
Kentucky

Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Guide

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State Guide to Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Statutes

This is a guide to your state's laws relating to voter registration and voter list maintenance.

The statutes/codes cited in this guide may not be the most recent version. States may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in the individual state guides or the information linked to on the state site.

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Who can I contact with election related questions?

[Link to Elections Official](#)

Kentucky State Board of Elections	
Physical Address:	140 Walnut Street Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Mailing Address:	Commonwealth of Kentucky State Board of Elections 140 Walnut Street Frankfort, KY 40601-3240
Phone Number:	502-573-1399
Fax Numbers:	502-573-4369
E-mail:	https://www.sos.ky.gov/elections/Pages/Elections-Contact-Form.aspx
County Clerks:	https://elect.ky.gov/About-Us/Pages/County-Clerks.aspx

How do I register to vote?

[Link to Register](#)
[Link to Statutes](#)

[116.025 Eligibility to vote.](#)

(1) Every person who is a citizen of the United States, a resident of this state, and a resident of the precinct in which he or she offers to vote on or before the day preceding the closing of the registration books for any primary, general, or special election, who possesses on the day of any election the qualifications set forth in Section 145 of the Constitution, exclusive of the durational residency requirements, who is not disqualified under that section or under any other statute, and who is registered as provided in this chapter, may vote for all officers to be elected by the people and on all public questions submitted for determination at that election, in the precinct in which he or she is qualified to vote. Any person who shall have been convicted of any election law offense which is a felony shall not be permitted to vote until his or her civil rights have been restored by executive pardon.

How do I cancel my voter registration?

[Link to County Clerks](#)
[Link to Statutes](#)

Contact the county clerk to request cancellation of your voter registration.

[116.0452 Standards for timely receipt of voter registration application -- Removal of names from registration books -- Confidentiality of registration location.](#)

- (3) The name of a registered voter shall not be removed from the registration books except:
- (a) Upon request of the voter;

How is voter list maintenance handled?

116.112 Voter registration purge program -- Inactive voter list.

(1) The State Board of Elections shall establish a voter registration purge program using the change-of-address information supplied by the United States Postal Service through its licensees or other sources to identify voters whose addresses may have changed.

(2)

(a) If it appears from information provided by the postal service or other sources that a voter has moved to a different address in the same county in which the voter is currently registered, the State Board of Elections shall provide to the county board of elections the information necessary to change the registration records to show the new address and the State Board of Elections shall send to the new address a notice of the change by forwardable mail on a form prescribed by the State Board of Elections and a postage prepaid, pre-addressed return form by which the voter may verify or correct the address information.

(b) If the county board of elections requests authorization from the State Board of Elections to send address confirmation notices as provided in this subsection, the State Board of Elections shall grant the request.

(3)

(a) If it appears from information provided by the postal service or other sources that a voter has moved to a different address not in the same county, the State Board of Elections shall send to the address from which the voter was last registered, by forwardable mail, a notice on a form prescribed by the State Board of Elections, with a postage prepaid and pre-addressed return card on which the voter may state his current address.

(b) If a county board of elections requests authorization from the state board to send address confirmation notices as provided in this subsection, the state board shall grant the request.

(4) The state or county boards of elections shall not remove the name of a voter from the registration records on the ground that the voter has changed his residence unless the voter:

(a) Confirms in writing that the voter has changed residence to a place outside the county; or

(b) 1. Has failed to respond to the notice described in subsection (3) of this section; and 2. Has not voted or appeared to vote and, if necessary, correct the registration records of the voter's address in an election during the period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the date of the second general election for Federal office that occurs after the date of the notice.

If a county board of elections requests authorization from the state board to conduct purges of voters in its county in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, the state board shall grant the request.

(5) The State Board of Elections shall establish an inactive list of all voters who fail to respond to the notice described in subsection (3) of this section and do not vote or appear to vote in an election during the period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the date of the second general election for federal office that occurs after the date of the notice. If a county board of elections requests authorization from the state board to establish an inactive list of voters for its county, the state board shall grant the request.

(6) The State Board of Elections shall complete, not later than ninety (90) days prior to the date of a primary or regular election, any program the purpose of which is to systematically remove the names of ineligible voters from the registration records.

(7) Voters placed on an inactive list are to be counted only for purposes of voting and not for purposes of establishing or modifying precincts, calculating the amount of reimbursement of county clerks by the State Board of Elections for certain election-related expenses, or reporting official statistics, except as provided by the Election Assistance Commission's regulations promulgated pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

116.112 (Cont.)

(8)

- (a) The State Board of Elections and county boards of elections shall maintain for at least two (2) years and shall make available for public inspection and, where available, photocopying at a reasonable cost, all records concerning the implementation of programs and activities conducted for the purpose of ensuring the accuracy and currency of the registration records, except to the extent that the records relate to the declination to register to vote or the identity of a voter registration agency through which any particular voter is registered.
- (b) The records maintained pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection shall include lists of the names and addresses of all persons to whom notices described in subsection (3) are sent, and information concerning whether each person has responded to the notice as of the date that inspection of the records is made.

116.113 Removal of voter's name by state board upon notice of death, declaration of incompetency, conviction of felony, or out-of-state registration -- Notice to county clerk.

(1) Upon receipt of notification from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or other reliable sources of the death of a person, the State Board of Elections shall within five (5) days cause the removal of the name of that person from the voter registration records it maintains, except that no voter's name may be removed during the period of time the registration books are closed for any primary, general, or special election.

(2) Upon receipt of notification from the circuit clerk that a person has been declared incompetent, the State Board of Elections shall within five (5) days cause the removal of the name of that person from the voter registration records it maintains, except that no voter's name may be removed during the period of time the registration books are closed for any primary, general, or special election.

(3) Upon receipt of notification from the Administrative Office of the Courts that a person has been convicted of a felony offense, the State Board of Elections shall within five (5) days cause the removal of the name of that person from the voter registration records it maintains, except that no voter's name may be removed during the period of time the registration books are closed for any primary, general, or special election.

(4) Upon receipt of notification from a local or state jurisdiction that a voter has registered to vote in the new local or state jurisdiction outside of the Commonwealth, the State Board of Elections shall within five (5) days cause the removal of the name of that person from the voter registration records that it maintains, except that no voter's name may be removed during the period of time the registration books are closed for any primary, regular election, or special election.

(5) Following the purge of a name from the records of the State Board of Elections, the state board shall notify the clerk of the county in which the voter lived of the action; and the county clerk shall within ten (10) days update the county voter registration files to reflect the necessary change. If a protest is filed by the voter, the county board shall hear it at its next regular monthly meeting. If the county board decides in favor of the protesting voter, the voter's registration record shall be restored, including his voting record. If the protest is filed while the registration books are closed and the county board decides in favor of the protesting voter, the county board shall issue the voter an "Authorization to Vote" for the upcoming election and the voter's record shall be restored when the registration books open following the election.

[The National Voter Registration Act of 1993](#)

Congress enacted the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (also known as the “NVRA” and the “Motor Voter Act”), to enhance voting opportunities for every American. The Act has made it easier for all Americans to register to vote and to maintain their registration. Section 8 of the NVRA contains requirements with respect to the administration of voter registration by States and requires States to implement procedures to maintain accurate and current voter registration lists.

For more information about the NVRA, please visit the [Department of Justice website](#).

List of voter registration statuses and their definitions

Registration Statuses	
Active - a registered voter ; active voters are counted for purposes of establishing or modifying precincts, calculating the amount of reimbursements of county clerks by the State Board of Elections for certain election-related expenses, and reporting official statistics.	116.112
Inactive - The State Board of Elections shall establish an inactive list of all voters who fail to respond to the notice described in subsection (3) of [116.112] and do not vote or appear to vote in an election during the period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the date of the second general election for federal office that occurs after the date of the notice. If a county board of elections requests authorization from the state board to establish an inactive list of voters for its county, the state board shall grant the request.	116.112
Canceled - voter’s name has been removed from the registration books	116.0452

How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to Form](#)

[31 KAR 6:010. State-based administrative complaint procedure](#)

Section 3. Complaint Process

(1) Any person who believes there has been a violation of any provision of Title III by any election official may file a written complaint with the executive director of the board.

(2) All complaints shall:

(a) Be limited to violations of the requirements placed upon the states by Title III, which are limited to claims for violations of the following:

1. Standards for voting systems;
2. Requirements for provisional voting and voting information; and
3. Requirements for computerized statewide voter registration lists and for voters who register by mail.

(b) Be submitted in writing on the Complaint and Affidavit for Violation of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, and signed by the complainant under oath or affirmation before an officer authorized to administer oaths.

How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

[Link to Voter Rights](#)

KRS 15.243 gives the Attorney General jurisdiction to investigate and enforce election law violations by civil and criminal means.

If you believe that your right to vote has been violated, please contact any of the following:

- Precinct Election Officers
- County Clerk/Board of Elections
- State Board of Elections (502)573-7100
- Attorney General's Election Fraud Hotline (800)328-8683

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

Kentucky State Board of Elections	
Physical Address:	140 Walnut Street Frankfort, KY 40601-3240
Mailing Address:	Commonwealth of Kentucky State Board of Elections 140 Walnut Street Frankfort, KY 40601-3240
Phone Number:	502-573-7100
Fax Number:	502-573-4369
Email Webform:	https://www.sos.ky.gov/elections/Pages/Elections-Contact-Form.aspx
Website:	https://elect.ky.gov/About-Us/Pages/Contact-Us.aspx
County Election Boards:	https://elect.ky.gov/About-Us/Pages/County-Boards-of-Elections.aspx

Office of the Attorney General	
Mailing Address:	Office of the Attorney General 700 Capital Avenue, Suite 118 Frankfort, KY 40601-3449
Phone Number:	502-696-5300 (main switchboard) 800-328-8683 (election law violations)
Fax Number:	502-564-2894
Email Webform:	https://www.ag.ky.gov/Contact-Us/Pages/default.aspx