

# KENTUCKY

## VOTER REGISTRATION

These resources are current as of 7/30/14. We do our best to periodically update these resources and welcome any comments or questions regarding new developments in the law. Please email us at [advocacy@afj.org](mailto:advocacy@afj.org).

### What's New in This Guide

The following changes/additions have been made since the previous version of this guide:

- There have been no substantive changes to the law since the previous version of this guide (12/8/2011)

This guide summarizes key aspects of laws governing voter registration on the *state* level. It is not intended to provide legal advice or to serve as a substitute for legal advice.

In some jurisdictions, city and/or county regulations may also apply to certain political activities. Check with the appropriate local jurisdiction before undertaking any activity.

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## DEADLINES FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

### Deadline for registering

Voter registration cards must be received at the local county clerk's office (or a designated location below) no later than 28 days before the election (Primary or General). [KRS 116.045](#).

- If the applicant mails the voter registration card and it is postmarked before the registration books are closed, it is considered timely submitted.

A voter may also register at the following locations no later than 28 days before the election (Primary or General):

- Voter Registration Agencies other than county clerk's office – these agencies are designated as voter registration agencies in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. A voter may register at the following agency and the agency is then responsible for submitting the completed registration card to the county clerk within five days.
  - K-TAP office;
  - Food stamp office;
  - Medicaid office;
  - WIC, and state-funded offices serving those with disabilities, if you are a client of those offices; and
  - Armed Forces recruitment offices, if you are a prospective member of the armed forces, [KRS 116.048](#);
  - Driver's license office, if you are applying for or renewing your license, [KRS 116.045](#);
  - High schools, if you are a student or staff member, [KRS 116.046](#);
  - Kentucky mail-in Voter Registration Card (must be postmarked by the 28<sup>th</sup> day before the election); or
  - Voter registration drive (card must be received by county clerk no later than 28 days before election).
- A voter can obtain information about his or her precinct location and legislative districts by using the State Board of Elections' [Voter Information Center](#). This tool will enable a voter to confirm he/she is registered to vote and the location of the polling place.

### Does the state offer Election Day registration?

No.

**Does the state allow by-mail registration?**

Yes. A mailed voter registration card must be *received* by the local county clerk no later than 28 days before the election or postmarked before close of registration books. [Obtain a registration card from the State Board of Election's website](#); upon receipt of the voter registration card, the county clerk will send an acknowledgement card verifying your registration, listing the registrant's precinct name and location or any problems with the registration. [KRS 116.045](#).

**May a voter register before turning 18?**

Yes. A person who will turn 18 by the date of the general election may register to vote and actually vote in the primary preceding the general election, as well as the general election. [KRS 116.055](#).

**VOTER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

In order to register to vote, a person must be:

- a U.S. Citizen;
  - 18 years of age by the date of the General Election;
  - Resident of Kentucky and precinct in which he or she offers to vote not less than 28 days before the election;
  - Not be a convicted felon (or, if so, have civil rights restored by executive pardon);
  - Not have been judged mentally incompetent in a court of law and have voting rights removed; and
  - Not claim the right to vote anywhere outside Kentucky.
- [Kentucky Constitution § 145](#); [KRS 116.025](#).

**PHOTO ID REQUIREMENTS**

**Required for registration?**

No.

**Required for voting? If so, what kinds of ID?**

- No, but all voters must produce identification or be known by a precinct officer prior to voting.
- Voters can present any one of the following forms of identification:
  - a. verification by personal acquaintance of precinct officer;
  - b. Driver's license;
  - c. credit card;
  - d. Social Security card;

- e. any identification with photograph and signature; or any identification issued by the county and approved by the State Board of Elections.

[KRS 117.227](#); [31 KAR 4:010](#).

**Required to provide proof of citizenship to register and/or vote?**

- No. Kentucky does not require a voter to provide proof of citizenship; however, the applicant does have to swear that he/she is a US citizen when they sign the voter registration card.

**VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES**

**Does Kentucky accept the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) registration forms? Any restrictions?**

Yes. Kentucky accepts the mail-in application form prescribed by the Federal Election Commission pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

[KRS 116.045\(4\)](#).

**May groups “cage” completed registration forms (i.e. ask voters to mail them back to the group, which will then send them to the appropriate elections registrar(s))? If so, may they copy the forms or any of data included on them? If so, any deadlines for sending the completed forms to the state or to local officials?**

No statute, rule, or regulation currently authorizes groups to, or disallows groups from, caging completed registration forms.

The completed forms must be received in the county clerk’s office no later than 28 days before Election Day in order for the voter’s name to appear on the incoming voting list for that election.

No statute or rule exists that prevents a group from copying the completed forms. However, all new voters are required to provide their Social Security number on the card. If the forms are to be copied, it would be wise to “black out” the Social Security number as it can create identity theft issues and may be contrary to other identity theft laws in the state. The State Board of Elections also recommends that the group ask permission to copy the information.

The State Board of Elections has additional information on conducting voter registration drives on its website here:

<http://elect.ky.gov/voterinfo/Pages/checklistforvoterregistrationdrive.aspx>

**May a group “pre-fill” some or all of the form (e.g. name, address) before sending/giving it to a would-be registrant?**

No statute, rule, or regulation precludes an organization from filling in information

in the registration form before giving the form to a would-be registrant.

**May voter registration drive workers assist a voter in completing their registration form?**

No statute, rule, or regulation precludes a voter registration drive worker from assisting a voter in completing his or her registration form.

However, it is a Class D felony to fraudulently or unlawfully alter the registration card. [KRS 119.035](#).

**Does Kentucky require training of voter registration workers?**

No. The State Board of Elections recommends that workers review and understand the voter registration checklist found on the website, [www.elect.ky.gov](http://www.elect.ky.gov). If a worker has additional questions after reviewing the checklist, it is recommended to call the State Board of Elections.

**Does Kentucky require registration of voter registration drives? If so, for by-mail drives too?**

No. Kentucky does not require any registration or pre-approval to hold a drive.

**Any requirement that a group must provide information to voters about how they may contact the group to determine the status of their registration?**

No statute, rule, or regulation requires a group to provide information to voters about how the voter may contact the group to determine the status of their registration.

The State Board does encourage the group to inform the registrant that he/she will receive an acknowledgement form from the county clerk listing the precinct and location of the polling place.

**May a group pay voter registration drive workers? If so, is it permissible to pay on a per-voter-registered basis?**

Kentucky law permits paying workers a fixed salary or by the hour, but prohibits paying workers by the number of voters he/she registers.

It is a Class B misdemeanor to pay for the number of cards collected. [KRS 119.207](#).

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES

### Secretary of State

700 Capitol Avenue  
Suite 152  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-3490  
FAX: (502) 564-5687  
[www.sos.ky.gov](http://www.sos.ky.gov)

### State Board of Elections

140 Walnut Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Phone: (502) 573-7100  
Fax: (502) 573-4369  
or (502) 696-1952  
[www.elect.ky.gov](http://www.elect.ky.gov)

### Registry of Election Finance

140 Walnut Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Phone: (502) 573-2226  
Fax: (502) 573-5622  
[www.kref.ky.gov](http://www.kref.ky.gov)

### List of County Clerks:

<http://elect.ky.gov/countyclerks.htm>

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## FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

**For assistance regarding these resources or for more information about federal law, please contact our attorney one-on-one counseling service:**

Email: [advocacy@afj.org](mailto:advocacy@afj.org)  
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