

April 7th Election Postponed to June 2nd

Johnson County Clerk Diane Thompson announced today that the April 7th General Municipal Election will be postponed to June 2nd due to the CDC recommendations that have been set forth for limited interaction by the public of groups over ten. This decision was not made lightly nor individually. Over 95% of the Local Election Authorities across the state had made a decision to petition the Appellate courts to make this request. With the announcement by Governor Parsons that he joins in our concerns and has issued an executive order postponing the election as well, this solidifies the LEA's concerns for their respective counties.

While the date of the election has changed, other statutory dates in effect for the election will not. Candidate filing will not be opened back up. The deadline to be registered to vote will still be upheld as March 11, 2020. Voters that turn 18 after the original April 7th election date will not be allowed to vote on June 2nd. Any person wishing to file a declaration of intent to be a write in candidate will need to do so no later than 5 PM on March 27th.

Dates that will be impacted by the order include – the last day to request an absentee ballot by mail will be moved to 5 PM on May 20th. The last day for in person absentee voting will be by 5 PM on June 1st. The voter registration office will be open from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Saturday, May 30th. Military and overseas citizens have until May 29th to request an absentee ballot.

Candidate and campaign committees that are supporting or opposing issues on the April 7th ballot should consult the Missouri Ethics Commission regarding campaign filing deadlines associated with the new election date.

Voters that have already cast an absentee ballot for the April 7th election will not need to cast a new one. Those ballots will be included in the election count on June 2nd.

Individual districts will need to discuss with their legal counsel how term limits for their current members will be addressed.

Thompson stated, "Information has been rapidly evolving over COVID-19 and its impact on daily life. Elections aren't immune from that uncertainty. As a local election authority, I have a duty to preserve and protect the integrity of the election and the health and safety of our voters, election workers and my staff. I appreciate your understanding in this decision as we move forward."

Continued information will continue to be disseminated as it becomes available.

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