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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MEDIA ADVISORY:

Absentee Voting Portal Opens for May 19 Primary Election

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (April 9, 2026) - Election officials with the Jefferson County Clerk's Office want voters to know that the online absentee ballot request portal is open.

The portal at GoVote.ky.gov stays open through May 5, 2026 for the May 19 Primary Election allowing eligible voters to apply for a mail-in absentee ballot.

Mail-in absentee ballots are available only to voters who meet one of the qualifying criteria established under Kentucky law. Except for voters requesting a medical emergency absentee ballot or military and overseas voters using the military application, a qualified voter may apply through the portal if they are:

- A Kentucky resident who is a member of the Armed Forces, their dependent, or a voter residing overseas
- A student temporarily living outside their county of residence
- A voter incarcerated and charged with a crime but not yet convicted
- A voter who has moved to another state while registration books are closed there before a presidential election (eligible only for President/Vice President ballot)
- A voter temporarily residing outside Kentucky but still eligible to vote here
- A voter who will be absent from their county for all days and hours of both excused and no-excuse in-person absentee voting
- A participant in the Secretary of State's crime-victim address confidentiality program

- A voter unable to appear in person due to age, disability, or illness, and who has not been declared mentally disabled by a court

Voter Identification Requirements

Some voters may be required to verify their identity when submitting an absentee ballot application. If no photo ID is on file with the State Board of Elections, the portal may prompt the voter to upload an acceptable form of identification. Voters using an alternative ID—such as a Social Security card or government benefits card—must also complete the Voter Affirmation Form (SBE 71), available through the portal or as a [downloadable PDF](#).

Accessible Absentee Ballots

Voters with disabilities who cannot mark a paper ballot may request an accessible absentee ballot or receive guidance on the state’s accessible absentee portal by calling (502) 574-5886 or (502) 574-5889.

Medical Emergency Absentee Ballots

In the event of a medical emergency occurring within 14 days or less before the election, a registered voter—and the voter’s spouse—may apply for an absentee ballot. For assistance, call (502) 574-5886 or (502) 574-5889.

Military and Overseas Voters

Members of the Armed Forces, their dependents, and overseas voters should access the military and overseas ballot portal at GoVote.ky.gov.

Ballot Drop-Off Locations

A list of ballot drop-off locations is [available online](#).

Important Primary Election dates:

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

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

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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