



**DAVID YATES**  
JEFFERSON COUNTY CLERK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Jefferson County's First Nonpartisan Primary for Metro Mayor and Council Is One Month Away**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (April 20, 2026) -- Jefferson County's first nonpartisan election for Metro Mayor and Council is now one month away, and Jefferson County Clerk David Yates is outlining what changes voters can expect on their May Primary ballots.

This primary marks the first time that all voters—including more than 75,000 independent voters—will be able to participate in the mayoral and Metro Council primaries.

Nonpartisan races do not list party affiliation on the ballot. All candidates appear together in a single contest, and every registered voter may vote in these races. In the May Primary, the offices of Louisville Mayor and Louisville Metro Council's odd-numbered districts are nonpartisan.

In nonpartisan contests, the top two candidates advance to the November 3<sup>rd</sup> general election if more than two candidates' file. If one or two candidates file, the race bypasses the primary and appears only on the November ballot.

"I am urging every voter – whether you've lived here your whole life or you're new to Jefferson County – to take a few minutes to educate yourself about what your ballot will look like. Review it ahead of time. Talk with your family. Make a plan," said Clerk Yates.

"This is a milestone for our county. It's an opportunity for more voices to be heard and for more voters to take part in choosing our local leadership. But it only works if people understand the process and participate," Yates said.

Not all city offices are affected by this change, many races remain partisan, including County Clerk, Sheriff, Property Valuation Administrator (PVA), and County Attorney. Democratic voters participate only in Democratic primary races, Republican voters participate only in Republican primary races, nonpartisan races are open to all voters, regardless of party. Each party's winner moves on to the general election.

Selections for primary election races must be made individually. If a voter does not choose a candidate in a nonpartisan race, no vote is recorded for that contest, votes for other races can still be counted. Election officials encourage voters to review the entire ballot.

With the county's first nonpartisan primary approaching, officials emphasize the importance of understanding how these races work and how ballots will look in May.

Voters can preview the exact sample ballot they will use by visiting [LouisvilleVotes.org](https://LouisvilleVotes.org).

#### **Important Primary Election dates:**

April 20, 2026 - Last day to register to vote in the May 19<sup>th</sup> primary

- Deadline is 4 p.m.
- Register online at [LouisvilleVotes.org](https://LouisvilleVotes.org)

May 5, 2026 - Last day to request an absentee ballot

- The portal at [GoVote.ky.gov](https://GoVote.ky.gov) stays open through May 5, 2026 for the May 19 Primary Election for eligible voters.

May 6 to 8 & May 11-13 - In-person excused absentee voting

May 14 to 16 - In-person no excuse absentee voting

([Interactive map of 24 locations across Jefferson County](#))

May 19 - Primary Election Day

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