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

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE
INDEPENDENT, POLITICAL GROUP and POLITICAL ORGANIZATION CANDIDATES GENERAL ELECTION

The Office of Commissioner of Agriculture will appear on the 2027 general election ballot.

Signatures Required:	Candidate's signature and the signature of 5,000 registered voters from the district or jurisdiction in which candidate seeks nomination.

Earliest date to file Statement-of-Candidacy	**November 4, 2026**
Latest date to file Statement-of-Candidacy (4:00 p.m., local time)	**April 1, 2027**
Earliest date to affix signatures and file Nominating Petition	**November 4, 2026**
Latest date to file Nominating Petition (4:00 p.m., local time)	**June 8, 2027**

Filing Form SBE 59A	Statement-of-Candidacy
Filing Form SBE 59 and 59-2	Nominating Petition
Filing Form KREF-001	Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Optional Request for Reporting Exemption
Filing Fee	$500.00
Filing Official	Secretary of State

Political Organization Definition: "Political organization" means a political group not constituting a political party within the meaning of subsection (1) of this section but whose candidate received two percent (2%) or more of the vote of the state at the last preceding election for presidential electors. KRS 118.015.

Political Group Definition: "Political group" means a political group not constituting a political party or a political organization within the meaning of subsections (1) and (10) of this section. KRS 118.015.

Independent, Political Group and Political Organization candidates attain general election ballot access for the office of Commissioner of Agriculture by filing a Statement-of-Candidacy and a Nominating Petition with the Secretary of State. The filing of the Statement-of-Candidacy is a prerequisite to file the petition of nomination. All candidates except those candidates who have been nominated by any qualified political organization must file a Nominating Petition.

The Statement-of-Candidacy form must be filed with the Secretary of State not later than **April 1st** preceding the general election. There is **NO** filing fee for filing the signed Statement-of-Candidacy and failure to file the Statement-of-Candidacy by candidates will result in rejection of the petition of nomination.

*****If the office in which the Statement-of-Candidacy form is to be filed is **closed on April 1st,** the form may be filed on the next business day.

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.

STATEMENT-OF-CANDIDACY

(Independent candidates or candidates of political groups/organizations required to file with the Secretary of State or county clerk)

This Space for Filing Officer Only

I, _____
(Name of Candidate)

reside at _____
(Residential Address)

_____, do hereby state my desire
(City, State, Zip)

to become a candidate for the office of _____

district _____ of the political group/organization known as _____
(if applicable)

or as an independent candidate under the provisions of KRS 118.367.

I do further declare that I am aware that ballot access is obtained by filing a petition of nomination and that the filing of petitions of nominations for independent candidates shall not be accepted by the Secretary of State or the county clerk, if the candidate has not filed a Statement-of-Candidacy form. KRS 118.365(5)

_____
(Signature of Candidate)

The deadline for filing a Statement-of-Candidacy form is **not later than April 1** preceding the day fixed by law for holding of general elections for the offices sought and may be filed no earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the office will appear on the ballot. KRS 118.367

Petitions of nomination shall be filed as required with the Secretary of State or county clerk **not later than the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June** preceding the day fixed by law for the holding of general elections for the offices sought and may be filed no earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year in which the offices will appear on the ballot. KRS 118.365(5)

NOMINATING PETITION

(Independent candidates or candidates of political groups/organizations required to file with the Secretary of State or County Clerk)

This Space for Filing Officer Only

To _____ Commonwealth of Kentucky, _____County:
(County Clerk or Secretary of State, as case may be)

We, the undersigned petitioners, being voters of the same district or jurisdiction from which the candidate seeks nomination, and being at least _____ in number, hereby petition you to cause to be printed on the official ballot of said county/counties _____of the Commonwealth of Kentucky at the regular election to be held on November_____20___ the name of _____ who
(Day)

resides at _____,
(Residential Address) (City, State, Zip)

whose post office box address or email address is _____,
(Post Office Box Address or Email Address)

as a candidate for the office of _____ district _____ of the political group/organization known as _____ or as an independent candidate.

I, _____, hereby declare that I
(Name of candidate in full as desired on ballot as provided in KRS 118.129)

possess all the constitutional and statutory requirements for the office for which I have filed.

_____
(Signature of Candidate)

Name of Candidate _____ Office _____ (District if Applicable) _____

Failure of a voter to include the signature affixation date, date of birth, and address of residence shall result in the signature not being counted.

Date Signed MM/DD/YY	Date of Birth MM/DD/YY	Printed Name of Petitioner	Signature of Petitioner	Residential Address (Cannot Be PO Box)	City	State	Zip

KRS 118.315

SBE 59-2 (06/25)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION

DAVID K. KAREM (RET.)
CHAIR

CRIT LUALLEN
VICE CHAIR

JUSTICE DANIEL J. VENTERS (RET.)
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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.