Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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1. Am I registered to vote?

You can determine whether a voter is registered to vote by checking the Kentucky Division of Elections’ website (https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/vic).

2. Where do I vote?

You can determine a voter’s proper polling place by checking the Kentucky Division of Elections’ website (https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/vic). If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to Question 6.
3. What time do the polls open and close?

The polling place is required to be open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (local time) on Election Day.¹ If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place is not open at 6:00 a.m., advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center. A voter in line at the polling place at 6:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.² If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place prohibits those who were in line before 6:00 pm from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center. Voters who arrive to the polling place after 6:00 p.m. will not be allowed to vote.

4. When is the voter registration deadline?

Voters must register to vote at least 29 calendar days before an election they intend to vote in.³ For the November 5, 2019 general election, the registration deadline was Monday, October 7, 2019. For the May 19, 2020 primary election, the registration deadline is Monday, April 20, 2020. For the November 3, 2020 general election, the registration deadline is Monday, October 5, 2020.⁴ Voter registration applications submitted by mail will be processed if they are legibly postmarked by the applicable registration deadline.⁵ Kentucky also offers online voter registration via the Kentucky online voter registration website (https://elect.ky.gov/registertovote/Pages/default.aspx and https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/ovrweb/). The online portal indicates that “[t]he deadline to register online to vote…is no later than 4:00 p.m. local time” on the applicable voter registration deadline date. However, if the voter does not have a Kentucky driver’s license or ID card, he or she must use an e-signature to verify his or her identity.⁶

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

To vote a regular ballot, a Kentucky voter must be able to provide identification at the polling place unless an election officer can confirm your identity by personal acquaintance.⁷ Valid forms of identification include:

- A motor vehicle operator’s license;
- A Social Security card;
- Any identification card that has been issued by the county and which has been approved in writing by the State Board of Elections;
- Any identification card with a picture and signature;
- Any United States government-issued identification card;
- Any Kentucky state government-issued identification card with picture; or
- A credit card.

Any voter who does not have proper identification can vote by provisional ballot but this is a last resort.⁸ If the voter has an acceptable ID, it is preferable for the voter to return home and obtain the ID
6. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?

The answer to this question depends on when the voter moved and where the voter moved. Refer to the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moved within the same precinct</th>
<th>Moved to a different precinct but within the same county</th>
<th>Moved to a different county</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moved before the last day to register.</td>
<td>Yes. If you have a new address and you move before the end of registration deadline, you should update your address at govotekentucky.com or with your county clerk. You may also update your address on Election Day at the polling place.</td>
<td>If you moved to another county, you must update your voter registration address with the new county clerk or renew your driver's license in the new county prior to the voter registration deadline. (see Question 4) Otherwise, you are not eligible to vote in either county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved after the registration deadline.</td>
<td>Yes. If you have a new address and you move after the registration deadline, you should go to the polling place for your new address and update your address there.</td>
<td>You may vote at the appropriate precinct for your old residence in your previous county of residence, but you must re-register to vote in your new county of residence for future elections.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you change your place of residence to a different state before a presidential election (not primary election, even if for the party nominee for President) while the registration books are closed in the new state, you can apply for and cast a Kentucky mail-in absentee ballot or vote on the absentee voting machine in the county clerk's office for President and Vice President only.

7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the election officers if the voting equipment breaks down. If a voting machine breaks, the county clerk is required to provide a backup voting machine or supplemental paper ballots for use at the precinct and a ballot box in which to deposit the voted ballots. At the close of voting, the ballots will be counted at the precinct or a central counting
center and added to the votes cast by the broken machine. The total of these votes will be certified as the result of the election in that precinct. \(^{16}\)

### 8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at my precinct. Can I vote where I am?

If a voter is not found on the rolls of the polling place where the voter is attempting to vote or if the poll worker cannot otherwise determine the registration status of the voter, the voter may cast a provisional ballot. If the poll worker contends that the voter is not eligible to vote at the particular precinct, but that voter believes he or she is eligible to vote at that location, that voter can cast a provisional ballot. However, if it is later determined that the voter was ineligible to vote in that precinct, then the provisional ballot will NOT count. \(^{17}\) **Casting a provisional ballot is a last resort however and it is best to first determine if the voter is in the right polling place.**

### 9. My name isn’t showing up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

A voter’s name should only be removed from the list of registered voters by his or her written request, a felony conviction, death, mental incompetency, or in connection with a voter registration list maintenance program. \(^{18}\) Errors can occur however.

Kentucky has a program that identifies voters whose addresses may have changed. If information provided by the postal service or other sources to the State Board of Elections suggests that a voter has moved to a different address in the same county, the board will send a returnable notice form of the change of address, prepaid and pre-addressed, to the new address. The voter must fill out this form and return it to verify the information is correct. If the voter fails to respond to a confirmation mailing from the State Board of Elections after a change of address, and does not vote in a subsequent election, the voter will be removed from the rolls. \(^{19}\)

Any voter whose name was removed in one of the above ways and who then becomes eligible to vote must reregister in order to have his or her name restored to the statewide voter registration system. If a voter’s name has been removed from the rolls and the voter registration deadline has passed, offer to call the jurisdiction with the voter in an attempt to resolve the situation, if time allows. Otherwise, provide the jurisdiction’s phone number to the voter.

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter’s name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter’s registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure he/she is registered to vote and at the right place. (See **Question 1**)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could he/she be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See **Question 1** and Question 6)
- Has the voter changed his/her name recently, or could he/she be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter’s name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (See **Question 1**)
- Ask when/where the voter last registered to vote? Was that before the deadline?
10. I have a felony conviction. Can I vote?

If convicted of a felony offense, you must have had your civil rights restored by executive pardon from the Governor or you will not be permitted to vote.10

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Inquire why a provisional ballot was offered. A voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when:

- A voter’s name is not on the precinct roster and his or her registration status cannot be verified;
- A voter’s name is not on the precinct roster and he or she has been verified as ineligible to vote;
- A voter does not have an identification;
- A voter is voting as a result of a federal or state court order or any order under state law in effect 10 days prior to Election Day that extends polling hours; or
- All four precinct election officers challenge a voter.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort. An individual found eligible to cast a provisional official ballot may do so after signing a provisional ballot precinct signature roster. Upon the voter completing and returning the provisional ballot, a poll worker must provide the voter with an information sheet that explains the voter’s right to contact their local county clerk to learn if the provisional ballot was counted, and if not counted, the reason why. If a voter makes a mistake or “spoils” his or her provisional ballot before casting it, he or she has the right to receive up to two (2) replacement provisional ballots (a total of three (3) including the initial provisional ballot). The voter can also determine if their provisional ballot was counted at https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/provweb/.

12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

Yes. If you attend school in Kentucky, you can establish residency and vote in Kentucky if you have a present intention to remain at your Kentucky school address for the time being and make it your principal home.

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Yes. Each polling place must be accessible to persons with disabilities. Each county board of elections is supposed to designate voting places that are accessible to all eligible voters, including those with physical limitations and the elderly.

14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?
Yes. Any voter who needs assistance voting is entitled to have some person of his or her choice, other than the voter’s employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter’s union, mark the voter’s choices or assist the voter in marking his or her choices on the ballot. Unless the voter has been certified as requiring assistance on a permanent basis, the voter must make and sign an oath that, for one of the above reasons, they are unable to vote without assistance.

15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

If you request help, you should receive instruction cards and a model on how to use the voting machine from polling officials. Except for those voters who have been certified as requiring assistance on a permanent basis, no voter will be permitted to receive any assistance (beyond the instruction card) in voting at the polls unless he or she makes and signs an oath that, because of blindness, other physical disability, or an inability to read English, he or she is unable to vote without assistance. The oath will be on a voter assistance form prescribed by the State Board of Elections. Any person assisting a voter must complete the voter assistance form.

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before Election Day?

It depends. Absentee voting allows registered voters to vote by mail before Election Day. To vote absentee by mail, a voter or the spouse, parents, or children of the voter may request that an absentee ballot be sent to the voter by mail (but the voter’s spouse, parents, or children, or a third party cannot hand deliver your completed application to the county clerk). The clerk must receive the absentee ballot application at least seven (7) days before the election by the close of business hours (an application postmarked by the deadline is insufficient). For the November 5, 2019 general election the absentee ballot application must be received by the clerk on October 29, 2019 by the close of business. For the May 19, 2020 primary election, the absentee ballot application must be received by the clerk on May 12, 2020 by the close of business.

Only certain voters can request absentee ballots. To be eligible to vote absentee by mail or to apply for and vote absentee in person at the county clerk’s office, a voter must be:

- Advanced in age, disabled, or ill;
- Military personnel, a dependent of military personnel, or an overseas citizen;
- A student who temporarily resides outside of Kentucky;
- A voter who temporarily resides outside of Kentucky and who maintains eligibility to vote in Kentucky, such as a “snowbird;”
- Incarcerated, but not yet convicted of a crime;
- A voter who changes her/his place of residence to a different state while the registration books are closed in the new state of residence, will be permitted to cast an absentee ballot for electors for President and Vice President of the United States only;
- Employed outside of the county all hours the polling place is open; or
- Voters who are program participants in the Secretary of State’s crime victim address confidentiality protection program.
After the voter has received his or her ballot, the voter may vote and return the ballot to the county board of elections. The absentee ballot must be received by the county clerk by 6:00 p.m. on Election Day. A ballot postmarked by the deadline is insufficient.

In Person Voting: Voters falling into the categories listed above in this Question 16 with respect to requesting absentee ballots, in addition to voters (or their spouses) who have surgery scheduled that will require hospitalization on Election Day, voters who temporarily reside outside the state, and voters who are pregnant and in their last trimester of pregnancy may submit an application in person to the county clerk to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk’s office or other place designated by the county board of elections. In-person absentee voting shall be conducted at the county clerk’s office or other approved place for at least the 12 working days preceding the election during normal business hours.

- For the November 5, 2019 general election, in person absentee voting begins October 18, 2019.
- For the May 19, 2020 primary election, in person absentee voting begins May 1, 2020.

Medical Emergencies: In the case of medical emergencies within fourteen days or less of an election, a registered voter and the registered voter’s spouse may apply for an absentee ballot by requesting Form SBE 45, Medical Emergency Application for an Absentee Ballot from the county clerk’s office. The application shall be notarized. The application form may be requested by and delivered by the voter or the spouse, parents, or children of the voter. If the voter has no spouse, parents, or children, the application form may be requested by and delivered by the brother, sister, niece, nephew, or designee of the voter.

Early Voting (also called one-stop absentee voting or in-person absentee voting): Kentucky law does not provide for early voting (except with respect to the limited circumstances of in person voting allowed, as described in the section above titled “In Person Voting.”).


17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

If you received an absentee ballot by mail but know at least seven (7) days before the date of the election that you will be in the county on Election Day and you have not voted, you must cancel your absentee ballot and vote in person. You must return the absentee ballot to the county clerk’s office no later than seven (7) days prior to the date of the election. Upon the return of the absentee ballot, the clerk will mark on the outer envelope of the sealed ballot or the unmarked ballot the words “Canceled because voter appeared to vote in person.” The clerk shall remove your name from the list of persons who were sent absentee ballots, and you may vote in the precinct in which you are properly registered.
18. Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

No. Kentucky does not offer Same Day Registration.\textsuperscript{43}

19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place?

People are not allowed to campaign at a polling place on Election Day or within 100 ft. of any entrance to a building in which a voting machine is located if that entrance is unlocked and is used by voters on Election Day.\textsuperscript{44} Also, people are not allowed to campaign within the county clerk’s office (or the relevant polling place) or to post campaign materials within or upon the exterior of a polling place during the hours absentee voting is taking place.\textsuperscript{45}

People are not allowed to discuss their support or nonsupport of any candidate, party, or issue to be voted on while in any room in which voting, including absentee voting, is taking place (except in where the voters require assistance as discussed in Questions 13, 14 and 15).\textsuperscript{46}

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

If someone is formally challenging your right to vote, you must sign a written oath as to your qualifications before you are permitted to vote. The oath must be in the form provided by the State Board of Elections and 20 printed copies must be included in the election supplies of each precinct.\textsuperscript{47}

21. Can I vote in the primary election?

Kentucky has closed party primary elections, which means you must register as a Democrat or a Republican to vote in that party’s primary election. If you select “Other” as your party registration, you are eligible to vote in nonpartisan city and judicial primary elections ONLY.

To vote in a primary election, a person must be registered as a member of that party on December 31 immediately preceding the primary election, or, in the case of new registrations made after December 31 immediately preceding the primary election, he/she will have registered and remained registered as a member of that party. Therefore, voters who wish to change their political party affiliation to participate in that political party’s primary elections in 2020, must do so by December 31, 2019.\textsuperscript{48}

4 See Election Calendars & Schedules at https://elect.ky.gov/Resources/Pages/Election-Calendar.aspx.
6 31 Ky. Admin. Reg. 3:040
17 31 Ky. Admin. Reg. 6:020
20 Ky. Const. § 145
21 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. 6:020
22 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. 6:020. Section 4 (1)
23 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. 6:020. Section 4 (10)
24 31 Ky. Admin. Regs. 6:020. Section 4 (7)
33 https://elect.ky.gov/Voters/Pages/Military-or-Overseas-Voters.aspx
35 Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 117.085 (c), (d), (e); https://elect.ky.gov/Voters/Pages/Absentee-Voting.aspx
40 https://elect.ky.gov/Voters/Pages/Absentee-Voting.aspx
41 Ky. Rev. Stat. § 117.085 (7)
42 Ky. Rev. Stat. § 117.085 (7)
44 Ky. Rev. Stat. § 117.235 (3)
45 Ky. Rev. Stat. § 117.235 (3)
46 Ky. Rev. Stat. § 117.235 (4)
47 Ky. Rev. Stat. §§ 117.245 (2); 117.316