



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

**TO: POTENTIAL CANDIDATES**

**FROM: MICHAEL G. ADAMS, SECRETARY OF STATE**

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**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](mailto:sos.elections@ky.gov).

**JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT  
WRITE-IN CANDIDATES  
GENERAL ELECTION**

The Office of Justice of the Supreme Court, Districts 3 will appear on the 2026 general election ballot.

**Signatures Required:** \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate's signature

**Latest date to file (4:00 p.m., local time)**

**August 24, 2026**

**Filing Form SBE/SOS/01**

**Filing Form KREF-001**

Declaration of Intent to be Write-In Candidates

Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Optional Request for  
Reporting Exemption

Filing Fee

\$50.00

Filing Official

Secretary of State

Any candidate for city, county, urban-county, consolidated local government, charter county government, or unified local government office who is defeated in a partisan or nonpartisan primary shall be ineligible for the same office in the regular election. Write-in votes shall be counted **ONLY** for candidates for election to office who have filed a Declaration of Intent to be Write-In Candidates form.

A person shall be **ineligible** as a write-in candidate:

- (a) For more than one (1) office in a general election; or
- (b) If his or her name appears upon the ballot label as a candidate for any office, except that the candidate may file a notice of withdrawal prior to filing an intent to be a write-in candidate for office when a vacancy in a different office occurs because of:
  - 1. Death;
  - 2. Disqualification to hold the office sought;
  - 3. Severe disabling condition which arose after the nomination; or
  - 4. The nomination of an unopposed candidate.

**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.



# DECLARATION OF INTENT TO BE A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE

This Space for Filing Officer Only

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Candidate's Post Office Box Address or Email Address)

To \_\_\_\_\_ Commonwealth of Kentucky  
(Secretary of State or County Clerk)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ reside at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Legible printed name of candidate) (Residential Address)

City of \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_ KY \_\_\_\_\_ and I intend to be a write-in candidate in the  
(Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_ regular/special election for the office of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month & Day) (Year) (Office sought) (District / Division if applicable)

I do further state if elected I will qualify for the office sought.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Candidate)

The voter **must write-in your surname on the ballot**, but may additionally write-in any of the name variations you have provided below to assist the county board of elections in determining voter intent when counting write-in votes on Election Day. These variations may include any name, in addition to your surname, that voters commonly use to identify you, which may be a nickname, initials or an abbreviated form of your name. 31 KAR 6:030, Section 6(9).

Example: James Richard Doe, J.R. Doe, Jimmy Doe, Jim Doe, Rich Doe, Richie Doe, Dickey Doe

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**KRS 117.265 (2):** Write-in votes shall be counted only for candidates for election to office who have filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate with the Secretary of State or county clerk, depending on the office being sought, on or before the certification deadlines established in KRS 118.215(1)(a) to (c) and 118A.090(2) and not later than the second Friday before the date of a special election. In the case of a special election administered under KRS 118.730, a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate shall be filed at least twenty-eight (28) days before the day of the election. The declaration of intent shall be filed no earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year the office will appear on the ballot, and no later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing when filed on the last date on which papers may be filed. The declaration of intent shall be on a form prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of State.

## **31 KAR 6:030, Section 1. Definitions**

- (5) "First name" means an individual's name or names given at birth, as distinguished from a family name or surname.
- (6) "Name" means one or more first names coupled with one or more surnames.
- (7) "Nickname" means a shortened version of an individual's name or a descriptive or alternative name, in addition to or instead of the first name or surname of an individual.
- (10) "Surname" means the family name bestowed at birth, acquired by marriage, or legally adopted by choice.

## **31 KAR 6:030, Section 6. Definition of a Vote for Write-in Voting Generally.**

- (1) Only votes cast for eligible write-in candidates as provided in KRS 117.265 shall be considered valid and counted.
- (2) A write-in vote for a candidate whose name already appears on the ballot label as a candidate shall not be counted as a vote as provided in KRS 117.265.
- (3) The use of stickers, labels, rubber stamps, or other similar devices shall not be counted as write-in votes.
- (4) Any minor misspelling of the name of a candidate shall be disregarded in determining the validity of a write-in vote as long as the intended candidate can be clearly determined.
- (5) Writing in only the surname of an eligible candidate shall constitute a valid vote, unless there is more than one (1) filed candidate with the same surname for that office. If there is more than one (1) filed candidate with the same surname for that office, writing in only the surname shall not constitute a vote.
- (6) Writing in only the first name of an eligible candidate shall not constitute a valid vote.
- (7) Writing in only the initials of a candidate shall not constitute a valid vote.
- (8) Writing in only the nickname of an eligible candidate shall not constitute a valid vote.
- (9) If the voter writes in any other name along with the surname of an eligible write-in candidate, the other name written by the voter shall comply with the variations of names listed by the candidate on SBE/SOS/01, 02, or 03, to constitute a valid vote.
- (10) Writing in the surname of the candidate for Governor or the surname of the candidate for Lieutenant Governor shall be sufficient to cast a write-in vote for the slate.
- (11) Writing in the surname of the candidate for President or the surname of the candidate for Vice President shall be sufficient to cast a write-in vote for the slate.



## 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.

