided on the voting
7 machine as required by KRS 117.125. Any candidate for city, county, urban-county,
8 consolidated local government, charter county government, or unified local
9 government office who is defeated in a partisan or nonpartisan primary shall be
10 ineligible as a candidate for the same office in the regular election. Any voter
11 utilizing an absentee ballot for a regular or special election may write in a vote for
12 any eligible person whose name does not appear upon the ballot, by writing the
13 name of his or her choice under the office.

14 (2) Write-in votes shall be counted only for candidates for election to office who have
15 filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate with the Secretary of State or
16 county clerk, depending on the office being sought, on or before the fourth Friday in
17 October preceding the date of the regular election and not later than the second
18 Friday before the date of a special election. In the case of a special election
19 administered under KRS 118.730, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate
20 shall be filed at least forty-nine (49)~~[twenty-eight (28)]~~ days before the day of the
21 election. The declaration of intent shall be filed no earlier than the first Wednesday
22 after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year the office will
23 appear on the ballot, and no later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing when
24 filed on the last date on which papers may be filed. The declaration of intent shall
25 be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.

26 (3) A person shall not be eligible as a write-in candidate:

27 (a) For more than one (1) office in a regular or special election; or

1 (b) If his or her name appears upon the ballot label for any office, except that the
2 candidate may file a notice of withdrawal prior to filing an intent to be a write-
3 in candidate for office when a vacancy in a different office occurs because of:

- 4 1. Death;
- 5 2. Disqualification to hold the office sought;
- 6 3. Severe disabling condition which arose after the nomination; or
- 7 4. The nomination of an unopposed candidate.

8 (4) Persons who wish to run for President and Vice-President shall file a declaration of
9 intent to be a write-in candidate, along with a list of presidential electors pledged to
10 those candidates, with the Secretary of State on or before the fourth Friday in
11 October preceding the date of the regular election for those offices. The declaration
12 of intent shall be filed no earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in
13 November of the year preceding the year the office will appear on the ballot, and no
14 later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing when filed on the last date on which
15 papers may be filed. Write-in votes cast for the candidates whose names appear on
16 the ballot shall apply to the slate of pledged presidential electors, whose names shall
17 not appear on the ballot.

18 (5) The county clerk shall provide to the precinct election officers certified lists of those
19 persons who have filed declarations of intent as provided in subsections (2) and (3)
20 of this section. Only write-in votes cast for qualified candidates shall be counted.

21 (6) Two (2) election officers of opposing parties shall upon the request of any voter
22 instruct the voter on how to cast a write-in vote.

23 ➔Section 6. KRS 117A.060 is amended to read as follows:

24 (1) A covered voter who is registered to vote in the Commonwealth of Kentucky may
25 apply for a military-overseas ballot using either the regular absentee ballot
26 application in use in the voter's jurisdiction under KRS 117.085 or the federal
27 postcard application or the application's electronic equivalent.

- 1 (2) A covered voter who is not registered to vote in the Commonwealth of Kentucky
2 may use a federal postcard application or the application's electronic equivalent to
3 apply simultaneously to register to vote under KRS 117A.050 and for a military-
4 overseas ballot.
- 5 (3) The Secretary of State shall ensure that the electronic transmission system described
6 in KRS 117A.030(4) is capable of accepting the submission of both a federal
7 postcard application and any other approved electronic military-overseas ballot
8 application sent to the appropriate election official. The covered voter may use the
9 electronic transmission system or any other approved method to apply for a
10 military-overseas ballot.
- 11 (4) A covered voter may use the declaration accompanying a federal write-in absentee
12 ballot as an application for a military-overseas ballot simultaneously with the
13 submission of the federal write-in absentee ballot, if the declaration is received by
14 the appropriate election official by the close of business hours fourteen (14)~~seven~~
15 ~~(7)~~ days before the election.
- 16 (5) To receive the benefits of this chapter, a covered voter shall inform the appropriate
17 election official that the voter is a covered voter. Methods of informing the
18 appropriate election official that a voter is a covered voter include:
- 19 (a) The use of a federal postcard application or federal write-in absentee ballot;
20 and
- 21 (b) The use of the electronic transmission system established under KRS
22 117A.030(4).
- 23 (6) This chapter does not preclude a covered voter from voting using the regular
24 absentee ballot provisions under KRS 117.075, 117.077, 117.085, and 117.086.
- 25 ➔Section 7. KRS 117A.070 is amended to read as follows:
- 26 An application for a military-overseas ballot is timely if received by the close of business
27 hours fourteen (14)~~seven (7)~~ days before the election. An application for a military-

- 1 overseas ballot for a primary, whether or not timely, is effective as an application for a
- 2 military-overseas ballot for the regular election.