

2026 LEGISLATION UPDATE

HB 136 and HB 139 from the 2026 Legislative Session made the following changes to campaign finance laws in Kentucky, effective July 15, 2026:

- Campaign funds may be used to pay for the reasonable costs of security measures, which include home or office security systems, fences, body guards, cybersecurity systems, etc. This applies both during and after an election. (KRS 121.175)
- Provides a new definition for “Executive Committee.” (KRS 121.015)
- After receiving notification of their delinquency, late filers will have a five day grace period during which to file their reports without penalty. (KRS 121.140)
- Permits a state or county executive committee to contribute up to \$100 per year to certain nonprofit civic organizations (ones that promote civic education, voter registration efforts, or patriotic events). (KRS 121.150)
- Increases itemized reporting requirement from \$100 to \$200. (KRS 121.150)
- Increases the maximum amount of an anonymous contribution from \$100 to \$200. (KRS 121.150)
- Increases the maximum amount of a cash contribution from \$100 to \$200. (KRS 121.150)
- Increases the individual contribution limit to candidates to match the limit for federal candidates per election and ties future contribution limit increases to adjustments made by the FEC (increase from current \$2,200 individual contribution limit per election to \$3,500 per election). (KRS 121.150)
- Increases the individual contribution limit to permanent committees and contributing organizations to match the limit for federal candidates per election and ties future contribution limit increases to adjustments made by the FEC (increase from current \$2,200 individual contribution limit per year to \$3,500 per year). (KRS 121.150)
- Increases the contribution limits to executive committees and caucus campaign committees from \$5,000 per year to \$10,000 per year. (KRS 121.150)
- Permits a federal candidate to contribute to an executive committee up to the contribution limit (\$10,000 per year). (KRS 121.150)
- Permits a “qualified political party committee,” including state or county executive committees, to make contributions or expenditures in support of nonpartisan candidates. (KRS 121.150)
- After the end of a reporting period, candidates and committees will have seven days, rather than the current two days, in which to file their reports. (KRS 121.180)