



Kentucky Voter Registration Guide 2020

Updated 3/23/20

New version

Goal: Provide a high base level of voter registration knowledge to allies to help strengthen their voter registration drives.

COVID 19 Note - KFTC is suspending in-person events, tablings, and door to door canvassers until further notice. That is much of the toolbox in the voter registration guide, but we'll continue to train people on these methods while at the same time using social media, email, phone, and [lit drops](#) to drive people to GoVoteKY.com, KentuckyElection.org, and CivilRightsRestoration.ky.gov to help them register to vote and get their friends registered.

People who haven't registered to vote, haven't voted in the last four years, or who have moved counties since the last time they've registered all need to register to be eligible to vote

People who can't register to vote include people who won't be 18 or older on November 3, 2020, people with felonies in their past who haven't had their civil rights restored through executive action by the Governor (more on that later), and non-citizens. You can connect with all of those people to help them to be involved in other ways, but they can't register or vote.

Students who are away from home can and likely should fill one of these out using their campus address. For a November General Election, most of them will be at school on Election Day and they're much more likely to vote if they can walk right down the street and do it simply without extensive travel or mail-in absentee ballots. For a Primary Election, it's a tougher call and might depend on the school's particular academic calendar and the county's in-person absentee voting schedule.

Seventeen-year-olds can register and vote in the primary election if they'll be 18 or older on the date of the General Election, November 3, 2020.

Below is a sample to walk through and point out common mistakes people make. Hopefully, you'll be helping a lot of people to fill out a lot of these cards and we really want to get this right.

A. Are you a citizen of the United States of America? YES NO *If you checked "no" in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form.*

B. Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? YES NO

Check one:		FOR CLERK USE ONLY			TOWN	OTHER CODE
<input type="checkbox"/> New Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Address Change	PRECINCT CODE	PRECINCT NAME			
<input type="checkbox"/> Party Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Name Change					
Social Security Number		Date of Birth (M-D-Y)	County (where you live)	Work Phone	Home Phone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix (circle one) Jr. Sr. II III IV		
Address where you live (do not give PO Box address):			Apt #	City	Zip Code	
Address where you get your mail (if different from above):			Apt #	City	Zip Code	
Party Registration – check one box		<p>WARNING: If you sign this statement even though you know it is untrue, you can be convicted and fined up to \$500 and/or jailed up to 12 months.</p> <p>Voter Declaration – read and sign below</p> <p>I swear or affirm that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a U.S. citizen • I live in Kentucky at the address listed above • I will be at least 18 years of age on or before the next general election • I am not a convicted felon, or if I have been convicted of a felony, my civil rights must have been restored by executive pardon • I have not been judged "mentally incompetent" in a court of law • I do not claim the right to vote anywhere outside Kentucky 				
<p>NOTE: You may change your political party affiliation at any time on or before December 31st to remain eligible to vote in the following primary election.</p>			Signature Date			
		TWO WITNESSES REQUIRED IF "MARK" IS USED				
		Witnessed By:		Witnessed by:		

Start someone out by giving them a registration card, clipboard and a pen and asking them to answer the top two questions, the set of boxes on the left, then the Social Security line and on down and simply ask them to ask if they have any questions along the way.

Things they might get stuck on or get wrong to double check for:

- Boxes at the top need to both be marked yes
- Precinct Code and Precinct Name. They're supposed to leave that blank for the Clerk. It's labeled, but not very well.
- Social Security Number - They must provide a social security number unless you've worked out an agreement with the appropriate County Clerk's office to be able to leave it blank and receive a phone call from them. For people who feel too uncomfortable giving their SSN to you, you can give them a mail-in voter reg card or a slip of paper with the online voter registration link.
- Sometimes, they'll skip the entire line starting with Social Security Number because frankly, everyone is used to putting their name at the top of a form, so they skip down to that line and never go back up.
- County/Address – particularly for students, this is tough. If they're hesitating here, ask them where they want to be registered. Students living away from home have the right to register "back home" or locally where they're going to school (assuming they sleep in a dorm or near campus, not if they commute from home) and it's completely up to them. You can encourage them to register locally, but they might not know their county name or address, so it's good to

be familiar with the syntax of local dorm addresses. Students also often mix up their address, so make sure their county, street address, and city, are aligned.

- Sometimes they'll write "USA," under County, so watch for that and help them correct it.
- "Address where you get your mail" is an important distinction for rural communities where most people get their mail in PO boxes. But in most areas, it should be left blank.
- They **must** also choose a party. If they choose "other," that's fine. But you should let them know that they can't vote in partisan primary elections unless they are registered either Democrat or Republican. Some people new to the political process might not know what the parties stand for, so think about what you might say when this comes up. A non-partisan approach might be to say something like "Well, if it's helpful, Donald Trump is a Republican and Barack Obama is a Democrat."
- Signature and date
- Witness – People might ask you to sign this line, but it's only used if people are unable to make a signature. In that case, you'd let them dictate all the info to you, then have them make their mark and get 2 witnesses to sign.

Check every card turned in to make sure that they filled everything out. Get good at doing this fast, but thorough.

Thank everyone for registering to vote and let them know that they'll get a notice in the mail close to the election letting them know where to vote.

Dates

The last day to register to vote is October 5, 2020 for the November 3rd General Election and May 26, 2020 for the June 23rd Primary. These are the new primary dates, pushed back because of COVID-19. All cards must be postmarked or physically received by a Clerk's office no later than the registration deadline.

Dec 31, 2019 was the party-change deadline – the last day to change political party affiliation and be eligible to vote in that political party's upcoming primary election. For people who have not registered to vote in Kentucky ever before the primary, this date does not matter.

How do I know if Beshear's executive order restored my right to vote?

The Governor launched a website at www.civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov that links to a database where someone can search by their name and date of birth and see if they're listed as having their right to vote restored.

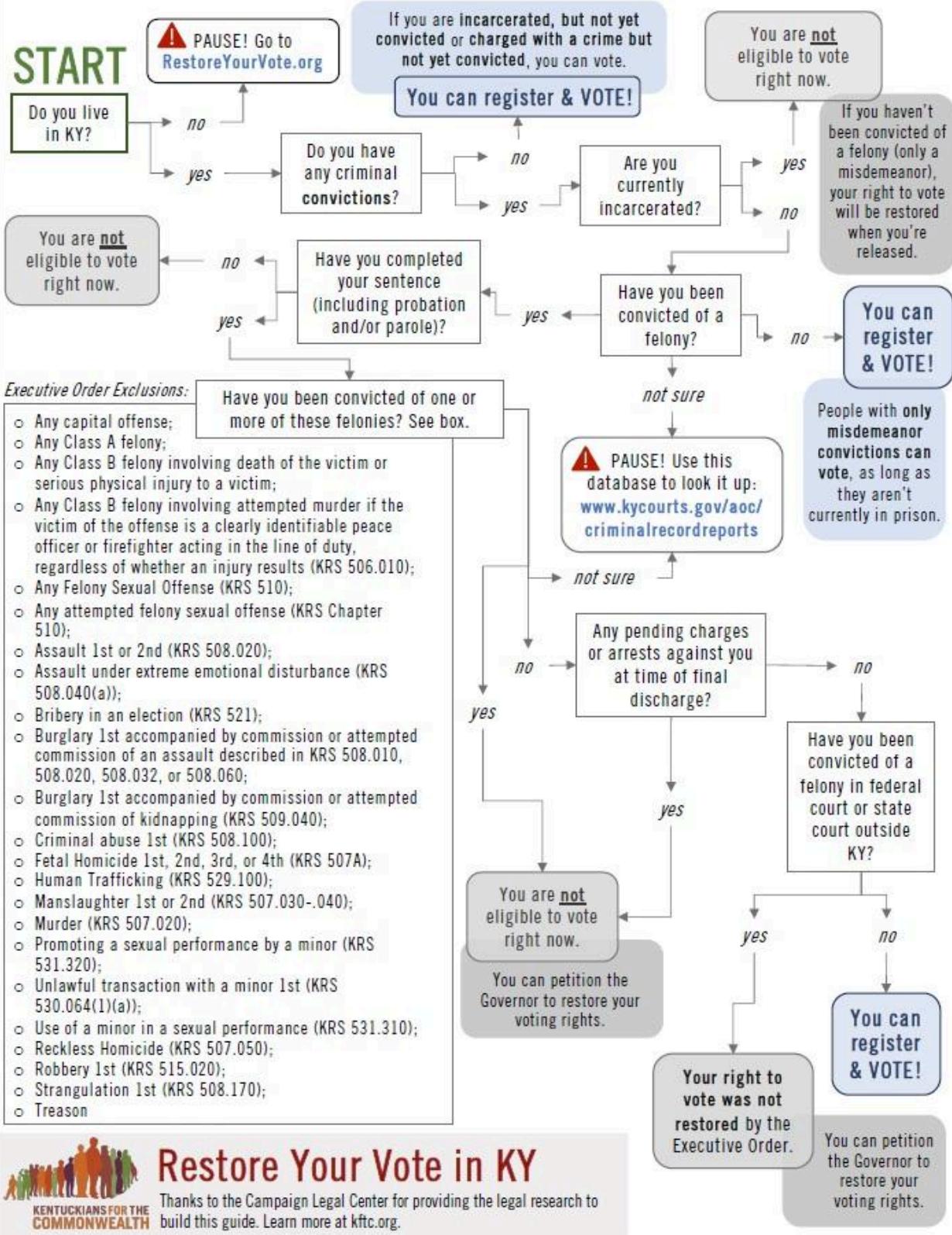
Our allies at the Campaign Legal Center put together another great tool at www.Restoreyourvote.org to help people figure out whether Andy Beshear's Executive Order applies to them.

It asks a series of questions to determine if someone can register to vote, and if so, connects you with an online voter registration portal. For people excluded from the executive order but who have served their time, there's still the option of requesting voting rights through an individual partial pardon from the Governor.

[KFTC also created a printable flow-chart with the same information.](#)

http://kftc.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/restoreyourvotefinal.pdf?fbclid=IwAR04EYUhXY8uwfcCOnK5v5IwO_I-zM2JpSkeXETxIxErPMrYKtKhpRosCFI

START



Restore Your Vote in KY

Thanks to the Campaign Legal Center for providing the legal research to build this guide. Learn more at kftc.org.

Exclusions in the executive order are:

- Any capital offense;
- Any Class A felony;
- Any Class B felony involving death of the victim or serious physical injury to a victim;
- Any Class B felony involving attempted murder if the victim of the offense is a clearly identifiable peace officer or firefighter acting in the line of duty, regardless of whether an injury results (KRS 506.010);
- Any Felony Sexual Offense (KRS 510);
- Any attempted felony sexual offense (KRS Chapter 510);
- Assault 1st or 2nd (KRS 508.020)
- Assault under extreme emotional disturbance (KRS 508.040(a));
- Bribery in an election (KRS 521);
- Burglary 1st accompanied by commission or attempted commission of an assault described in KRS 508.010, 508.020, 508.032, or 508.060;
- Burglary 1st accompanied by commission or attempted commission of kidnapping (KRS 509.040);
- Criminal abuse 1st (KRS 508.100);
- Fetal Homicide 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th (KRS 507A)
- Human Trafficking (KRS 529.100);
- Manslaughter 1st or 2nd (KRS 507.030-.040);
- Murder (KRS 507.020);
- Promoting a sexual performance by a minor (KRS 531.320);
- Unlawful transaction with a minor 1st (KRS 530.064(1)(a));
- Use of a minor in a sexual performance (KRS 531.310);
- Reckless Homicide (KRS 507.050);
- Robbery 1st (KRS 515.020);
- Strangulation 1st (KRS 508.170)
- Treason

After you've determined that the executive order applies to you, you can simply register to vote by going to your local County Clerk's office, filling out a card, or visiting GoVoteKY.com.

In addition, you do not yet have your right to vote back if you're still on probation or parole, if you have any pending felony charges or arrests against you, or if your felony was an out of state or federal felony.

That's a lot of exclusions, which can make trying to register voters with felonies in their past a lot harder, but it's important that we navigate it as best as we can. At KFTC, we believe that every adult deserves the right to vote, which is why we're fighting for HB 6, a proposed constitutional amendment that's much simpler and much more permanent - to restore voting rights to everyone once they've completed their sentence.

Even if your right to vote was not restored through this executive action, you can still individually petition the Governor to get your right to vote back.

Acquiring cards

You can get voter registration cards from your local County Clerk's office or alternately you may request cards from the State Board of Elections - anne.vansant@ky.gov

Voter reg cards come in bricks of 200. They also have pamphlets and mail-in voter registration cards available. They're free, but they occasionally need convincing that you really need the number of cards you're requesting.

After registration

After someone has registered to vote, our job isn't done. We want to hold on to those cards and guard them safely. We want to record the name and contact information of everyone we register as well as information about where we registered them so we can keep in touch to remind them to vote later.

After we've copied the cards or recorded the contact information, we need to get these in to the local County Clerk and mail the out of county cards to the appropriate counties or to the State Board of Elections.

We absolutely need to turn in every card we collect by the voter registration deadline. Not turning them in does a tremendous disservice to our democracy and could be considered a felony as well. Keeping cards safe and getting them in is a high priority.

Phone banks and other outreach to make sure voters have access to information to cast an informed vote and where to go is a key next step.

Snags in the system

- Student registration and Motor Voter - If someone is away at college in Kentucky and they've chosen to register in their college town, at some later time, they might receive a routine message asking them to come back to their hometown County Clerk and renew their driver's license. If they do that, through Motor Voter, their voter registration reverts back to their home county! The correct action is to instead go to the college County Clerk for vehicle registration, but you can alternately renew the license "back home" and then turn in another voter registration card immediately to correct your registration address.
- Inadvertent Party Change - The deadline to change your party for purposes of voting in

the primary is December 31 of the previous year. But people might fill out voter registration cards updating an address leading up to the primary voter registration deadline and inadvertently list their party as something other than how they were registered previously. This seems to make them not eligible to vote in any partisan primaries. If they're not sure what party they're currently registered as and they need to update their address, they should check their current party at the Voter Information Center. <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/vic/>

- Voting from Jail - There is no prohibition against people voting from jail if they haven't yet been convicted (and most of our jail population is pre-trial), but it's also challenging to get people in jails a ballot because being in jail isn't one of the reasons someone can be sent a mail-in ballot and they can't get out to vote in any other way.

Building a relationship with your local County Clerk's staff

If you're running an extensive voter registration operation, make time to talk to your County Clerk or clerk's office voter registration staff, asking them questions and building a relationship. Consider bringing them cookies or getting all your volunteers to sign a card thanking them for processing all these cards you're walking in every week. Proactively point out cards with problems and demonstrate that you're trying to do a good job sending them cards that are as complete and accurate as possible. Building a strong relationship can be helpful later on.

Voter Registration in nearby states

If you operate in Northern Kentucky, Louisville, or anywhere else near the border, it's likely you'll encounter people who want to register to vote in their home state. To accommodate that, you'll need to have cards for other states and know their deadlines and restrictions. For example, Ohio has a 10-day limit to the amount of time you can hold a card before turning it in and the punishments are pretty heavy. There is a "national" voter registration card, but it's prohibitively large and unwieldy.

If you ever find a card after the voter registration deadline...

Do everything you can to get your cards in on time, but if you ever find a card after the voter registration deadline, you'll need to do everything you can to do right by that voter. You can look up their voter information and see if they're already registered (and can thus vote anyway), then call them, explain what happened, apologize profusely, and turn the card into the Clerk after the deadline.

Advice for a great voter registration table

Voter registration can be effective and worthwhile in many different formats. That said, the most effective voter registration events we've been a part of over the years have a few traits in

common.

- **Location with high traffic flow** - Picking the exact right location is the most important part of planning a good voter registration table. You'll try lots of bad locations before you find a great one, so be willing to adapt and iterate. An ideal location has great traffic flow - not only are there a lot of people, but they're moving enough to expose lots of people to your table, but not in such a hurry that they can't stop for a few minutes. Ideally, these are target populations that you really want to register (students, young people, people of color, low income community members, etc.) Also, ideally, you'll have permission to be there and it'll be a place your volunteers are connected to. Examples might include in front of a key grocery store, along a path in a busy park, on a campus, or at a busy bus stop.
- **Strong Visuals** - It should be clear at a glance that you're running a voter registration table. Lots of little signs on tables and clipboard backs can help. Large banners might also be worth it, as long as they won't be blocked by all the people you're registering.
- **Plenty of Clipboards** - It might sound silly, but consider bringing 10 or more clipboards. Nothing attracts crowds like crowds, so when you've got 1 or 2 people filling out a card, that's exactly the right time to be actively calling other people in. You'll fill silly if you could have registered more voters if only you'd brought more clipboards. Clipboards are light, especially the small ones the size of a voter registration card.
- **Sound** - A "carnival barker" patter letting people know what you're doing is very helpful in attracting people. A standard campus announcement is "If anyone else needs to register to vote or update your voter registration address to where you're living now right here in _____, you can sign up right over here. Just takes about ___ minutes to register to vote."
- **Messengers** - Ideally, your volunteers will have a lot in common with the people you're trying to get registered and they'll know a lot of the people passing by. You can also bring in people from ally groups to spread the love.
- **Good Training** - A voter registration table is a great low-pressure opportunity for members to volunteer and get involved and learn how to register voters. It's not as scary as a canvass or phone bank to most people and you can watch their interactions and double check to make sure all cards are filled out correctly. Investing in training early can make a voter registration table far more effective.
- **No Chairs...** - If you have members who can't stand for long or if you're running a very long event, chairs might be important. Other than that, though, tabling is a very active endeavor, so don't plan on just sitting behind a table and waiting for people to come to you. If no one is approaching, you can also send people out to "canvass" the crowd with clipboards.

- **Check every card** - Scan every card to make sure people fill them out completely before you let them walk away.
- [Case Study 1](#)
- [Case Study 2](#)

Materials kit

- **Voter Registration Cards** - [Printable link](#), get some from your local County Clerk's office, or email anne.vansant@ky.gov and request voter registration cards in batches of 500
- **Voter Registration Sign** (for tables and clipboard backs) - [Link](#)
- **Voting Rights Handout** - [Color](#), [B&W](#)
- **Voting Rights Petition** - [Link](#)
- **Decision Tree/ Flowchart** to help people figure out if they got their right to vote back - [Link](#)
- **Application** for Voting Rights (if they're eligible but didn't get their right back from the executive order) - [Link](#)
- **Voting Rights signs** - [Link](#)
- **KFTC Logo sign** - [Link](#)

Links

KY Online voter registration link - <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/ovrweb/>

Check your voter registration status and polling location - <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/vic/>

[Flowchart describing who is eligible to register to vote](#) under the Governor's Exec Order.

www.CivilRightsRestoration.KY.GOV - Official site to see if you got your right to vote back.

Application for people with felonies in their past who have served prison time, probation and parole (if any) (but who did not get their right to vote back from the Executive pardon) to request their right to vote back -

<https://civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov/Documents/Restoration%20of%20Civil%20Rights%20Application%20Final.pdf>

KFTC's election website full of useful tools for voters close to Election Day -
www.KentuckyElection.org

Voter Registration Slideshow 8/25/21 - [Link](#)

For more information about voter registration in Kentucky, contact Dave Newton at 859-420-8919