



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, Commonwealth Attorney in single county circuits, 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 in multi-county circuits.

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.

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION REPUBLICAN and DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES

The Office of President of the United States will appear on the 2028 ballot.

Filing Deadline Date (4:00 p.m., local time)

January 7, 2028

Filing Fee

\$1,000.00

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 twenty percent (20%) of the total vote cast at the last preceding election at which presidential electors were voted for. KRS 118.015 (1).

Republican and Democratic party candidates may select **one** of the **four** following **methods** for attaining ballot access in a presidential preference primary:

1. Filing Notice of Candidacy when nominated by the Kentucky State Board of Elections for those candidates who have qualified for matching federal campaign funds.

Pursuant to KRS 118.581, the Kentucky State Board of Elections will meet in Frankfort on the third Tuesday in December preceding a presidential preference primary for the purpose of **nominating** those candidates who have **qualified for matching federal campaign funds**. A list of those candidates is provided by the Federal Election Commission.

A notification of nomination from the Secretary of State will be sent to each candidate by certified mail, with return receipt requested, that he/she will appear as a candidate on the primary ballot of his/her party, provided that the candidate returns the Notice of Candidacy form sent by the Secretary of State and the \$1000 filing fee not later than 4:00 p.m., local time on the first Friday following the first Monday in January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary election.

2. Filing certified petition containing at least 5,000 signatures of Kentucky registered voters of the same party as the candidate.

Pursuant to KRS 118.591 (1-4), the filing of a Presidential Preference Primary Petition (SBE 65 and SBE 65-2) containing at least 5,000 signatures of registered voters of the same party and \$1000 filing fee with the Secretary of State not later than 4:00 p.m., local time on the first Friday following the first Monday in January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary election.

The petition shall be signed by the candidate and by the Chairman of the group circulating the petition. The chairman's signature must be acknowledged by a notary public and the expiration date of the notary's commission must be stated. Petitioners shall be registered and qualified voters in the Commonwealth, members of the same party as the candidate and shall include date petition was signed, date of birth, signature of petitioner and residence address.

3. Filing certification by the Federal Election Commission that candidate has qualified for matching federal campaign funds and a Notice of Candidacy.

Pursuant to KRS 118.591, filing with the Secretary of State a Notice of Candidacy, \$1000 filing fee and certification by the Federal Election Commission that the candidate has qualified for matching federal campaign funds when such occurs subsequent to the Kentucky State Board of Election's meeting in December preceding the presidential preference primary. All documents shall be filed no later than 4:00 p.m., local time on the first Friday following the first Monday in January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary election. The Notice of Candidacy must have original signature of candidate.

4. Filing evidence from 20 other states that candidate is qualified to appear on their presidential preference ballot of his/her political party and Notice of Candidacy.

Pursuant to KRS 118.591 (5), filing with the Secretary of State a Notice of Candidacy, \$1000 filing fee and evidence from twenty (20) other states that the candidate is qualified to appear on the presidential preference ballot of his/her political party. Documents shall be filed no later than 4:00 p.m., local time on the first Friday following the first Monday in January preceding the day fixed by law for holding the primary election. The Notice of Candidacy must have original signature of candidate. Sufficient documentation from the twenty (20) other states is deemed to be signed certification by the Chief Election Official, or the appropriate governing election authority of the state.

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



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METHOD #2

DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY CANDIDATE BALLOT ACCESS PURSUANT TO KRS 118.591 (1-4)

- 1: Complete all petition blanks. Candidate and Chairman must sign Nominating Petition form. The Chairman's signature must be acknowledged by a Notary Public, and the expiration date of the notary's commission must be stated.
- 2: Petitioners shall be registered voters of the same political party as the candidate and shall include date petition was signed, date of birth, signature of petitioner, residential address, and be at least 5,000 in number as required by KRS 118.591.
- 3: It is acceptable to make copies of the petition for obtaining the required number of signatures. The Nominating Petition submitted for filing must contain the original signature of the petitioners. Failure of the petitioner to include the signature affixation date, date of birth, or address of residence shall result in the signature not being counted.
- 4: Last day to file nominating petition papers for Presidential Preference Primary: **January 7, 2028, at 4:00 p.m., local time.** KRS 118.591.
- 5: Enclose the required \$1000 filing fee.
(Check should be payable to the Kentucky State Treasurer.)

Nominating Petition forms may be filed in person or by mail and must be received no later than the deadline filing date, **January 7, 2028, at 4:00 p.m., local time**, in the Office of the Secretary of State, 1025 Capital Center Drive, Suite 201, Frankfort, KY 40601.

If additional information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Heather Quinn or Jeremy Foster by calling 502-564-3490.



NOMINATING PETITION

(Republican and Democratic Candidates Filing for President under the provisions of KRS 118.591)

TO: Secretary of State

We, the undersigned petitioners, being registered and qualified voters in the Commonwealth and are affiliated, by registration, with the same political party as the candidate for whom petitions are filed, and being at least 5000 in number, hereby petition you, as Secretary of State, to cause to be printed on the official ballot of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to be used at the Presidential Preference Primary election to be held on May _____, (Day) 20_____, the name of the following person as a candidate of the _____ Party for the office hereinafter designated, the name of said person and address being as follows:

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

(Name of Candidate – Please Type or Print) (Residential Address) (City, State, Zip)

(Post Office Box or Email Address of Candidate)

I, _____ hereby
(Name of Candidate in full as desired on ballot – Please Type or Print)

declare that if elected I will qualify for the above office.

(Signature of Candidate)

I, _____, whose address is _____
(Name of Chairman – Please Type or Print) (Address)

_____, hereby certify that I am
(City, State, Zip)

Chairman of the group circulating this petition.

(Signature of Chairman)

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

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

(Signature of Notary/Officer)

(Title of Officer – If Notary, title is Notary)

(Commission Expiration)

Name of Candidate

Office

(District if Applicable)

We, the undersigned petitioners, further state that at the time of signing this petition we are registered and qualified voters in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and are affiliated, by such registration, with the same political party as the above candidate. Failure of a voter to include the signature affixation date, date of birth, and residential address 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

(Additional pages may be used)