



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

TO: POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

FROM: MICHAEL G. ADAMS, SECRETARY OF STATE

Candidates for the following offices shall file with the county clerk to attain ballot access and should contact the county clerk of their county of residence for filing procedures and requirements: Circuit Clerk, County Judge Executive, County Clerk, County Attorney, Sheriff, Jailer, Coroner, Property Valuation Administrator, Surveyor, Magistrate/Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner, Constable, Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, Mayor, City Legislative Body, and Board of Education.

Candidates for the following offices shall file with the Office of the Secretary of State: President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, United States Senator, United States Representative in Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, State Senator, State Representative, Supreme Court Justice, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Circuit Judge, District Judge, and Commonwealth Attorney.

Following are guidelines for candidates filing with the Office of the Secretary of State:

1. Complete all applicable blanks on the filing form. The Office of the Secretary of State will make the necessary copies for distribution.
2. If the filing form requires notarization, the candidates and signers must have their signatures acknowledged by a Notary Public and the expiration date of the notary's commission must be stated.
3. Checks should be made payable to the Kentucky State Treasurer.
4. Candidates may file in person or by mail at the following address:

Office of the Secretary of State
Election Division
1025 Capital Center Drive
Suite 201
Frankfort, KY 40601

Questions relating to campaign finance procedures and requirements should be directed to the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance at (502) 573-2226. In addition, KREF's website, <http://www.kref.ky.gov>, provides for the downloading of required reporting forms and a book titled Guide to Campaign Finance. Questions relating to campaign finance matters for federal candidates should be directed to the Federal Election Commission at 1-800-424-9530.

If our Office may be of further assistance to you, please contact our election staff at (502) 564-3490 or by email at sos.elections@ky.gov.

**PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT
WRITE-IN CANDIDATES
GENERAL ELECTION**

The Office of President/Vice President of the United States will appear on the 2028 general election ballot.

Signatures Required:	Each candidate's signature
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Latest date to file (4:00 p.m., local time) (On or before the fourth Friday in October preceding the date of the regular election)	October 27, 2028
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Filing Form SBE/SOS/02	Declaration of Intent to be Write-In Candidates
Filing Fee	\$50.00
Filing Official	Secretary of State

Any candidate for city, county, urban-county, consolidated local government, charter county government, or unified local government office who is defeated in a partisan or nonpartisan primary shall be ineligible for the same office in the regular election. Write-in votes shall be counted **ONLY** for candidates for election to office who have filed a Declaration of Intent to be Write-In Candidates form.

A person shall be **ineligible** as a write-in candidate:

- (a) For more than one (1) office in a general election; or
- (b) If his or her name appears upon the ballot label as a candidate for any office, except that the candidate may file a notice of withdrawal prior to filing an intent to be a write-in candidate for office when a vacancy in a different office occurs because of:
 - 1. Death;
 - 2. Disqualification to hold the office sought;
 - 3. Severe disabling condition which arose after the nomination; or
 - 4. The nomination of an unopposed candidate.

As provided on the Declaration of Intent to be Write-In Candidates filing form, the names of the pledged presidential electors must be listed. The names of candidates for President/Vice President shall be certified in lieu of certifying the names of the candidates for presidential electors.

Please Note: All information contained in this packet is subject to change per Kentucky Revised Statutes.



DECLARATION OF INTENT TO BE
A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
PRESIDENTIAL/VICE PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATES

This Space for Filing Officer Only

To: SECRETARY OF STATE, COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

(Post Office Box Address or Email Address of Candidate for President)

(Post Office Box Address or Email Address of Candidate for Vice President)

We, _____ and _____
(Name of Candidate for President – Please Type or Print) (Name of Candidate for Vice President – Please Type or Print)
intend to be write-in candidates in the November _____ 20 _____ general election for the Office of President and Vice
(Day) (Year)
President of the United States. We do further state that if elected we qualify for the offices sought.

(Signature of Candidate for President)

Residential Address

City

State

Zip

(Signature of Candidate for Vice President)

Residential Address

City

State

Zip

Eight (8) pledged presidential electors must be listed below: (Please type or print the name of each elector)

1. _____ 3. _____ 5. _____ 7. _____
2. _____ 4. _____ 6. _____ 8. _____

The voter **must write-in your surname on the ballot**, but may additionally write-in any of the name variations you have provided below to assist the county board of elections in determining voter intent when counting write-in votes on Election Day. These variations may include any name, in addition to your surname, that voters commonly use to identify you, which may be a nickname, initials or an abbreviated form of your name. 31 KAR 6:030, Section 6(9) & (11) (Listed Below).

Example: James Richard Doe, J.R. Doe, Jim Doe, Rich Doe, Richie- Rich Doe, Dickey Doe

KRS 117.265 (4): Persons who wish to run for President and Vice-President shall file a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, along with a list of presidential electors pledged to those candidates, with the Secretary of State on or before the fourth Friday in October preceding the date of the regular election for those offices. The declaration of intent shall be filed no earlier than the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November of the year preceding the year the office will appear on the ballot, and no later than 4 p.m. local time at the place of filing when filed on the last date on which papers may be filed. Write-in votes cast for the candidates whose names appear on the ballot shall apply to the slate of pledged presidential electors, whose names shall not appear on the ballot.

31 KAR 6:030, Section 1. Definitions

(5) "First name" means an individual's name or names given at birth, as distinguished from a family name or surname.

(6) "Name" means one or more first names coupled with one or more surnames.

(7) "Nickname" means a shortened version of an individual's name or a descriptive or alternative name, in addition to or instead of the first name or surname of an individual.

(10) "Surname" means the family name bestowed at birth, acquired by marriage, or legally adopted by choice.

31 KAR 6:030, Section 6. Definition of a Vote for Write-in Voting Generally.

(1) Only votes cast for eligible write-in candidates as provided in KRS 117.265 shall be considered valid and counted.

(2) A write-in vote for a candidate whose name already appears on the ballot label as a candidate shall not be counted as a vote as provided in KRS 117.265.

(3) The use of stickers, labels, rubber stamps, or other similar devices shall not be counted as write-in votes.

(4) Any minor misspelling of the name of a candidate shall be disregarded in determining the validity of a write-in vote as long as the intended candidate can be clearly determined.

(5) Writing in only the surname of an eligible candidate shall constitute a valid vote, unless there is more than one (1) filed candidate with the same surname for that office. If there is more than one (1) filed candidate with the same surname for that office, writing in only the surname shall not constitute a vote.

(6) Writing in only the first name of an eligible candidate shall not constitute a valid vote.

(7) Writing in only the initials of a candidate shall not constitute a valid vote.

(8) Writing in only the nickname of an eligible candidate shall not constitute a valid vote.

(9) If the voter writes in any other name along with the surname of an eligible write-in candidate, the other name written by the voter shall comply with the variations of names listed by the candidate on SBE/SOS/01, 02, or 03, to constitute a valid vote.

(10) Writing in the surname of the candidate for Governor or the surname of the candidate for Lieutenant Governor shall be sufficient to cast a write-in vote for the slate.

(11) Writing in the surname of the candidate for President or the surname of the candidate for Vice President shall be sufficient to cast a write-in vote for the slate.

31 KAR 6:030

KRS 117.265

SBE/SOS/02 (06/25)