



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.

**JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL CANDIDATES
PRIMARY ELECTION**

The Office of Justice of the Supreme Court, District 3 will appear on the 2026 ballot.

Notarized Signatures Required:	Candidate's signature and two (2) registered voters from the district from which candidate seeks nomination.
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Earliest date to affix signatures	November 5, 2025
Earliest date to file	November 5, 2025
Latest date to file (4:00 p.m., local time)	January 9, 2026

Filing Form SBE 68	Court of Justice Petition for Nomination
Filing Form KREF-001	Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Optional Request for Reporting Exemption
Filing Fee	\$200.00
Filing Official	Secretary of State

The petition shall be sworn to before an officer authorized to administer an oath by the candidate and by no less than two (2) registered voters from the district from which the candidate seeks nomination. The petition 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.

If **more** than two (2) judicial candidates file for the same office, the names of the candidates are placed on the primary ballot and the two (2) candidates who receive the highest number of votes in the primary are certified for placement on the general election ballot. If two (2) or **less** candidates file for the same office, candidates are issued a certificate of nomination by the Secretary of State subsequent to the filing deadline and the name of the candidates will appear only on the general election ballot.

For filing requirements relating to Political Committee Registration for judicial candidates and Waiver From Filing Candidate Election Finance Statement forms for judicial candidates (KREF 010 and KREF 011), please contact the **Registry of Election Finance** at (502) 573-2226.

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.



COURT OF JUSTICE PETITION FOR NOMINATION

For the purpose of having my name placed on the
Judicial Ballot for nomination to the office of:

This Space for Filing Officer Only

(Check only the office sought)

- ☐ Justice of the Supreme Court ☐ Circuit Judge ☐ District Judge
☐ Judge of the Court of Appeals ☐ Family Circuit Judge

(Name of Court)

District/Circuit Number

(Division Number if applicable)

I, _____ state that I reside at
(Name of candidate in full as desired on the ballot as provided in KRS 118.129)

(Residential Address)

(City)

(County)

KY _____
(Zip)

that my email address or post office box address is _____
(Post Office Box Address or Email Address)

that my residence is in the district from which I seek nomination; and that I possess all the constitutional and
statutory requirements of the office for which I have filed hereby.

(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 state
(Legible printed name of Voter) (Legible printed name of Voter)

that we are registered voters of the judicial district/circuit above listed for which _____
(Name of Candidate)
seeks nomination.

(Signature of Voter)

(Residential Address)

(City)

(County)

KY _____
(Zip)

(Signature of Voter)

(Residential Address)

(City)

(County)

KY _____
(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)



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
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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.

