



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

TO: Legislative Research Commission
FROM: Michael G. Adams, Secretary of State *MA*
RE: Voter Registration Record Cleanup Activities Comprehensive Activity Report
DATE: July 1, 2025

Pursuant to KRS 116.114, I am providing a comprehensive activity report regarding voter registration record cleanup activities for the preceding fiscal year.

As this is the first report under the new law enacted by the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly, I am providing a brief overview of activities since the 2017 litigation that placed my predecessor and the State Board of Elections under a Consent Decree for failure to comply with the list maintenance provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 ("NVRA"). *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Grimes, et al.*, 3:17-cv-00094. More information regarding the specific list maintenance efforts undertaken in Kentucky during the past 7 years can be found at <https://elect.ky.gov/Resources/Pages/List-Maintenance.aspx>. Since 2019, the following removals have occurred (as of June 5, 2025):

Deceased – 303,003
Felon – 40,173
Incompetent – 3,362
Moved Out of State – 33,714
At Voter Request – 5,322
Duplicates – 13,382
Other – 41
Inactive Purge – 352,747

The State Board of Elections maintains Kentucky's statewide voter registration database, but it is the responsibility of Kentucky's 120 county clerks to receive registration of voters. KRS 116.045(2). Kentucky law allows for a person to register to vote in person, by mail, by means of the federal postcard application, by mail-in application (prescribed by EAC) and by other means approved by the State Board of Elections. KRS 116.045(4). Through Kentucky statute and the NVRA, voters may also register at the time of receiving or renewing their driver's license or at designated voter registration agencies: social service agencies, armed forces recruitment offices, and disability service agencies. KRS 116.0455, 31 KAR 3:020. The State Board of Elections maintains monthly registration counts from each agency listed above on its website at <https://elect.ky.gov/Resources/Pages/Motor-Voter.aspx>. The primary origin of registration is driver's license offices.

Kentucky law requires the removal of a voter's name by the State Board of Elections upon the notice of death, declaration of incompetency, excusal from jury duty due to not being a citizen of the United States, conviction of felony, or out-of-state registration. KRS 116.113. The State Board of Elections is in contact with state agencies, sometimes daily, to receive this information (Vital Statistics, Department of Corrections, Administrative Office of the Courts, Department of Driver's Licensing, as well as the federal courts). The State Board of Elections uses information from the U.S. Postal Service to identify voters who may have moved and thus initiate the NVRA list maintenance provisions, and receives notifications from the Electronic Registration Information Center regarding in-state and out-of-state moves, deaths (social security) and potential duplicates.

Both the Secretary of State and State Board of Elections have created a page on their respective websites to present to the public information regarding the voter registration record cleanup required by KRS 116.114. The Secretary's page can be found at <https://www.sos.ky.gov/elections/Pages/Voter-Registration-Records-Cleanup.aspx> and provides a link to the State Board of Elections Voter Residency List, a form to report Voter Registration Anomalies and a form for Voluntary Cancellation of Voter Registration. The State Board of Elections page can be found at <https://elect.ky.gov/Resources/Pages/Voter-Residency-List.aspx>.

After publishing the initial Voter Residency List in April, the State Board of Elections has yet to receive any reports of anomalies at any address or reports of multiple people registered at the same address with same age and minor variations. Should such reports come, the State Board of Elections looks forward to working with the Attorney General's Unit of Election Investigations and Security, established this year by the adoption of KRS 15.112.

The voter registration removals for the past year (June 2024 to May 2025) include the following:

- Deceased – 42,699
- Felon – 5,996
- Incompetent – 569
- Moved Out of State – 5,671
- At Voter Request – 636
- Duplicates – 3,423
- Other – 0
- Inactive Purge – 225,311

Kentucky remains a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center ("ERIC"). The membership was required by the Consent Decree entered into in 2018. Although the Consent Decree expired March 31, 2025, membership with ERIC has been beneficial by providing access to the Social Security Master Death Index for immediate removal of Kentucky voters who have died outside of the Commonwealth. ERIC also shares information with member-states of voters who have registered in another state or received a driver's license in another state after their voter registration in Kentucky. This allows Kentucky to send those voters a notification under the NVRA to begin the voter removal process. Since 2024, Kentucky has been provided an exemption from the requirement to send a notification to eligible but unregistered voters.

The State Board of Elections has entered into cross-state agreements with the following states to share voter registration information in order to identify voters who may have registered to vote in another state since their registration in the Commonwealth: Ohio, Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri, West Virginia, Alabama, and Texas.

The Office of the Secretary of State would be glad to provide answers to any questions the General Assembly may have.

Cc: The State Board of Elections