



## **Update on Lawsuit Regarding Pending Applications for Restoration of Voting Rights – Call to Action**

As reported in a previous *Voter*, the Kentucky Equal Justice Organization (KEJC) with the Fair Elections Center filed a lawsuit in the Franklin Circuit Court June 3, 2021 challenging the Beshear Administration's decision that any Kentuckian who submitted a completed application for restoration of their voting rights prior to when the governor took office on December 10, 2019 must reapply. The Administration is refusing to notify those Kentuckians of the need to reapply.

An Amended Complaint has been filed in this challenge to Governor Beshear's decision to consider denied the applications for voting rights restoration of perhaps 891 Kentuckians who applied during the Bevin Administration but who Governor Bevin did not grant or deny. Because Governor Beshear considers those applications denied, he is requiring people to reapply. Governor Beshear reiterated this position in a Motion to Dismiss the lawsuit. The governor's Motion to Dismiss also discloses the fact that hundreds of those Bevin-era applications, including the application of Rick Petro, the client in the lawsuit, are lost. The Amended Complaint seeks to require the governor to provide notice as required by the Kentucky Constitution of the "denial" (inaction is not denial as the Governor claims), notice of a lost application, and notice that Kentuckians who applied but were not restored during the Bevin Administration must reapply.

Co-counsel in the case, [Fair Elections Center](#), filed an open records request with the Department of Corrections for a list of all the Kentuckians who applied for voting rights restoration during Bevin's term. The Department of Corrections provided the full list, as well as information as to whether a Kentuckian's application was granted and on what date.

In the meantime, people who want to reapply should reapply. If you know someone who applied for restoration of their voting rights prior to December 10, 2019 and is waiting on a decision from Governor Andy Beshear, tell them they have to reapply because those applications are not being considered.

If people who want to reapply don't have the paperwork they submitted to the Department of Corrections, they can either a) request a copy of their application from DOC or b) contact Ben Cater at KEJC at [ben@kyequaljustice.org](mailto:ben@kyequaljustice.org), 502-303-4062, and he will assist.

More info here: <https://www.kyequaljustice.org/post/kejc-and-fair-elections-center-challenge-beshear-unfair-voting-rights-policy>

Link to the application here: <http://civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov/>