

KEA President's Points

April 18, 2018



The Kentucky Education Association is the preeminent voice for quality public education.

We unite, organize and empower members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student.

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Dear Member,

The 2018 Legislative Session finally ended on Saturday evening. It was one of the most difficult, empowering, exciting, yet disheartening sessions I have ever experienced. It was difficult and disheartening because in many important instances, and particularly during the final weeks, the legislative process was too swift, not transparent, and did not involve the minority party or stakeholder participation. But the session was also empowering: it was exciting to see so many educators, public employees, and members of our communities become so engaged in the political process.

KEA's mission is to unite, organize, and empower our members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student. Our members united like never before to defeat bad pension reform ideas, inadequate public education funding plans, and much more. But our work is not done yet.

The legislature successfully overrode the vetoes of HB200 (the Executive Branch budget) and HB366 (the revenue bill). Those two bills are now final and cannot be changed or vetoed. However, the governor has 10 days (not including Sundays and holidays) to veto any bills that were passed on April 13 or 14. KEA is working to summarize the final status of all bills related to education that we have been watching this session.



In the meantime, members can watch this past Monday's episode of KY Tonight with Renee Shaw. I was a panelist on this episode that was a short legislative recap. Click [here](#) to view the program.

Now that the legislative session is over, we must take all the energy we poured into the pension battle and turn it toward political change. The first step is voter registration. Here are the actions we encourage members to take between now and April 23:



- Local associations should plan at least one voter registration drive in their local communities. Pick a highly visible location or event and make sure you have permission to be on site.
- Paper voter registration forms can be obtained from the local county clerk's office.
- If wi-fi is available at your location, voters can register online at www.GoVoteKY.com
- Registered voters who need to update their information can also do that at www.GoVoteKY.com
- The last day to register to vote in the May 22 primaries is April 23. Registrations must be received at the clerk's office by that date.
- A helpful Q&A about voter eligibility can be found here: <https://elect.ky.gov/Frequently-Asked-Questions/Pages/Voter-Registration.aspx>
- Educators who work with students who will turn 18 before November 6, 2018 should reach out to see if they are registered to vote. If they will be of age on Election Day, they can register now and vote in the primary and also in the general election.

Dates to Remember:



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| April 23 | Last day to register to vote in the primary election |
| May 15 | Last day an employee can receive a nonrenewal notice |

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

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