Running Elections During a Pandemic

Jefferson County, Kentucky
Jefferson County

- 632,000 registered voters
- 231 polling locations
- 623 precincts
- 18 full time employees in Jefferson County Clerk’s Office Election Center
- Election day voting
- 3,000 elections officers
- 20 in-person election officer training classes held throughout the county
- ES&S DS200s and ExpressVotes (primarily hand marked paper ballots)
- Over 2,000 ballot styles for Primary
- Absentee voting – mail-in absentee ballots must be received by election day
- Counting absentee ballots begins on election day
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Primary scheduled for May 19, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Governor Andy Beshear declared State of Emergency due to COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Governor Beshear issued Executive Order rescheduling Primary to June 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Based on recommendation of Secretary of State Michael Adams, Gov. Beshear issued Executive Order directing all Kentuckians to utilize absentee voting by mail for June 23 primary</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5 (48 days out)</td>
<td>State Board of Elections promulgated an emergency administrative regulation which crafted new, temporary measures for voting in Primary</td>
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Primary Time Line

May 5 - 31 KAR 4:19OE becomes effective (19 sections) (amended 6/22)

• Allowed all voters to request mail-in absentee ballot
• Created portal to submit application for absentee ballot electronically (opened 5/22/20)
• Mail-in ballots could be returned by mail or in drop box
• Ballots postmarked by June 23 but received by June 27 could be counted
• Any person could vote absentee in-person from June 8 - June 22
• Local boards were directed to limit number of polling locations for in-person voting on election day
• Permitted counting of absentee ballots to begin on June 1, 2020
• Totals not reported on election night, but transmitted no later than June 30, 2020
Primary Time Line

May 19  -  Jefferson County Board of Elections met and approved one location for in person voting, the Kentucky Exposition Center. In addition, in-person absentee voting at that location for one week prior to election

June 3  -  Plan approved by State Board of Elections

June 16  -  State Representatives and others sued Jefferson and 2 other counties alleging that having a single polling location suppressed vote and violated their first and fourteenth amendments of the Equal Protection Clause (Dismissed)

June 23  -  Election Day
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total ballots cast</td>
<td>206,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballots cast on election day</td>
<td>14,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballots cast by in-person or mail-in absentee voting</td>
<td>191,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnout</td>
<td>33.53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Election Time Line

August 14 - Governor issues Executive Order based on recommendations of the Secretary of State to change the manner for conducting the General Election

August 28 - The State Board of Elections promulgated 31KAR 4:192E setting out new process for conducting the General Election (28 sections and was amended twice)

• Slightly altered language for requesting mail-in absentee ballot
• Required early voting (no excuse) beginning on October 13 and requiring it be offered for 3 Saturdays before Election
• Permitted to reduce number of polling places on Election Day, but requiring at least one vote center
• Plan must be approved by Governor, Secretary of State and State Board of Elections
General Election Time Line

- Portal to request mail-in ballot opened earlier (9/21/20) and closed earlier (10/9/20)
- Directed that counting mail-in ballots could begin September 21
- More direction on curing absentee ballots and standards for counting absentee ballots
- Count ballots postmarked by November 3, 2020 and received by November 7
- Upload totals November 3 and again November 6

September 25 - Jefferson County submitted plan calling for 4 vote centers for early voting and election day and 16 additional sites for Election Day. All operated as vote centers (from September 24-27 office closed because of civil unrest)

October 8 - Governor and Secretary of State approved Jefferson County’s election plan
General Election Statistics

- Total ballots cast: 389,282
- Ballots cast early or on Election Day: 222,175
- Ballots cast by mail-in absentee ballot: 167,107
- Turnout: 61.5%