



## **Crystal M. Hall**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **APRIL 7<sup>th</sup> GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup> IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2020

It is our mission to ensure the integrity of Lincoln County Elections and the safety of all of our voters and election judges. We've been working through contingency plans and available options to ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast a ballot while following the recommendations of the CDC with regard to COVID-19.

To that end, Crystal Hall, Lincoln County Clerk has petitioned the Eastern Appellate Court to postpone the date of the general municipal election from April 7, 2020 to June 2, 2020. Other County Clerks throughout the Eastern Appellate Court district have joined Hall's petition by filing an Entry of Appearance and Consent.

In addition to moving the date of the election, the petition also asks the court to extend the deadline for absentee voting to Monday, June 1, 2020, and to clarify that the original voter registration and eligibility requirements for the April 7th election will remain intact.

Hall's decision to petition the court was taken in partnership with a unified decision by the Missouri Clerk's Association Executive Board to encourage all of its members to take similar steps in their appellate court regions. In the last thirty-six hours Hall has played a key role in coordinating the Executive Board's response and in facilitating discussions between the Secretary of State and County Clerks from across the state about the decision to postpone the election date.

Today, Governor Parson signed Executive Order 20-03 postponing the April 7, 2020 Election until June 2, 2020. That being said, our legal counsel has advised us to proceed with the petition to the Eastern Appeals Court under the procedure set forth by Missouri Revised Statute 115.024. This is being done out of an abundance of caution in the unlikely event that the Governor's Executive Order runs into problems in terms of legal scrutiny. Hall says, she appreciates the efforts of her fellow Clerks and Election Authorities throughout the state and is grateful to Governor Parsons and Secretary Ashcroft for acting in the best interest of all Missourian's.

Hall will continue to communicate with state and local officials, voters and with media to keep the community informed as circumstances with the petition continue to evolve.