

**I-866-OUR-VOTE  
(1-866-687-8683)****Disclaimer:**

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**VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS****1) Where can voter registration forms be obtained?**

There are several ways to get a voter registration form. The Voter Registration Card can be downloaded from the State Board of Elections website at: <http://elect.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/C4DBB006-4E58-402C-873C-532563A53AA6/0/registrationcard.pdf>.

Application forms are also available to individuals seeking services at the following locations: county clerk's offices, driver's license offices (if you are applying for or renewing your driver's license), Food Stamp Program offices, Medicaid offices, the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children and state-funded offices serving the disabled, armed forces recruitment offices and high schools. Each motor vehicle driver's license application, including any renewal application, submitted to the DMV serves as an application for voter registration unless the applicant fails to sign the voter registration application. Any application submitted to the DMV will also update any previous voter registration submitted by the applicant.

**2) Are there restrictions on registering to vote using a photocopied voter registration form?**

No. According to election officials on the Kentucky State Board of Elections, to register to vote, one may use the Kentucky Voter Registration Card, which can be printed out on regular paper, or complete the NVRA voter registration form. Either of these forms may be copied onto regular paper as long as they are the correct forms.

**3) Are there restrictions on the use of the National Voter Registration Form?**

The National Voter Registration Form can be used in Kentucky. The State Board of Elections site also provides a link to the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for applicants that are military personnel or overseas citizens. The FPCA serves a dual role as an application for registration or a request for an absentee ballot.

**4) Are there restrictions regarding the use of registration form information?**

Yes. The county clerk shall permit any citizen, at all reasonable hours, to inspect or make copies of any registration record, without any fee. Upon request, the county clerk will also furnish to any person a copy of the registration records, for which there may be a duplicating cost of not more than \$0.50 per page. However, the county clerk may not provide such copies without redacting the applicant's social security number.

**5) Are there restrictions regarding pre-filling information on registration forms?**

No. However, any inconsistent information on registration forms, such as an incorrect county or zip code, may delay the registration process.

A political party, in conducting a voter registration campaign, may not lawfully predesignate the prospective voter's party affiliation by pre-stamping or otherwise completing the "party affiliation" block with the name of the political party conducting the registration effort, since the registration form required to be prepared by the State Board of Elections pursuant to this section and which contains among other things a place for party designation is to be filled in and signed by the person seeking to register for the purpose of voting.

## **COMPLETING VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS**

**6) How long must you live in a county before you are eligible to register to vote?**

A person must have been a resident of the Kentucky county in which the person intends to register for a minimum of twenty-eight days prior to a primary, general or special election, and therefore must register, at the latest, on the twenty-ninth day prior to the primary, general or special election.

**7) Are there any restrictions on registering to vote using a P.O. Box, college campus, or dorm address?**

Yes. A voter's residence is considered to be at the place where his or her habitation is, and to which, when absent, such voter has the intention of returning. A voter does not lose his or her residence by absence for temporary purposes and voters do not obtain a residence by being in a county or precinct for such temporary purposes, without the intention of making that county or precinct such voter's home. A voter must have a complete residential address and may use a mailing address only if different from the residential address.

**8) Can a person register to vote at a college address that is not a permanent address?**

Use of a college address is permissible only if you consider your college address to be your legal residence. **(see Question #7)**

**9) Are there any identification requirements to register to vote?**

The Kentucky Voter Registration Card requires the applicant's social security number. In addition, a date of birth is required to verify that the voter meets the minimum age requirement for voting. No person shall be denied the right to register because of the failure to include his Social Security number. All forms which require a voter's signature shall provide for verification by the signer. If a voter signs a voter registration form with only a mark, two witnesses are also required.

**10) Are there any identification requirements in order to vote?**

Yes. All voters must (i) produce identification, or (ii) be personally known by a precinct officer prior to voting.

Acceptable forms of identification include the following:

- Driver's license

- Social Security card
- Credit card
- Any identification card that bears both the picture and signature of the voter, or any identification card that has been issued by the county

## **I 1) What are the rules regarding missing or illegible information on registration forms?**

The registration form shall include the applicant's name; date of birth, membership in a political party, political organization, or political group, or independent status; Social Security number, if any; mailing and residence addresses (if different). The registration form requires the applicant to sign a statement, under penalty of perjury, affirming that he or she (i) is a U.S. citizen, (ii) lives in Kentucky at the address listed on the form, (iii) will be at least 18 years of age on or before the next general election, (iv) is not a convicted felon, or if convicted of a felony, his or her civil rights have been restored by executive pardon, (v) has not been judged "mentally incompetent" in a court of law, and (vi) does not claim the right to vote anywhere outside Kentucky.

The county clerk will register an applicant once an application has been properly filled out. Applications missing a signature or date of birth will not be registered.

## **I 2) Can a person whose name has changed since registering vote on Election Day?**

Yes. A voter who has changed his name may indicate the change at the precinct on Election Day by completing the form provided by the State Board of Elections. The form will then be returned by the precinct officer to the county clerk who will make the necessary change on the voter's registration record.

## **REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE**

### **I 3) What are the laws regarding third-party registration?**

Any individual or group shall have access to a reasonable number of voter registration forms including the mail-in application form prescribed by the Federal Election Commission pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 in the county clerk's office. The individual or group must act under the proper supervision and directions of the county clerk and must return all voter registration cards in to the appropriate county clerk at least twenty-eight (29) days before any election in order for the cards to be processed. Applicants are not registered to vote until the voter registration cards are processed at the county clerk's office.

The voter registration card should be routed to the clerk in the county listed on the voter registration card, not to the State Board of Elections. A current listing of all county clerks is available on the State Board of Elections website at <http://www.elect.ky.gov/countyclerks.htm>.

Any individual who forges or fraudulently alters a form completed by the prospective registrant, who willfully destroys a completed registration form or who willfully fails to return a completed form to the county clerk for official registration by the county clerk shall be subject to the penalties described for Class D felonies.

There are guidelines regarding voter registration drives on the Kentucky Board of Elections website at the following address: <http://www.elect.ky.gov/registrationinfo/checklist.htm>.

**14) Are there any laws regarding submission of voter registration forms by individuals receiving compensation?**

Yes. No person may compensate another person for registering voters based upon the total number of voters a person registers or the total number of voters a person registers for a particular party. Such person may be subject to the penalties described for Class B misdemeanors.

**15) Is training required for voter registration drives?**

No. There is no express training requirement under Kentucky Statutes. There is, however, a Checklist for Voter Registration Drives provided by the Kentucky Board of Elections so that organizations or individuals planning a voter registration drive may ensure they know who is eligible to vote and how to fill out the voter registration cards correctly. The Checklist is available at <http://www.elect.ky.gov/registrationinfo/checklist.htm>.

**16) Are volunteers or staff of voter registration drives required to be county or state residents?**

No.

## **REGISTRATION DEADLINES**

**17) What is the deadline to register to vote?**

For the 2008 general election, the deadline is Monday, October 6, 2008. Kentucky requires voters to be registered 28 days before an election.

For the purpose of determining whether a voter registration application is received during the period in which registration books are open, an application must be received:

- (a) In the case of registration with a motor vehicle driver's license application, if the valid voter registration form of the applicant is accepted by the circuit clerk before the registration books are closed;
- (b) In the case of registration by mail, if the valid voter registration form is legibly postmarked before the registration books are closed;
- (c) In the case of registration with a voter registration agency, if the valid voter registration form of the applicant is accepted at the voter registration agency before the registration books are closed; and
- (d) In any other case, if the valid voter registration form of the applicant is received by the appropriate county clerk before the registration books are closed.

The registration books close on Monday, October 6, 2008 for the 2008 general election. <http://www.elect.ky.gov/default.htm>. A complete registration calendar can be found at <http://elect.ky.gov/NR/exeres/D96C5DC4-E2D0-4BBD-B3FF-1731E752CFCB.frameless.htm?NRMODE=Published>.

**18) Must organizations or individuals engaged in voter registration drives submit their forms within a certain period of time?**

No. Organizations or individuals must submit their forms by the registration deadline, which is 28 days before a general election. All applications to vote must be submitted or postmarked no later than the 29th day before the date of the first election in which the individual intends to vote.

## 19) Is Election Day registration allowed?

No. Individuals who register to vote on Election Day will not be permitted to vote in that election. For the registration deadline, see **Question 17**.

## 20) Does state election law allow for early or absentee voting?

Early voting is permitted in certain situations. A voting machine at the county clerk's office is available 12 (or more) working days before the election for those voters who are qualified to vote by absentee ballot in the county clerk's office. A voter must fulfill one of the below criteria in order to be eligible:

- The voter will be out of the county on election day;
- Military personnel, their dependents, and overseas citizens (military personnel and overseas citizens can receive further information online at [http://www.elect.ky.gov/registration0fo/military\\_overseas.htm](http://www.elect.ky.gov/registration0fo/military_overseas.htm));
- Military personnel confined to base who learn of it within seven days or less of an election;
- Student or resident who temporarily reside outside of the county;
- A voter who has surgery scheduled that will require hospitalization on Election Day, and the voter's spouse;
- The voter is a pregnant woman in her third trimester; and
- The following Election Officials:
  - Precinct election officer appointed to serve in precinct other than his own.
  - Alternate precinct officer.
  - County board of elections members.
  - County board of elections staff.
  - Deputy county clerk.
  - State Board of Elections staff

In order to qualify for a mail-in absentee ballot, a voter must fulfill one of the below criteria:

- Advanced age, disability, or illness;
- Military personnel, their dependents, and overseas citizens (**see above**);
- Students who temporarily resides outside the county;
- Other voters who temporarily resides outside of Kentucky, such as a vacationer;
- Incarcerated but not yet convicted voters;
- The voter's employment takes him or her out of the county all hours the polling place is open.

A voter can apply for a medical emergency absentee ballot if a medical emergency occurs within 14 days before an election. The spouse of the voter can also apply for a paper absentee ballot.

The deadline for applying for a mail-in absentee ballot is 7 days before an election. The completed application must be received by the County Clerk by mail or in person by the 7 day deadline. The absentee ballot must be received in the county clerk's office by 6 PM local time on Election Day for the ballot to be counted. Absentee ballots can only be obtained through the county clerk's office. A voter may request an application for an absentee ballot through his or her county clerk's office in person, by phone, by mail or by fax. Also, the voter's spouse, parent or child can request an application for a mail-in absentee ballot. A list of county clerks and their contact information can be found at <http://www.elect.ky.gov/countyclerks.htm>

## **VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION**

### **21) Is there any pending legislation that affects voter registration? If so, where is it in the legislative process?**

Yes. Kentucky House Bill 70 proposes to amend Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky to exclude a convicted felon from the right to vote only until the expiration of probation or final discharge from parole or maximum expiration of sentence. The amendment would automatically restore the right to vote to most felons. As the law currently stands, convicted felons are not permitted to vote until their civil rights are restored by executive pardon.

In addition, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear recently simplified the Application for Restoration of Civil Rights for convicted felons. Felons will no longer have to pay a \$2 fee, write an essay or get three recommendations to apply to have their civil rights restored.

### **22) What applicable statutes are possibly affected?**

KRS § 116.025 and Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky.

If you would like to read the statutes that generally apply to voter registration, they are available in the following sources:

- Title X (Elections) of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, specifically:
  - Chapter 116: Voter Registration;
  - Chapter 117: Regulation of Elections;
  - Chapter 118: Conduct of Elections
  - Chapter 119: Election Offenses and Prosecutions; and
  - Chapter 120: Election Contests.
- Title 31 (State Board of Elections) of the Kentucky Administrative Regulations.

### **23) Are there any helpful elections official contacts?**

For more information, contact the Kentucky State Board of Elections at:

State Board of Elections  
140 Walnut Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone: (502) 573-7100  
FAX: (502) 573-4369 or (502)696-1952

### **24) What web resources are available?**

The Kentucky State Board of Elections has a website dedicated to providing information on the voter registration process: <http://elect.ky.gov/default.htm>. This site includes resources such as frequently asked questions, registration cards, absentee ballots, and special provisions for military personnel.

The National Campaign for Fair Elections is an additional resource:  
<http://www.nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/pages/kentucky>.