COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
MICHAEL G. ADAMS

TO: POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

FROM: MICHAEL G. ADAMS, SECRETARY OF STATE

Candidates for the following offices shall file with the county clerk to attain ballot access and should contact the county clerk of their county of residence for filing procedures and requirements: Circuit Clerk, County Judge Executive, County Clerk, County Attorney, Sheriff, Jailer, Coroner, Property Valuation Administrator, Surveyor, Magistrate/Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner, Constable, Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, Mayor, City Legislative Body, and Board of Education.

Candidates for the following offices shall file with the Office of the Secretary of State: President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, United States Senator, United States Representative in Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, State Senator, State Representative, Supreme Court Justice, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Circuit Judge, District Judge, and Commonwealth Attorney.

Following are guidelines for candidates filing with the Office of the Secretary of State:

1. Complete all applicable blanks on the filing form. The Office of the Secretary of State will make the necessary copies for distribution.
2. If the filing form requires notarization, the candidates and signers must have their signatures acknowledged by a Notary Public and the expiration date of the notary's commission must be stated.
3. Checks should be made payable to the Kentucky State Treasurer.
4. Candidates may file in person or by mail at the following address:

   Office of the Secretary of State
   Election Division
   1025 Capital Center Drive
   Suite 201
   Frankfort, KY 40601

Questions relating to campaign finance procedures and requirements should be directed to the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance at (502) 573-2226. In addition, KREF's website, http://www.kref.ky.gov, provides for the downloading of required reporting forms and a book titled Guide to Campaign Finance.
Questions relating to campaign finance matters for federal candidates should be directed to the Federal Election Commission at 1-800-424-9530.

If our Office may be of further assistance to you, please contact our election staff at (502) 564-3490 or by email at sos.elections@ky.gov.

OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
1025 CAPITAL CENTER DRIVE
SUITE 201
FRANKFORT, KY 40601

PHONE: (502) 564-3490
WEBSITE: www.sos.ky.gov
EMAIL: sos.elections@ky.gov

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
REPUBLICAN and DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES
PRIMARY ELECTION

The Office of Auditor of Public Accounts will appear on the 2027 ballot.

Notarized Signatures Required:	Candidate's signature and two (2) registered voters of the same party from the district or jurisdiction from which candidate seeks nomination.

Earliest date to affix signatures	**November 4, 2026**
Earliest date to file	**November 4, 2026**
Latest date to file (4:00 p.m., local time)	**January 8, 2027**

Filing Form SBE 66	Notification and Declaration
Filing Form KREF-001	Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Optional Request for Reporting Exemption
Filing Fee	$500.00
Filing Official	Secretary of State

Political Party Definition: A "political party" is an affiliation or organization of electors representing a political policy and having a constituted authority for its government and regulation, and whose candidate received at least ten percent (10%) of the total vote cast at the last preceding election at which presidential electors were voted for. KRS 118.015.

Republican and Democratic Party candidates attain primary ballot access by filing with the Secretary of State a Notification and Declaration.

As mandated by KRS 118.125, the Notification and Declaration shall be signed by the candidate and by not less than two (2) registered voters of the same party from the district or jurisdiction from which the candidate seeks nomination; shall include a declaration sworn to by the candidate that he or she possesses all the constitutional and statutory requirements of the office for which the candidate has filed; shall be subscribed and sworn to before an officer authorized to administer an oath by the candidate and by two voters making the declaration and signing the candidate's petition for office.

Only persons who are qualified under the provisions of KRS 116.055 to vote in any primary election for the candidates for nomination by the party at whose hands he seeks the nomination shall have his or her name printed on the official ballot of his or her party for an office to which he or she is eligible in that primary.

Establishing Campaign Account: For information regarding campaign contribution and expenditure reporting requirements received or expended in the year before the year the candidate appears on the ballot, contact the **Registry of Election Finance** at (502) 573-2226.

Please Note: All information contained in this packet is subject to change per Kentucky Revised Statutes.

NOTIFICATION AND DECLARATION

(Republican and Democratic Candidates Filing for Primary Election)

This Space for Filing Officer Only

Of _____
(Legible printed name of candidate)

_____
(Post Office Box Address or Email Address)

To _____ for nomination to the office of _____ _____
(County Clerk or Secretary of State, as case may be) (Office sought) (District number, if applicable)

For the purpose of having my name placed on the official primary election ballot as a candidate for nomination by the _____ Party, I, _____ do solemnly swear that
(Name of candidate in full as desired on ballot as provided in KRS 118.129)

my date of birth is _____, that my residence
(Month/Day/Year)

is _____ KY _____,
(Residential Address) (City, if applicable) (County) (Zip)

that my mailing address, if different, is _____ KY _____,
(City) (Zip)

and that I am a registered _____ voter; that I believe in the principles of the
(Party)

_____ Party, and intend to support its principles and policies; that I meet all the statutory and constitutional qualifications for the office which I am seeking; that if nominated as a candidate of such party at the ensuing election, I will accept the nomination and not withdraw for reasons other than those stated in KRS 118.105(3); that I will not knowingly violate any election law or any law relating to corrupt and fraudulent practice in campaigns or elections in this state, and if finally elected I will qualify for the office.

_____
(Signature of Candidate)

Subscribed and sworn to before me by _____ this ____ day of _____, 20 ___.
(Name of Candidate) (Month)

_____ _____ _____
(Signature of Notary or Officer Administering the Oath) (Title of Officer – if Notary, title is Notary) (Commission Expiration)

We, _____ and _____ do solemnly
(Legible printed name of Voter) (Legible printed name of Voter)

swear that we are registered voters and members of the same Party and are from the district or jurisdiction from which the candidate seeks nomination; and that we believe _____ to be qualified
(Name of Candidate – Please Type or Print)

to fill the office of _____.
(Office sought)

_____ _____ KY _____
(Signature of Voter) (Residential Address) (City) (County) (Zip)

_____ _____ KY _____
(Signature of Voter) (Residential Address) (City) (County) (Zip)

Subscribed and sworn to before me by _____ and _____
(Name of Voter) (Name of Voter)

this _____ day of _____, 20 ____.
(Month)

_____ _____ _____
(Signature of Notary or Officer Administering the Oath) (Title of Officer – if Notary, title is Notary) (Commission Expiration)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION

DAVID K. KAREM (RET.)
CHAIR

CRIT LUALLEN
VICE CHAIR

JUSTICE DANIEL J. VENTERS (RET.)
DAVID S. SAMFORD
RICHARD H. CAMPBELL

CAPITAL COMPLEX EAST
1025 CAPITAL CENTER DRIVE, SUITE #104
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
(502) 564-7954
FAX: (502)-695-5939
HTTPS://ETHICS.KY.GOV/

SUSAN STOKLEY CLARY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUCHETA MEENA MOHANTY
GENERAL COUNSEL

JESSICA ROBLES
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

NOTICE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION FOR CANDIDATES FILING FOR CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES

2026 Calendar Year Statement of Financial Disclosure-DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2027

- Candidates for **Constitutional Offices**, (**Governor**, **Lieutenant Governor**, **Secretary of State**, **Attorney General**, **Treasurer**, **Commissioner of Agriculture**, **Auditor of Public Accounts**), must file a 2026 Statement of Financial Disclosure (SFD) with the Executive Branch Ethics Commission on or before **February 15, 2027**. KRS 11A.050(1)(d). If you have questions, please contact the Commission immediately for clarification at 502.564.7954.

- E-file your 2026 Statement of Financial Disclosure at http://ethics.ky.gov/. Look for the Statement of Financial Disclosure link at the bottom right of the screen. Once you click SUBMIT, your Statement of Financial Disclosure will be submitted to the Commission, and you will be able to print a copy for your records as proof of your filing.

- You may also access the form by clicking on the "State Employee Resources" button on the EBEC website, http://ethics.ky.gov. Complete, sign, and print the form and send it by:

  EMAIL: EthicsFiler@ky.gov

  Or **U.S. Mail or Messenger Mail to**:

  Executive Branch Ethics Commission, Capital Complex East

  1025 Capital Center Drive, Suite 104

  Frankfort, KY 40601

KENTUCKY REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE

Thomas P. O'Brien, III, Chairman
Adrian M. Mendiondo, Vice-Chair
Richard Clayton Larkin, Member
H. David Wallace, Member
J. Bissell Roberts, Member
Laura Marie Bennett, Member
Jessica A. Burke, Member

140 Walnut Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-3240
Phone: (502) 573-2226
Fax: (502) 573-5622

John R. Steffen
Executive Director

Leslie M. Saunders
General Counsel

NOTICE AND INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL CANDIDATES

- **Mandatory electronic reporting** – All candidates are required to **electronically** submit all required campaign finance reports to the Registry of Election Finance.

- **Candidates MUST first submit a Statement of Spending Intent electronically to the Registry** – In order to comply with the mandatory electronic filing requirements, **ALL** candidates for office in Kentucky must create an account in the Registry's electronic filing system and submit a Statement of Spending Intent electronically to the Registry **before** starting their campaigns. Please note that candidates must complete a separate Intent for each election (candidates who filed for the Primary and move forward to the General must sign off on a new Intent for the General).

- **Rule 4.4 from the Kentucky Code of Judicial Conduct requires all candidates seeking judicial office who intend to raise campaign funds for that purpose establish a candidate campaign committee** – The Registry's electronic filing system provides judicial candidates with the opportunity to select this option when submitting their Statements of Spending Intent.

- **Candidates are no longer required to submit a hard copy of their "KREF 001 Form" with the Secretary of State or County Clerk** – The requirement that candidates print a hard copy of the KREF 001 form to accompany their ballot access form when the candidates file for office with the Secretary of State or County Clerk was eliminated. Instead, the Secretary of State or County Clerk will forward a copy of candidates' ballot access forms to the Registry in a timely manner.

- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING THE REGISTRY'S ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM** – In order to initiate the filing process, candidates should go to **https://kref.ky.gov**, click on the "**EFILE**" button on the Registry's homepage, and follow the instructions found there for creating their account and submitting all their filings electronically. Candidates should not begin to raise or spend money until their Statements of Spending Intent are submitted to the Registry.

- **Please note that the County Clerks CANNOT file this form for candidates** – It is the responsibility of the candidates to create an account and electronically submit their Statements of Spending Intent and their finance reports with the Registry. Candidates have five days from the time they file to run for office to submit their Statements of Spending Intent to the Registry.

- **ASSISTANCE** – Candidates needing assistance with the electronic filing process should call the Registry at 502-573-2226. We are here to help.