



**DAVID YATES**  
JEFFERSON COUNTY CLERK

Ashley Tinius

Communications, Media, & Public Relations Director

Jefferson County Clerk's Office

Media calls/texts: (502) 648-0525

[ATinius@JeffersonCountyClerk.org](mailto:ATinius@JeffersonCountyClerk.org)

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:*

***Jefferson County Clerk David Yates Provides Update on Past Election Challenges and System Improvements Ahead of Upcoming May Primary Election***

*LOUISVILLE, Ky. (May 4, 2026) – With just more than two weeks until the May 19<sup>th</sup> Primary election, Jefferson County Clerk David Yates released a detailed update on the technical issues that affected voter check-in during the past two elections, outlining the causes of the delays and the significant steps taken to ensure a smoother and more efficient voting experience moving forward.*

***Past Election Challenges***

*During the last two election cycles, Jefferson County experienced technical problems with electronic pollbooks (epollbooks) provided by Election Systems & Software (ES&S). Despite pre-election testing, the epollbooks froze before polls opened, causing delays as election workers attempted to scan driver's licenses and IDs. In many cases, workers were forced to reboot the system.*

*While the voter check-in process typically takes about 45 seconds, some locations reported times of up to six minutes. These delays created understandable frustration for voters and placed election workers in the difficult position of managing long lines and heightened tensions.*

*In 2024, two groups filed a lawsuit seeking to extend poll hours past 6 p.m., but a judge ruled against the request, noting that no voters were ultimately denied the right to vote.*

*Former Clerk Bobbie Holsclaw publicly apologized for the technical difficulties and committed to improvements.*

*Importantly, while these issues affected efficiency, the integrity and security of the election were never compromised. Every eligible voter cast a ballot, and all votes were accurately recorded and counted in accordance with election law.*

### **What Caused the Delays**

*The ES&S system downloaded updated information from in-person early voting before polls opened. With more than 100,000 early voters—or approximately 38% of all voters—the system initiated a large-scale update when brought online on Election Day morning.*

*This update is a built-in security feature designed to ensure that individuals who voted early cannot vote again. However, the volume of data required additional processing time. In some locations, machines were also not powered up early enough, contributing to delays.*

### **System Upgrades and Testing**

*Earlier this year, Jefferson County upgraded its epollbooks through ES&S to improve readiness and performance. Enhancements include:*

- *Faster system response when poll workers take action*
- *Separation of data reading and writing processes to reduce wait times*
- *Database optimization to improve speed and overall performance*

*In March, ES&S conducted a full Election Day simulation on-site in Jefferson County.*

*“During this real-world, high-volume check-in exercise, the upgraded system performed as expected, with no delays observed. Based on this testing, we are confident in the system’s performance going into upcoming elections,” an ES&S spokesperson said.*

*ES&S will also provide enhanced support during early voting and during the May 19<sup>th</sup> Primary Election, including on-site and remote assistance from senior members of their pollbook leadership team.*

### **Oversight and Accountability Measures**

*Since taking office, Clerk David Yates has implemented additional oversight and accountability measures to prevent future issues.*

*“I promise you that I have worked hard to get to the bottom of what went wrong. Since I was appointed Jefferson County Clerk in October, I have reworked contracts, put renewed*

oversight in place, and implemented clear guidelines to hold ES&S accountable,” said Clerk Yates.

### **Commitment to Voters**

*While past challenges affected processing speed, voters can be assured that the integrity, legality, and accuracy of Jefferson County elections have never been compromised—and will not be compromised in the upcoming election.*

*“Our focus moving forward is not only to maintain that integrity, but to deliver a smoother, faster, and more seamless voting experience for every voter,” Yates said.*

*The Jefferson County Clerk’s Office remains fully committed to conducting elections that are secure, lawful, and accurate. Every safeguard is in place to ensure that each eligible vote is properly recorded and counted.*

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

*May 5, 2026 – Last day to request an absentee ballot*

- *Eligible voters can request an absentee ballot at [GoVote.ky.gov](https://www.go.vote.ky.gov) until May 5, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.*
- *May 6-8 & May 11-13 – In-person excused absentee voting*

*May 14-16 – In-person Early Voting: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.*

- *<https://bit.ly/JeffersonCountyEarlyVotingLocations>*

*May 19 – Primary Election Day*

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