

Lincoln County Clerk's Office Begins Biennial Canvass of Voter Rolls

Missouri Election Law requires that the local election authority canvass the voter rolls of their county every two years prior to the Primary Election. Lincoln County Clerk, Kenneth Schulte, has begun the process for the 2024 election cycle and would like to share some information about the process.

To begin, the voter roll data is processed through the United States Postal Service's National Change of Address Database. If a permanent change-of-address is matched to a voter record, a residence confirmation notice (RCN) letter will be sent to the new address to try to confirm if the voter lives at the new address. An RCN has multiple sections that provide the voter the opportunity to update their address within Lincoln County, or to notify the clerk's office that they have moved out of Lincoln County. This process has begun, and confirmation notices were mailed the first week of January. Once mailed, a thirty-day clock begins for those who were sent the notices. If you receive a confirmation notice letter, please make sure to complete the section that matches your situation, sign the letter, and return it to the clerk's office using the postage paid envelope provided within the thirty days to ensure that your voting status remains current.

After the initial thirty days, the clerk's office will complete the data processing before mailing a new voter registration card to all the active voters in the county. Every voter who remains in active status after the address confirmation process will be mailed a voter identification card to the mailing address on file. The ID cards are not forwardable, so if the addressee no longer resides at the address, the card is returned to the clerk's office and an RCN letter is mailed to that voter. The RCN is forwardable mail so if the USPS has a change of address order, they will forward it to the voter. Again, if you receive one of these RCN's, please complete the section that pertains to your situation, sign, and return it to the clerk's office immediately. If the RCN is not returned, the voter is moved to inactive status. Inactive voters may still appear at the polls, update their address, and vote in an election if they still reside in Lincoln County. If a voter remains in inactive status for two election cycles, they will be removed from the voter rolls. Schulte expects the voter ID cards to be mailed the first week of March. If you do not receive an ID card, you are encouraged to call the county clerk's office at (636) 462-8090 to check your voter registration status.

Schulte would like to remind voters they are required to update their address any time that they move. If you have not registered to vote in Lincoln County, you can come to the county clerk's office located in room 204 of the Lincoln County Courthouse on Main Street in Troy, or you can register online at the Missouri Secretary of State's website, www.sos.mo.gov . If you need to update your registration information, you can do that online also, or by completing the form on the back of your current voter ID card and returning it to the county clerk's office.

Schulte encourages voters to double check their information before submitting it. The clerk's office cross checks the information with multiple agencies such as the DMV, Department of Health and Human Services, the Social Security Administration, and the Department of Corrections to help verify eligibility and identity. Blank fields or incorrect information on the form may delay or even prevent a voter registration application from being processed. The deadline to register to vote in any election is the fourth Wednesday prior to Election Day.

The election dates for 2024 are April 2, 2024 Municipal Election, August 6, 2024 Primary Election, and November 5, 2024 General Election. For more information about elections and voting in Lincoln County, visit the Lincoln County Clerk's website www.lincolncountymooclerk.gov and follow us on Facebook at Lincoln County Clerk & Election Authority. You can also come see us Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in room 204 of the Lincoln County Courthouse located at 201 Main Street in Troy, or call (636) 462-8090.