

Kentucky Voting Rights Basics

Webinar Presentation

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September 29, 2022

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky *Basics about Us*

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

As a nonpartisan body, the League takes action on issues but does not support or oppose candidates or parties.

The League supports diversity, equity and inclusion in membership and programming.

Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League is welcome to become a member.

Five Kentucky Voter Questions

1. Is your voter registration up-to-date?
2. Which photo ID will you use to vote?
3. Which voting option will you use: mail, excuse, early, or Election Day?
4. Where will you vote?
5. How can you help family, friends, and neighbors answer these questions and participate in our democracy?

Are You Eligible to Vote in Kentucky?

You can vote in Kentucky if you:

- ★ Are a United States citizen and a Kentucky resident
- ★ Will be 18 or over at the next November general election
(17-year-olds can vote in May if they will be 18 by November Election Day)
- ★ Do not claim the right to vote in another state
- ★ Have not been found mentally incompetent by a court
- ★ Have not been convicted of a felony OR have had rights restored
(Learn about restoration at civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov)

You can register to vote online at GoVoteKY.com!



Kentucky Voter Registration at GoVoteKY.com

1. Click six boxes to confirm eligibility (*U.S. citizen, Kentucky resident, 18 or over by Election Day, not mentally incompetent, not voting in another state, and either without a felony conviction or with rights restored after conviction*)
2. Enter name, address, birthdate, and social security number and click submit.
3. Watch your mailbox for a confirmation card saying your registration has been accepted.

Postcard Registration in Kentucky

You can also register by filling out a voter registration postcard and:

- ★ Mailing the card to the address on the card or
- ★ Giving the card to a person conducting a voter registration drive or
- ★ Turning the card in at your county clerk's office

Check Your Kentucky Voter Registration

Use [GoVoteKY.com](https://www.govoteky.com) to:

- ★ Update your address if you move
- ★ Update your name if you change it legally
- ★ Spot and fix any mistaken changes or removals

Your voter registration address can be **changed** based on a report that you have moved within the county. An address change could also change your voting location.

Your voter registration can be **removed immediately** based on a death certificate, felony conviction, court mental incompetence ruling, or registration in another state.

Your voter registration can be **removed more slowly** based on a report that you moved out of the county, followed by a mailing to ask if you moved and a waiting period through two federal elections, but answering the mailing or voting even once during the waiting period will keep you from being removed.

Show Photo ID to Vote In Kentucky

To vote in Kentucky, you must bring identification showing your name and photograph from one of these sources:

- ★ Kentucky state government (*example: driver's license*)
- ★ United States government (*example: passport*)
- ★ U. S. Defense Department, a uniformed services branch, the Merchant Marine, or the Kentucky National Guard
- ★ U.S. college, university, or postgraduate technical or professional school
- ★ Kentucky local government: city, county, urban-county, charter county, unified local or consolidated local government

Don't have any of these? You can get a free Photo ID from state offices that make drivers' licenses. Visit drive.ky.gov to find the nearest location.

Show Photo ID to Vote In Kentucky

Options for Voters without ID

Free ID

If you need it to vote, the state will make you a free ID card. You get it where you can get a driver's license, and drive.ky.gov is where you can find the nearest state office for that.

Affirmation when you go to vote

At your polling place, you can fill out a form explaining why you cannot get allowed photo ID. You will need to show one of these other IDs:

- Another identification card with your name and photo
- Social Security card
- Kentucky food stamp, EBT, or SNAP card with your name
- Credit or debit card with your name
- Identification issued by a Kentucky county and approved by the State Board of Elections

Your Four Kentucky Voting Options

ELECTION DAY	Show ID and vote in person
EARLY	Show ID and vote in person the Thursday, Friday, Saturday before Election Day
EXCUSED	Show ID, give excuse, and vote in person on any of the six business days before early voting begins
MAIL-IN EXCUSED	Request ballot online, give excuse and provide verifiable identification information Receive ballot, fill it out, and return it by mail or through a drop box

Kentucky Election Day Voting Basics

Voting hours are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time on Election Day

Voting locations may have changed due to:

- Precinct boundaries being updated
- Precinct consolidations that allow voters from multiple precincts to share a location
- Voting centers that allow voters from all precincts in the county to vote in the same place (or several places)

For Election Day voting places, ask at your county clerk's office or visit elect.ky.gov and choose "Find Your Polling Location"

Kentucky Early Voting

A New Option for All!

All registered Kentucky voters can vote early **without an excuse**. State law calls this a "no-excuse in-person absentee ballot."

Dates? Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before Election Day.

Times? At least eight hours between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. each day, with the county board of elections choosing the exact times.

Place? Your county clerk's office or a place chosen by your county board of elections.

For voting times and places, ask at your county clerk's office or visit elect.ky.gov and choose "Find Your Polling Location"

Kentucky Voting with Excuse *An Extra-Early Option for Some*

Registered Kentucky voters can vote extra early with an allowed excuse. State law calls this an “excused in-person absentee ballot.”

Dates? The six business days before early voting

Times? Normal business hours

Place? Your county clerk’s office or a place chosen by your county board of elections

**For voting times and places, ask at your county clerk’s office
or visit elect.ky.gov and choose “Find Your Polling Location”**

Kentucky Voting with Excuse *Who can use this option?*

Registered Kentucky voters can vote extra early if they have one of the excuses below:

- Age, disability or illness that prevent later voting
- Living out of state temporarily
- Living out of county temporarily as a student
- Working or commuting during all voting hours of Election Day and the no-excuse voting days
- Scheduled surgery and hospitalization (self or spouse)
- Pregnancy in last trimester
- Working as election officer
- A military or overseas voter
- A uniformed services voter confined to base

**For voting times and places, ask at your county clerk’s office
or visit elect.ky.gov and choose “Find Your Polling Location”**

Fall 2022 Kentucky Voting By Mail Schedule

September 24	First day to request your mail-in ballot at GoVoteKY.com
October 25	Last day to request your mail-in ballot at GoVoteKY.com (by 11:59 p.m.)
November 8	Election Day deadline for your ballot to reach your county clerk’s office by 6:00.p.m.

**If you or your spouse have a medical emergency,
you both can apply for a mail-in ballot from October 25 to November 8**

Kentucky Voting by Mail *Who can use this option?*

Registered Kentucky voters can vote by mail if they have one of the excuses below:

- Age, disability or illness prevent in-person voting
- Living out of state temporarily
- Living out of county as a student temporarily
- Out of county for all hours of in-person voting
- In jail on criminal charges, but not been convicted of the crime
- In the crime victim address confidentiality program
- Military or overseas voters
- Unable to vote on any of the in-person days

Use GoVoteKY.com to request a mail-in ballot

Kentucky Voting by Mail *Steps of the Process*

1. Apply at [GoVoteKY.com](https://www.GoVoteKY.com), giving your excuse and providing “personally identifiable information for verification.”
2. When ballot arrives, complete it and use the two envelopes, following directions *carefully*.
3. Return ballot by U.S. mail or to a county drop-box. Ballots need to reach the county clerk’s office by 6 p.m. Election Day.
4. Track ballot at [GoVoteKY.com](https://www.GoVoteKY.com) to make sure it arrives. Ballots are now tracked with barcodes.
5. Respond quickly if you receive a notice that you need to cure mail-in ballot problem.

October–November 2022 Kentucky In-Person Voting Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26 With Excuse	27 With Excuse	28 With Excuse	29
30	31 With Excuse	1 With Excuse	2 With Excuse	3 Early	4 Early	5 Early
6	7	8 Election Day	To check where you vote, go to elect.ky.gov and choose “Find my Polling Place”			

Reclaiming Voting Rights in Kentucky

Do you know someone who:

- ★ has a past felony conviction and
- ★ has completed their sentence?

They may be able to reclaim their voting rights if:

- ★ the offense was non-violent;
- ★ the conviction was NOT out-of-state;
- ★ the conviction was NOT in a federal court.



To check eligibility, you can:
 → Scan code
 → visit [civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov](https://www.civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov)
 → call 502/782-9371

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VOTE 411

Your Online Voter Guide

- ▶ Candidates are invited to share information and answer questions
- ▶ Their responses, plus issue information prepared by the League of Women Voters of Kentucky, are shared at Vote411.org
- ▶ Voters can search by their voter address to see Kentucky candidates, or they can browse
- ▶ Voters can also see critical voting & logistics information at Vote411.org

VOTE 411

What's On the Ballot?

Legislators

US Senator
US Representative
KY State Senator
KY State Representative

KY State Justice

Supreme Court
Court of Appeals
Circuit Court
Circuit - Family Court
District Court
Commonwealth's Attorney

Local Officials

City Mayor
City & County Council, Commissioners
County Judge Executive & Magistrates
Sheriff & Constables
County Clerk
County Attorney
City & County School Boards
Soil & Water Commission Supervisors

... and TWO Constitutional Amendments!

Amendment 1 | Special Sessions

Can change how special sessions of the General Assembly are called

A "yes" vote and passage of the amendment will mean

- Legislators will be able to meet more often and change Kentucky law more often.
- For the first time, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate will be able to call special legislative sessions.
- Special sessions will be able add up to 12 days per year to the legislative calendar.
- Legislators will define the agenda (the topics that can be addressed in bills passed during the session)

A "no" vote and defeat of the amendment will mean

- The current rule on legislative sessions will stay in place.
- Legislature will hold regular sessions for 60 days in even-numbered years and 30 days in odd-numbered years.
- The Governor will call any special sessions and define the agenda

Amendment 2 | Abortion

Can change the Kentucky Constitution to state that nothing in the state constitution creates a right to abortion or requires government funding for abortion

A "yes" vote supports the change

If Amendment 2 passes, state lawmakers will be free to pass laws restricting abortion, and those affected by those laws will not be able to ask state courts to overturn those laws as violations of their state constitutional rights.

A "no" vote opposes the change

If Amendment 2 is defeated, the state Constitution will be unchanged, and those affected by state laws restricting abortion will be able to argue in state court that those laws violate their state constitutional rights.

VOTE 411

Volunteer Opportunities



YOU CAN HELP!

- ▶ Candidate's answers or info absent in your area? Ask them to respond!
- ▶ Share VOTE411 with fellow voters
- ▶ Ask people: "Are you registered to vote at your current address?" To update registration, send voters to Vote411.org or GoVoteKY.com
- ▶ Volunteer! Email Vote411@lwvky.org



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENTUCKY
**KENTUCKY VOTING RIGHTS BASICS
2022 PRESENTATIONS**

Contact Us

We'd love to help with any other questions or share this information with other groups. You can reach us at:

- ★ info@lwvky.org
- ★ 502-875-6481
- ★ lwvky.org

Join Our  **OutreachCircle**
Scan to receive our Election Alerts and Voter Information



Defending Democracy: LWVKY Advocacy

2022 LWVKY Advocacy Work

The League does not endorse candidates or parties, but we do advocate on issues.

Three big advocacy topics for us this year are:

- Defending **reproductive rights** by opposing Amendment 2
- Supporting **restoration of civil rights** for all who have completed their sentences
- Calling for **better redistricting** to reflect public input and create fair district maps

Vote 'No' In November

Constitutional Amendment 2

Are you in favor of amending the Constitution of Kentucky by creating a new Section of Constitution to be numbered 26A to state as follows:

To protect human life, nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion?

Yes No

WHY?

IT'S A MEDICAL DECISION

Pregnancy is complex, but the language of this amendment is so absolute and final.

It will make it impossible for women in Kentucky to access safe and legal abortion care, and could even threaten the lives of women having a miscarriage.

POLITICAL OVERREACH

Constitutional Amendment 2 allows government overreach into private medical decisions.

If approved we should consider what rights and freedoms politicians in Frankfort will take away next.

FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE PREGNANT

Politicians are more interested in advancing their personal agendas than fighting for the people who elected them.

It's no wonder they didn't think about any of the complexities of pregnancy when writing this amendment.

*A total abortion ban is estimated to **increase the maternal mortality rate by 21%**.*

VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 2

Voting Rights Restoration

Kentucky is 1 of 3 states that permanently bans persons with felony convictions from voting.



The number of Kentuckians not eligible to reclaim their voting rights under the Governor's executive order continues to increase.

The League is working to amend the Kentucky Constitution to automatically restore voting rights upon completion of sentence.

To help, contact us at:

- ❖ 502/875-6481 or
- ❖ restorethevote@lwvky.org

2021 DATA

67%

OF KENTUCKIANS

AGREE that VOTING RIGHTS should be AUTOMATICALLY RESTORED after completing a felony sentence

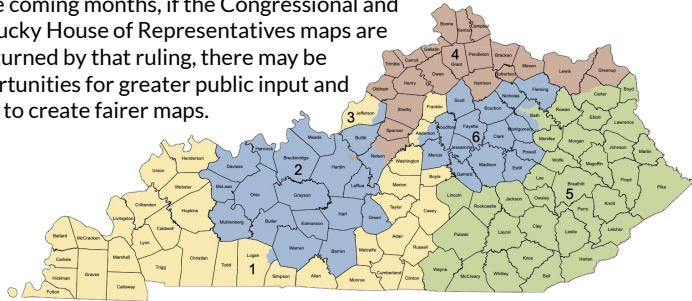
-Data from Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy, Inc. 2021

More details available at lwvky.org

Redistricting can be fairer

Watch for a ruling from the Kentucky Supreme Court on whether this map's level of gerrymandering is permitted by Kentucky's Constitution.

In the coming months, if the Congressional and Kentucky House of Representatives maps are overturned by that ruling, there may be opportunities for greater public input and work to create fairer maps.



Contact Us

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