

1 AN ACT proposing to amend Sections 97, 99, 119, and 122 of the Constitution of
2 Kentucky relating to terms of Constitutional offices.

3 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

4 ➔Section 1. Are you in favor of changing the terms of Circuit Court Clerks and
5 Commonwealth's Attorneys from six-year terms to eight-year terms beginning in 2024,
6 terms of County Attorneys and judges of the district court from four-year terms to eight-
7 year terms beginning in 2022, and requiring district judges to have been a licensed
8 attorney for at least eight years beginning in 2022 by amending the Constitution of
9 Kentucky to read as stated below?

10 ➔Section 2. It is proposed that Section 97 of the Constitution of Kentucky be
11 amended to read as follows:

12 In the year two thousand ***twenty-four***, and every ***eight***~~[six]~~ years thereafter, there
13 shall be an election in each county for a Circuit Court Clerk, and for a Commonwealth's
14 Attorney, in each circuit court district, unless that office be abolished, who shall hold
15 their respective offices for ***eight***~~[six]~~ years from the first Monday in January after their
16 election, and until the election and qualification of their successors.

17 ➔Section 3. It is proposed that Section 99 of the Constitution of Kentucky be
18 amended to read as follows:

19 ***(1)*** At the regular election in nineteen hundred and ninety-eight and every four
20 years thereafter, there shall be elected in each county a Judge of the County Court, a
21 County Court Clerk,~~[a County Attorney,]~~ Sheriff, Jailer, Coroner, Surveyor and
22 Assessor, and in each Justice's District one Justice of the Peace and one Constable, who
23 shall enter upon the discharge of the duties of their offices on the first Monday in January
24 after their election, and who shall hold their offices four years until the election and
25 qualification of their successors.

26 ***(2) In the year two thousand twenty-two, and every eight years thereafter, there***
27 ***shall be elected in each county a County Attorney, who shall enter upon the discharge***

1 of the duties of his or her office on the first Monday in January after his or her
2 election, who shall hold the office for eight years until the election and qualification of
3 his or her successor.

4 ➔Section 4. It is proposed that Section 119 of the Constitution of Kentucky be
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Court of Appeals, ~~and~~ circuit
7 court, and district court shall severally hold their offices for terms of eight years~~, and~~
8 ~~judges of the district court for terms of four years].~~ All terms commence on the first
9 Monday in January next succeeding the regular election for the office. No justice or
10 judge may be deprived of his term of office by redistricting, or by a reduction in the
11 number of justices or judges.

12 ➔Section 5. It is proposed that Section 122 of the Constitution of Kentucky be
13 amended to read as follows:

14 To be eligible to serve as a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the Court of
15 Appeals, Circuit Court or District Court a person must be a citizen of the United States,
16 licensed to practice law in the courts of this Commonwealth, and have been a resident of
17 this Commonwealth and of the district from which he is elected for two years next
18 preceding his taking office. In addition, to be eligible to serve as a justice of the Supreme
19 Court or judge of the Court of Appeals or Circuit Court a person must have been a
20 licensed attorney for at least eight years. Beginning in the year two thousand and
21 twenty-two, no district judge shall serve who has not been a licensed attorney for at least
22 eight~~two~~ years.

23 ➔Section 6. The eight-year licensure requirement for District Judges as set forth
24 in Section 5 of this Act shall not apply to any person serving as a District Judge on the
25 effective date of this Act.

26 ➔Section 7. This amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the
27 Commonwealth for their ratification or rejection at the time and in the manner provided

1 for under Sections 256 and 257 of the Constitution and under Sections 7 and 8 of this
2 Act.

3 ➔Section 8. Notwithstanding any language in KRS 118.415 to the contrary, the
4 Secretary of State shall cause the entirety of the proposed amendment to the Constitution
5 of Kentucky contained in Sections 1 to 5 of this Act to be published at least one time in a
6 newspaper of general circulation published in this state, and shall also cause to be
7 published at the same time and in the same manner the fact that the amendment will be
8 submitted to the voters for their acceptance or rejection at the next regular election at
9 which members of the General Assembly are to be voted for. The publication required by
10 this section and KRS 118.415 shall be made no later than the first Tuesday in August
11 preceding the election at which the amendment is to be voted on.

12 ➔Section 9. Notwithstanding any language in KRS 118.415 to the contrary, the
13 Secretary of State, not later than the second Monday after the second Tuesday in August
14 preceding the next regular election at which members of the General Assembly are to be
15 chosen in a year in which there is not an election for President and Vice President of the
16 United States, or not later than the Thursday after the first Tuesday in September
17 preceding a regular election in a year in which there is an election for President and Vice
18 President of the United States, shall certify the entirety of the proposed amendment to the
19 Constitution of Kentucky contained in Sections 1 to 5 of this Act to the county clerk of
20 each county, and the county clerk shall have the entirety of the amendment, as so
21 certified, indicated on the ballots provided to the voters in paper or electronic form as
22 applicable to the voting machines in use in each county or precinct.