

## PRESS RELEASE

The announcement through Chris-Mont EMA has caused concern and I want to clarify the situation as it relates to early voting which began on Thursday, September 24.

- The employee that tested positive works in the back room of the office, separate from the front counter area where voter assistance is provided.
- The employee was last in the office on Monday, September 21.
- As a precaution, the other employees of the back office were quarantined under guidance from the Christian County Health Department.
- None of the voting equipment was set up until Wednesday, September 23.
- All common surfaces in my office are wiped down. Ink pens are cleaned after each use and patrons may bring and use their own pen with black ink to vote.
- Voting booths and laminated ballot privacy covers are wiped after use.
- Two touchscreens are available for voting and a voter can choose either a finger cot (disposable rubber finger tip cover) or stylus to complete their vote. After use, the finger cot is thrown away and the stylus is cleaned and replaced if used.

If you decide to early vote at the courthouse, please provide some extra time and maintain social distancing in the hallway as we do our best to provide each voter with assistance in this important process.

First, an application is printed, signed, and dated by each voter. Once completed, the choice of using a paper ballot or touchscreen is available. If voting on the paper ballot, the additional step of printing the paper ballot is completed next. Each ballot is initialed in red by an election judge.

Voters using the paper ballot are provided a clean pen(if not using their own), laminated ballot privacy cover, and directed to a booth to complete their ballot. When finished, the voter is directed to one of two ballot boxes and the voter inserts their ballot into either box after an election judge verifies the red initials are present.

Voters using the touchscreen are given the option of the finger cot or stylus and are directed to one of two touchscreen stations. The station is configured for their precinct using their signed application. The voter completes their voting and the touchscreen prints their ballot. The voter may review the printed copy to verify choices and then bring their ballot to the same ballot boxes for insertion by the voter. Laminated ballot privacy covers are also provided to touchscreen users. One additional step is that each touchscreen ballot is initialed on the back by an election judge in red ink prior to inserting into the ballot box. All ballots – regular paper ballots or ballots generated by the touchscreen – must be initialed in red ink by an election judge prior to insertion into a ballot box.

As a reminder, early voting is available from 8am to 4pm, Monday through Friday, at the County Clerk's office in the courthouse. Additionally, on October 24 and October 31, the office will be open from 9am to 1pm on each of those Saturday's.

Thank you for participating and for your understanding as we provide this important service to the voters of Christian County.

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