



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.

STATE SENATOR (EVEN DISTRICTS) INDEPENDENT and POLITICAL GROUP AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION CANDIDATES GENERAL ELECTION

The Office of State Senator (even districts) will appear on the 2026 general election ballot.

Signatures Required:	Candidate's signature and the signature of 100 registered voters from the district or jurisdiction in which candidate seeks nomination.
Earliest date to file Statement-of-Candidacy	November 5, 2025
Latest date to file Statement-of-Candidacy (4:00 p.m., local time)	April 1, 2026
Earliest date to affix signatures and file Nominating Petition	November 5, 2025
Latest date to file Nominating Petition (4:00 p.m., local time)	June 2, 2026

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	\$200.00
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 (8).

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 (8) of this section. KRS 118.015 (9).

All candidates seeking the office of State Senator, other than those candidates who have been nominated by a qualified party or political organization, must file a Nomination Petition (SBE 59 and SBE 59-2) with the Office of the Secretary of State. A qualified political party or political organization may nominate candidates by convention or primary held in accordance with its constitution and bylaws and file a Certificate of Nomination in lieu of 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 the filing of the signed Statement-of-Candidacy. Failure to file the Statement-of-Candidacy form by the April 1st deadline shall result in rejection of the petition.

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.

Legislative Ethics Requirements: All state legislative candidates are subject to additional campaign finance and financial disclosure requirements. For information regarding these requirements applicable to state legislative candidates, contact the **Legislative Ethics Commission** at (502) 573-2863.

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



KENTUCKY REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE

Thomas P. O'Brien, III, Chairman
Adrian M. Mendiando, 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.

