

SENATE MEMBERS

Robert Stivers

President, LRC Co-Chair

David Givens

President Pro Tempore

Max Wise

Majority Floor Leader

Gerald A. Neal

Minority Floor Leader

Robby Mills

Majority Caucus Chair

Reginald Thomas

Minority Caucus Chair

Mike Wilson

Majority Whip

Cassie Chambers Armstrong

Minority Whip



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION
State Capitol 700 Capital Avenue Frankfort KY 40601

502-564-8100

Capitol Fax 502-564-2922

Annex Fax 502-564-6543

legislature.ky.gov

Jay D. Hartz

Director

HOUSE MEMBERS

David W. Osborne

Speaker, LRC Co-Chair

David Meade

Speaker Pro Tempore

Steven Rudy

Majority Floor Leader

Pamela Stevenson

Minority Floor Leader

Suzanne Miles

Majority Caucus Chair

Lindsey Burke

Minority Caucus Chair

Jason Nemes

Majority Whip

Joshua Watkins

Minority Whip

MEMORANDUM

TO: Leslie M. Saunders, General Counsel, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance

FROM: Ange Darnell, Regulations Compiler

RE: Proposed Amendments to Regulations – 032 KAR 001:050, 032 KAR 1:080 & 032 KAR 002:020.

DATE: May 6, 2026

A copy of each administrative regulation listed above is enclosed for your files. These regulations are tentatively scheduled for review by the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee at its **AUGUST 2026** meeting. We will notify you of the date and time of this meeting once it has been scheduled.

Pursuant to KRS 13A.280, *if* comments are received during the public comment period, a Statement of Consideration or a one-month extension request for these regulations is due **by noon on August 14, 2026**. Please reference KRS 13A.270 and 13A.280 for other requirements relating to the public hearing and public comment period and Statements of Consideration.

If you have questions, please contact us at RegsCompiler@LRC.ky.gov or (502) 564-8100.

Enclosures

MAY 6 2026

Ange Darnell

REGULATIONS COMPILER

1 GENERAL GOVERNMENT CABINET

2 Kentucky Registry of Election Finance

3 (Amendment)

4 32 KAR 1:050. Political organization registration.

5 RELATES TO: KRS 121.015(3), (4), 121.170, 121.180

6 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 121.015(3), (4), 121.120(1)(g), (4), 121.170(1)

7 CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: This certifies that this administrative regulation
8 complies with the requirements of 2025 RS HB 6, Section 8.

9 NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 121.120(1)(g) authorizes the
10 Registry to promulgate administrative regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of KRS
11 Chapter 121. KRS 121.120(4) requires the registry to promulgate administrative regulations and
12 prescribe forms for the making of reports under KRS Chapter 121. KRS 121.015(3)(c)5.
13 [~~121.015(3)(b)5.~~] requires the Registry to determine by administrative regulation what constitutes
14 a minor political party for purposes of committee registration. As defined by KRS 121.015(4), a
15 "contributing organization" is subject to contribution limits and required to file periodic campaign
16 finance reports under KRS 121.180(6). KRS 121.015(18) defines "form" to mean an online Web
17 page or an electronic document designed to capture, validate, and submit data for processing to
18 the registry. This administrative regulation defines "minor political party" [~~and "executive~~
19 ~~committee"~~] and establishes the Web page that committees and contributing organizations shall
20 use for registration.

21 Section 1. Definitions.

1 (1) [~~"Executive committee" means an organizational unit or affiliate recognized within the~~
2 ~~document governing a political party, that raises and spends funds to promote political party~~
3 ~~nominees, and performs other activities commensurate with the day-to-day operation of a political~~
4 ~~party, including voter registration drives, assisting candidate fundraising efforts, holding state~~
5 ~~conventions or local meetings, and nominating candidates for local, state, and federal office.~~

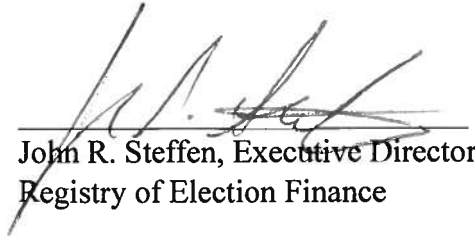
6 (2)} "Minor political party" means an association, committee, organization, or group
7 having constituted authority for its governance and regulation, which nominates or selects a
8 candidate for election to any federal or statewide-elected state office in Kentucky, whose name
9 appears on an election ballot as the candidate of the association, committee, organization, or group,
10 and does not have a recognized caucus campaign committee within the Kentucky House or Senate,
11 as defined by KRS 121.015(3)(c)1.-4. [~~121.015(3)(b)1.-4.~~]

12 (2) [(3)] "Political organization" means any committee or contributing organization, as
13 those terms are defined by KRS 121.015(3) and (4).

14 Section 2. Political Organization Registration. Campaign committees, independent
15 expenditure-only committees, caucus campaign committees, political issues committees,
16 permanent committees, inaugural committees, executive committees, and contributing
17 organizations shall register using the Kentucky Election Finance Management System found on
18 the Registry's Web site at <https://kref.ky.gov>.

32 KAR 1:050

5/4/26
Date


John R. Steffen, Executive Director
Registry of Election Finance

PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on July 23, 2026, at 10:00AM, Eastern time, at the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, 140 Walnut Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five (5) workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing is received by that date, the hearing may be canceled. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through July 31, 2026, at 11:59PM. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person.

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Saunders, General Counsel, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, 140 Walnut Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, phone (502) 573-2226, fax (502) 573-5622, email LeslieM.Saunders@ky.gov.

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

32 KAR 1:050

Contact Person: Leslie Saunders, General Counsel, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance

Phone: (502) 573-2226

Email: LeslieM.Saunders@ky.gov

Subject Headings: Election Finance, Elections and Voting, Open Records

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What this administrative regulation does:

This administrative regulation currently defines “executive committee,” “minor political party,” and “political organization,” and further describes the mechanism for these entities to register with the Registry of Election Finance (“Registry”) in order to report as required by KRS 121.180.

(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation:

The administrative regulation is necessary as it provides definitions for entities, registration obligations, and the mechanism by which such registration is accomplished.

(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

The Registry is authorized by statute to promulgate regulations to carry out the provisions of KRS Chapter 121. The administrative regulation defines entities with registration obligations and conforms to the statutes by providing a mechanism for these entities to electronically register and file with the Registry.

(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

The administrative regulation defines the entities who must register with the Registry and provides the mechanism to register as required by statute.

(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:

(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation:

This amended administrative regulation deletes the definition for “xxecutive committee” from 32 KAR 1:050, §1(1). The regulation retains definitions for “minor political party” and “political organization” and the requirement for registration of any entity that constitutes a “political organization,” as that term is defined in the regulation.

Further, the amendment adds the term “independent expenditure-only committees” to the list of committees that are required to file as provided. This change is not an addition to the filers included, but reflects a change in nomenclature caused by 2024 HB 595 from “unauthorized campaign committee” to “independent expenditure-only committees.” That bill also caused a slight change in the numbering of committee definitions, which is reflected by the updates to the cites in the amendment.

(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation:

This amended administrative regulation is necessary because the 2026 Kentucky General Assembly passed HB 139 which includes a new definition in KRS 121.015(3)(f) for “executive committee of a political party” that is different from the definition for “executive committee” currently found in 32 KAR 1:050, §1(1). KRS 13A.120(2)(i) prohibits an administrative body from promulgating a regulation that modifies or vitiates a statute or its intent, and KRS 13A.120 (4) provides that any regulation in violation of KRS 13A.120 or the spirit thereof, is null, void, and unenforceable. Since HB 139 defines the term “executive committee of a political party” in KRS 121.015(3)(f), it is necessary to delete the definition of “executive committee” from 32 KAR 1:050 Section §1(1), as said definition is no longer valid.

Also, as noted above, a 2024 amendment to KRS 121.015 requires slight changes to the statutory cites in the current administrative regulation and to the list of political organizations affected.

(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

The Registry is given the authority by statute to promulgate regulations to carry out the provisions of KRS Chapter 121. The amended regulation conforms to its authorizing statutes by deleting the definition of “executive committee,” which is now defined by KRS 121.015(3)(f), and thereby satisfying the requirements of KRS 13A. It also brings the regulation into conformity with the previous statutory change described above in 2024.

(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

By deleting the current definition of “executive committee,” the amended administrative regulation conforms to the new definition for “executive committee of a political party” in KRS 121.015(3)(f) set out in HB 139. Further, the amendment makes clear that independent expenditure-only committees, as defined by the General Assembly in 2024 HB 595, are required to register electronically via the same system as committees and contributing organizations and are not left out of that list intentionally.

(3) Does this administrative regulation or amendment implement legislation from the previous five years?

Yes, both 2026 HB 139 and 2024 HB 595.

(4) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation:

This amended administrative regulation continues to affect a “minor political party” and a “political organization” as those terms are defined in the regulation. The regulation’s requirement that a “political organization” must register through the Registry’s electronic Kentucky Election Finance Management System found on the Registry’s Web site have not changed.

(5) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (4) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:

(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (4) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment:

“Executive committees” will now be defined under the new statutory definition “executive committee of a political party” as set forth in HB 139, instead of under the deleted definition. The addition of the independent expenditure-only committees reflects a change in nomenclature only. The requirement that the affected entities register using the electronic Kentucky Election Finance Management System found on the Registry’s Web site has not changed.

(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (4):

The affected entities will incur no cost in complying as the action involves electronic registration only, which is already occurring.

(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (4):

Compliance will continue to provide the affected entities with continued timely and efficient access to the Registry’s statutorily mandated electronic registration and reporting system.

(6) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this amended administrative regulation:

(a) Initially: There will be no initial cost to the administrative body to implement this amended administrative regulation as the Registry’s electronic registration and reporting system is fully operational.

(b) On a continuing basis: There will be no additional cost on a continuous basis to the administrative body to implement this amended administrative regulation.

(7) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation or amendment:

While no additional funding will be required for the implementation and enforcement of this amended administrative regulation, the administrative body operates solely on General Funds.

(8) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment:

It will not be necessary to increase fees or funding to implement this amended administrative regulation.

(9) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees or directly or indirectly increases any fees:

No fees will be established or increased.

(10) TIERING: Is tiering applied? (Explain why or why not):

This amended administrative regulation does not apply tiering because the registration requirements under statute are the same for all “political organization(s)” and the general provisions apply equally to anyone who must register. The statutes do not allow for a separate process for “small” political organizations, because the process afforded to all filers is the same.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

32 KAR 1:050

Contact Person: Leslie Saunders, General Counsel, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance
Phone: (502) 573-2226
Email: LeslieM.Saunders@ky.gov.

(1) Identify each state or federal statute or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation.

KRS 121.015, 121.120, 121.170, and KRS 121.180

(2) State whether this administrative regulation is expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly, and, if so, identify the act:

2026 HB 139 (2026 Ky. Acts Ch. 175) and 2024 HB 595 (Acts. Ch. 107)

(3)(a) Identify the promulgating agency and any other affected state units, parts, or divisions:

The Kentucky Registry of Election Finance is the promulgating agency. No other state units, parts or divisions are affected.

(3)(b) Estimate the following for each affected state unit, part, or division identified in (3)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for subsequent years.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for subsequent years.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for subsequent years.

(4)(a) Identify affected local entities (for example: cities, counties, fire departments, school districts):

The administrative regulation will not affect local entities.

(4)(b) Estimate the following for each affected local entity identified in (4)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for subsequent years.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for subsequent years.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for subsequent years.

(5)(a) Identify any affected regulated entities not listed in (3)(a) or (4)(a):

The administrative regulation affects the political organizations listed (campaign committees, caucus campaign committees, independent expenditure-only committees, political issues committees, permanent committees, inaugural committees, executive committees, and contributing organizations).

(5)(b) Estimate the following for each regulated entity identified in (5)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for subsequent years.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for subsequent years.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for the first year

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for subsequent years.

(6) Provide a narrative to explain the following for each entity identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Fiscal impact of this administrative regulation:

This administrative regulation has no fiscal impact, as the filing system has no associated costs to the users. Further it does nothing to change the electronic filing requirements set out by statute, but only provides the applicable Web site for filers to use.

(b) Methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:

A review of the terms of the administrative regulation: It does nothing but identify a set of political organizations already required to file electronically by statute and direct them to the Web site they may use to do so at no cost.

(7) Explain, as it relates to the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Whether this administrative regulation will have a “major economic impact”, as defined by KRS 13A.010(14):

This administrative regulation will not have a major economic impact.

(b) The methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:

This administrative regulation has no fiscal impact thus no methodology was applied nor resource analysis undertaken to determine that there is not a “major economic impact.”

MAY 6 2026

Ange Darnell

REGULATIONS COMPILER

1 GENERAL GOVERNMENT CABINET

2 Kentucky Registry of Election Finance

3 (Amendment)

4 32 KAR 1:080. Report of an independent expenditure.

5 RELATES TO: KRS 121.150(1), KRS 121.180(15)

6 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 121.120(1)(g),(4)

7 CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: This certifies that this administrative regulation
8 complies with the requirements of 2025 RS HB 6, Section 8.

9 NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 121.120(1)(g) authorizes
10 [grants] the Registry [registry] of Election Finance [the power] to promulgate administrative
11 regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of KRS Chapter 121. KRS 121.015(18) defines
12 “form” to mean an “an online web page of an electronic document designed to capture, validate,
13 and submit data for processing to the registry.” KRS 121.180(15) requires independent
14 expenditures to be reported electronically to the Registry. This administrative regulation specifies
15 the Kentucky Election Finance Management System found on the Registry’s web page [form to]
16 shall be used for electronically reporting independent expenditures [and incorporates this form by
17 reference]. [KRS 121.120(4) requires the registry to promulgate administrative regulations and
18 prescribe forms for the making of reports under KRS Chapter 121.]

1 Section 1. Any person or committee making an independent expenditure shall file the
2 reports required by KRS 121.150(1) and KRS 121.180(15) using the Kentucky Election Finance
3 Management System found on the Registry’s web page at <https://kref.ky.gov>. [The “Report of an
4 Independent Expenditure” form, KREF 013, revised 05/2005, shall be the official form to report
5 independent expenditures.


6 ~~Section 2. Incorporation by Reference.~~

7 ~~(1) “Report of Independent Expenditure”, KREF 013, revised 05/2005, is incorporated by~~
8 ~~reference.~~

9 ~~(2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright~~
10 ~~law, at the office of the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, 140 Walnut Street, Frankfort,~~
11 ~~Kentucky 40601, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.]~~

32 KAR 1:080

5/5/26
Date



John R. Steffen, Executive Director
Registry of Election Finance

PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on July 23, 2026, at 10:00AM, EDT, at the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, 140 Walnut Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five (5) workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing is received by that date, the hearing may be canceled. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through July 31, 2026, at 11:59PM. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person.

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Saunders, General Counsel, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, 140 Walnut Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, phone (502) 573-2226, fax (502) 573-5622, email LeslieM.Saunders@ky.gov.

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

32 KAR 1:080

Contact Person: Leslie Saunders, General Counsel, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance

Phone: (502) 573-2226

Email: LeslieM.Saunders@ky.gov

Subject Headings: Election Finance, Elections and Voting, Open Records

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What this administrative regulation does:

This administrative regulation requires the reporting of independent expenditures through use of the Registry's electronic Kentucky Election Finance Management System found on the Registry's web page.

(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation:

This administrative regulation is necessary because KRS 121.150(1) requires independent expenditures to be reported to the Registry. KRS 121.180(15) requires the reports to be submitted electronically, but the statute does not describe the mechanism for such reporting.

(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

The Registry is given the authority by statute to provide forms for the various filings that KRS Chapter 121 requires for independent expenditures.

(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

This administrative regulation sets the method by which the regular electronic reporting of independent expenditures will be accomplished and provides the web page for such reporting.

(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:

(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation:

This amendment facilitates the submittal of reports to the Registry for independent expenditures by specifying the submittal shall be through electronic filing on the Registry's web page. It also deletes the provision that allows material to be inspected, copied, or obtained in person at the Registry's office as reporting will be performed electronically with public access to view reports.

(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation:

The amendment is necessary to clarify that independent expenditure reports required by statute shall be filed electronically through the Registry's web page instead of through submittal of paper reports to the Registry.

(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

KRS 121.120(1)(g) authorizes the Registry to promulgate administrative regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of KRS Chapter 121. The amendment reflects a change from paper filing of independent expenditure reports to the filing of reports electronically as required by KRS 121.180(15).

(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

This amendment addresses the filing of independent expenditure reports and identifies the Registry web page as the appropriate mechanism to electronically file reports per the statutory mandate.

(3) Does this administrative regulation or amendment implement legislation from the previous five years?

No, but it implements legislation from 2019 SB 4.

(4) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation:

Only those entities that make independent expenditures and are required to file reports with the Registry will be affected by the electronic filing mechanism, which is currently in use.

(5) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (4) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:

(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (4) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment:

Regulated entities will use the regulation to identify the mechanism for filing independent expenditure reports electronically with the Registry. These entities have already been complying with this mechanism and the amendment merely clarifies the requirement.

(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (4):

The regulated entities will incur no costs in complying as the action involves electronic reporting, only, which is already occurring.

(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (4):

Compliance will allow the timely reporting of electronic independent expenditure reports and will no longer require completion of paper forms to satisfy reporting obligations.

(6) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation:

(a) Initially: There will be no initial cost to the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation as the Registry's electronic reporting system is fully operational.

(b) On a continuing basis: There will be no additional cost on a continuous basis to the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation.

(7) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation or amendment:

While no additional funding will be required for the implementation and enforcement of this amended administrative regulation, the administrative body operates solely on General Funds.

(8) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment:

It will not be necessary to increase fees or funding to implement this amended administrative regulation.

(9) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees or directly or indirectly increases any fees:

No fees will be established or increased.

(10) TIERING: Is tiering applied? (Explain why or why not):

This amended administrative regulation does not apply tiering because these general provisions apply equally to anyone who files independent expenditure reports with the Registry. The statutes do not allow for a separate process for "small" filers, because the process afforded to all filers is the same.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

32 KAR 1:080

Contact Person: Leslie Saunders, General Counsel, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance
Phone: (502) 573-2226
Email: LeslieM.Saunders@ky.gov.

(1) Identify each state or federal statute or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation.

KRS 121.120, 121.150, and KRS 121.180

(2) State whether this administrative regulation is expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly, and, if so, identify the act:

2019 SB 4 (2019 Ky. Acts ch. 002)

(3)(a) Identify the promulgating agency and any other affected state units, parts, or divisions:

The Kentucky Registry of Election Finance is the promulgating agency. No other state units, parts or divisions are affected.

(3)(b) Estimate the following for each affected state unit, part, or division identified in (3)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for subsequent years.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for subsequent years.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for subsequent years.

(4)(a) Identify affected local entities (for example: cities, counties, fire departments, school districts):

The administrative regulation will not affect local entities.

(4)(b) Estimate the following for each affected local entity identified in (4)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for subsequent years.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for subsequent years.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for the first year

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for subsequent years.

(5)(a) Identify any affected regulated entities not listed in (3)(a) or (4)(a):

The administrative regulation will affect any person or committee making independent expenditures pursuant to KRS 121.150(1) to the extent it provides for the electronic filing of independent expenditure reports as required by KRS 121.180(15). Previously these reports were filed on paper.

(5)(b) Estimate the following for each regulated entity identified in (5)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for subsequent years.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for subsequent years.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for the first year

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for subsequent years.

(6) Provide a narrative to explain the following for each entity identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Fiscal impact of this administrative regulation:

This administrative regulation has no fiscal impact, as the filing system has no associated costs to the users. Further it does nothing to change the electronic filing requirements set out by statute, but only provides the applicable web page for filers to use.

(b) Methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:

A review of the terms of the administrative regulation: It does nothing but specify that the Kentucky Election Finance Management System found on the Registry's web page shall be used for electronically reporting independent expenditures. The web page may be used at no cost.

(7) Explain, as it relates to the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Whether this administrative regulation will have a "major economic impact", as defined by KRS 13A.010(14):

This administrative regulation will not have a major economic impact.

(b) The methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:

This administrative regulation has no fiscal impact thus no methodology was applied nor resource analysis undertaken to determine that there is not a “major economic impact.”

MAY 6 2026

Ange Darnell

REGULATIONS COMPILER

1 GENERAL GOVERNMENT CABINET

2 Kentucky Registry of Election Finance

3 (Amendment)

4 32 KAR 2:020. General provisions.

5 RELATES TO: KRS 121.120, 121.140, 446.030

6 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 121.120(1)(g)

7 CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: This certifies that this administrative regulation
8 complies with the requirements of 2025 RS HB 6, Section 8.

9 NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 121.120(1)(g) authorizes the
10 Registry of Election Finance to promulgate administrative regulations necessary to carry out and
11 enforce the campaign finance laws contained in KRS Chapter 121. This administrative regulation
12 establishes procedures for processing possible violations of campaign finance law and establishes
13 general provisions that shall apply throughout 32 KAR Chapter 2 governing practice and
14 procedure.

15 Section 1. Definitions.

16 (1) "Campaign finance law" means statutes in KRS Chapter 121 and administrative
17 regulations in KAR Title 32.

18 (2) "Complainant" means any person who files a complaint with the Registry of Election
19 Finance alleging a violation of campaign finance law.

20 (3) "Complaint" means an allegation filed with the Registry of Election Finance charging
21 that a violation of campaign finance law has occurred or is about to occur.

1 (4) "Conciliation agreement" means an agreement offered by the Registry of Election
2 Finance to an alleged violator of campaign finance law as provided in KRS 121.140.

3 (5) "Hearing officer" is defined by KRS 13B.010(5) [~~means the retired or former justice or~~
4 ~~judge selected by the process described in KRS 121.140(4)~~].

5 (6) "Registry" means the Registry of Election Finance.

6 (7) "Respondent" means any person against whom a complaint has been filed with the
7 Registry of Election Finance or against whom action is taken by the registry based upon
8 information ascertained through its normal enforcement activity.

9 Section 2. Computation of Time.

10 (1) General provision. In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this
11 administrative regulation, the provisions of KRS 446.030 shall govern, except as provided in
12 subsection (2) of this section.

13 (2) Special provision for service by mail. If the registry or a person serves a document by
14 mail, the prescribed period for the registry or any person to take the next subsequent action that is
15 permitted or required shall include three (3) additional days.

16 Section 3. Enforcement Matters.

17 (1) Enforcement matters may be initiated by a written complaint or on the basis of
18 information ascertained by the registry in the normal course of the performance of its duties.

19 (2) In order to avoid the possibility of prejudice, real or apparent, in derogation of the
20 public interest in enforcement actions pending before the registry, interested persons outside the
21 agency shall not make or cause to be made to any registry board member any communication
22 relative to the factual or legal merits of an enforcement action, nor shall a registry board member


1 make or entertain any communications relating to registry enforcement actions until the registry
2 has concluded all action with respect to the enforcement matter in question.

3 (3) This section shall not be construed to prohibit contact between a respondent or
4 respondent's attorney and a registry employee in the performance of the registry's duties.
5 Statements made by a registry employee during these communications shall not bind or estop the
6 registry in any way.

7 Section 4. Representation by Counsel; Notification. If a respondent wishes to be
8 represented by counsel with regard to any matter pending before the registry, the respondent's
9 counsel shall file an Entry of Appearance identifying the name, address, email address, and
10 telephone number of the counsel and a statement signed by the respondent, identifying the subject
11 of the representation, and authorizing the counsel to receive all notifications and other
12 communications from the registry on the respondent's behalf.

32 KAR 2:020

5/5/26
Date



John R. Steffen, Executive Director
Registry of Election Finance

PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on July 23, 2026, at 10:00AM, Eastern Time, at the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, 140 Walnut Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five (5) workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing is received by that date, the hearing may be canceled. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through July 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person.

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Saunders, General Counsel, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, 140 Walnut Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, phone (502) 573-2226, fax (502) 573-5622, email LeslieM.Saunders@ky.gov.

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

32 KAR 2:020

Contact Person: Leslie Saunders, General Counsel, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance

Phone: (502) 573-2226

Email: LeslieM.Saunders@ky.gov

Subject Headings: Election Finance, Elections and Voting, Administrative Hearings

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What this administrative regulation does:

This administrative regulation currently defines general terms relevant to alleged violations of campaign finance law and sets forth procedures for processing alleged violations, including time computation, initiation of enforcement matters, and representation by counsel.

(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation:

This administrative regulation is necessary as it provides definitions used throughout 32 KAR Chapter 2 and certain generalized procedures as described above but that are not set out by statute.

(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

The Registry of Election Finance (the "Registry") is authorized by statute to promulgate regulations to carry out the provisions of KRS Chapter 121. KRS 121.140(4) provides that the Registry has authority to conduct administrative hearings pursuant to the provisions of KRS Chapter 13B. The administrative regulation provides definitions and initial procedures for such enforcement per the statute and for terms used in 32 KAR Chapter 2 generally.

(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

Per the mandates of the statute, this administrative regulation provides definitions for parties to an enforcement action and other associated terms and provides the mechanism for the timing and the filing of such actions. It also sets forth procedures for representation by counsel.

(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:

(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation:

This amended administrative regulation deletes the current definition for "hearing officer," which differs from the definition for the term found in KRS Chapter 13B. The current definition

only authorizes retired and former justices or judges to serve as hearing officers. The amended regulation defines “hearing officer” to encompass an individual, duly qualified and employed pursuant to KRS Chapter 13B, and assigned by the Registry to preside over administrative hearings.

(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation:

The amendment is necessary to assure that the definition of the term “hearing officer” complies with amendments to KRS 121.140 and KRS 13B.010.

(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

KRS 121.120(1)(g) authorizes the Registry to promulgate administrative regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of KRS Chapter 121. The amended regulation conforms to its authorizing statutes by deleting the current definition of “hearing officer,” which now conflicts with the relevant statutes, and replaces it with the appropriate definition in KRS 13B.010(5).

(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

The amended regulation provides a definition for “hearing officer” which is consistent with the hearing process set forth in KRS 121.140 and KRS Chapter 13B and eliminates confusion as to the requirements of the statute.

(3) Does this administrative regulation or amendment implement legislation from the previous five years?

Yes, 2024 HB 595 (2024 Ky. Acts. Ch. 107)

(4) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation:

Only those who are parties to Registry actions or seek to preside over Registry administrative hearings will be affected by this amended administrative regulation.

(5) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (4) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:

(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (4) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment:

Those who seek to preside as hearing officers over Registry administrative hearings will need to be certified under KRS Chapter 13B. No action is required by any other entities nor does the amendment change the statutory requirements for Registry hearing officers. It only replaces an outdated definition.

(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (4):

There are no costs associated with the amended administrative regulation. It only removes an outdated definition and replaces it with the required definition under 2024 amendments to KRS 121.140.

(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (4):

Compliance will allow individuals to serve as KRS Chapter 13B hearing officers over Registry hearings if qualified and selected to do so.

(6) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation:

(a) Initially: There will be no initial cost to the administrative body to implement this amendment.

(b) On a continuing basis: There will be no additional cost on a continuous basis to the administrative body to implement this amendment.

(7) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation or amendment?

While no additional funding will be required for the implementation and enforcement of this amendment, the administrative body operates solely on General Funds.

(8) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment:

It will not be necessary to increase fees or funding to implement this amended administrative regulation.

(9) State whether or not this administrative regulation established any fees or directly or indirectly increased any fees:

No fees will be established or increased.

(10) TIERING: Is tiering applied? (Explain why or why not):

This amendment does not apply tiering because these general provisions apply equally to anyone who seeks to preside over Registry administrative hearings as a KRS Chapter 13B hearing officer and to those who appear as parties before the Registry.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

32 KAR 2:020

Contact Person: Leslie Saunders, General Counsel, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance

Phone: (502) 573-2226

Email: LeslieM.Saunders@ky.gov

(1) Identify each state or federal statute or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation.

KRS 121.120(g), 121.140(4) and 446.030

(2) State whether this administrative regulation is expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly, and, if so, identify the act:

Yes, 2024 HB 595 (2024 Ky. Acts. Ch. 107)

(3)(a) Identify the promulgating agency and any other affected state units, parts, or divisions:

The Kentucky Registry of Election Finance is the promulgating agency. No other state units, parts, or divisions are affected.

(b) Estimate the following for each affected state unit, part, or division identified in (3)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for subsequent years.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for subsequent years.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for subsequent years.

(4)(a) Identify affected local entities (for example: cities, counties, fire departments, school districts):

This amendment will not affect local entities

(b) Estimate the following for each affected local entity identified in (4)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for subsequent years.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for subsequent years.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for subsequent years.

(5)(a) Identify any affected regulated entities not listed in (3)(a) or (4)(a):

The amendment will affect only those who are qualified to be and employed as Registry hearing officers.

(b) Estimate the following for each regulated entity identified in (5)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not result in any additional expenditures for subsequent years.

2. Revenues:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate revenue for subsequent years.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for the first year.

For subsequent years: This administrative regulation will not generate any cost savings for subsequent years.

(6) Provide a narrative to explain the following for each entity identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Fiscal impact of this administrative regulation:

There are no fiscal impacts as the amendment only changes the definition for “hearing officer” to be consistent with that definition contemplated by KRS 121.140(4) and as currently found in KRS Chapter 13B.

(b) Methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:

A review of the terms and definitions of the administrative regulation: The only change is to the definition for “hearing officer,” which does not have any fiscal impacts to any entity including the Registry.

(7) Explain, as it relates to the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Whether this administrative regulation will have a “major economic impact”, as defined by KRS 13A.010 (14):

This administrative regulation will not have a major economic impact.

(b) The methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:

This administrative regulation has no fiscal impact thus no methodology was applied nor resource analysis undertaken to determine that there is not a “major economic impact.”