



On November 3, 2020, voters in the Commonwealth of Kentucky will be asked whether to amend the Constitution of Kentucky on the two following questions.

Please contact your County Clerk
or the Kentucky Secretary of State's office for more information.
<https://www.sos.ky.gov/elections/Pages/2020-General-Updates.aspx>
502-564-3490

QUESTION

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/20RS/sb15/bill.pdf>

Question: Are you in favor of creating a new section of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to crime victims, as proposed in Section 2 below?

SECTION 2. IT IS PROPOSED THAT A NEW SECTION BE ADDED TO THE CONSTITUTION OF KENTUCKY TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

To secure for victims of criminal acts or public offenses justice and due process and to ensure crime victims a meaningful role throughout the criminal and juvenile justice systems, a victim, as defined by law which takes effect upon the enactment of this section and which may be expanded by the General Assembly, shall have the following rights, which shall be respected and protected by law in a manner no less vigorous than the protections afforded to the accused in the criminal and juvenile justice systems: victims shall have the reasonable right, upon request, to timely notice of all proceedings and to be heard in any proceeding involving a release, plea, sentencing, or in the consideration of any pardon, commutation of sentence, granting of a reprieve, or other matter involving the right of a victim other than grand jury proceedings; the right to be present at the trial and all other proceedings, other than grand jury proceedings, on the same basis as the accused; the right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; the right to consult with the attorney for the Commonwealth or the attorney's designee; the right to reasonable protection from the accused and those acting on behalf of the accused throughout the criminal and juvenile justice process; the right to timely notice, upon request, of release or escape of the accused; the right to have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered in setting bail, determining whether to release the defendant, and setting conditions of release after arrest and conviction; the right to full restitution to be paid by the convicted or adjudicated party in a manner to be determined by the court, except that in the case of a juvenile offender the court shall determine the amount and manner of paying the restitution taking into consideration the best interests of the juvenile offender and the victim; the right to fairness and due consideration of the crime victim's safety, dignity, and privacy; and the right to be informed of these enumerated rights, and shall have standing to assert these rights. The victim, the victim's attorney or other lawful representative, or the attorney for the Commonwealth upon request of the victim may seek enforcement of the rights enumerated in this section and any other right afforded to the victim by law in any trial or appellate court with jurisdiction over the case. The court shall act promptly on such a request and afford a remedy for the violation of any right. Nothing in this section shall afford the victim party status, or be construed as altering the presumption of innocence in the criminal justice system. The accused shall not have standing to assert the rights of a victim. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the prosecuting attorney. Nothing in this section or any law enacted under this section creates a cause of action for compensation, attorney's fees, or damages against the Commonwealth, a county, city, municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the Commonwealth, an officer, employee, or agent of the Commonwealth, a county, city, municipal corporation, or any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, or an officer or employee of the court. Nothing in this section or any law enacted under this section shall be construed as creating:

- (1) A basis for vacating a conviction; or
- (2) A ground for any relief requested by the defendant.

QUESTION

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/20RS/hb405/bill.pdf>

The proposed amendments to these existing constitutional sections are in **bold** and **underlined**.

Question: Are you in favor of changing the term of Commonwealth's Attorneys from six-year terms to eight-year terms beginning in 2030, changing the terms of judges of the district court from four-year terms to eight-year terms beginning in 2022, and requiring district judges to have been licensed attorneys for at least eight years beginning in 2022, by amending the Constitution of Kentucky to read as stated below?

It is proposed that Section 97 of the Constitution of Kentucky be amended to read as follows:

In the year two thousand, and every six years thereafter, there shall be an election in each county for a Circuit Court Clerk, and, **until the year two thousand thirty**, for a Commonwealth's Attorney, in each circuit court district, unless that office be abolished, who shall hold their respective offices for six years from the first Monday in January after their election, and until the election and qualification of their successors. **Beginning in the year two thousand thirty, and every eight years thereafter, there shall be an election for a Commonwealth's Attorney in each circuit court district, unless that office be abolished, who shall hold his or her office for eight years from the first Monday in January after his or her election, and until the election and qualification of his or her successor.**

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

Justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Court of Appeals and circuit court shall severally hold their offices for terms of eight years, and **until the year two thousand twenty-two**, judges of the district court for terms of four years. **Beginning in the year two thousand twenty-two, judges of the district court shall hold their offices for terms of eight years.** All terms commence on the first Monday in January next succeeding the regular election for the office. No justice or judge may be deprived of his term of office by redistricting, or by a reduction in the number of justices or judges.

It is proposed that Section 122 of the Constitution of Kentucky be amended to read as follows:

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

The eight-year licensure requirement for district judges set forth in the amendment to Section 122 of the Constitution shall not apply to any person serving as a district judge on the effective date of this amendment.