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Voters Should Apply Early for Absentee Ballots

Voters in Grant County who want to have absentee ballots mailed to them for the January 12, 2021 **Kremlin- Hillsdale Special Bond Election** should apply now, County Election Board Secretary, Robyn Rapp said today. Although the County Election Board can accept applications for absentee ballots until 5 p.m. on Tuesday January 5, 2021 Rapp urged voters who want to vote by absentee ballot to apply early.

There will be early voting at the Grant County Courthouse on Thursday and Friday January 7 and 8 from 8am - 6pm. There will be a Covid-19 check point for voters upon coming into the Courthouse. The health and safety of election workers and voters remains foremost on the minds of Grant County election officials. There will be social distancing and safety protocol measures for in-person voting. You will be required to wear a mask unless medically exempt. Plan on allowing time to complete the self- assessment form along with having your temperature checked.

Absentee ballot application forms are available at the County Election Board office located at 112 E. Guthrie, 3rd floor. The absentee ballot application forms also can be downloaded and printed at: www.elections.ok.gov. Our office hours are 8am to 2pm. The forms are also located on 1st floor of the Courthouse, the Grant County Tag Agency and the Post Office.

Rapp said that any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot in any election in which he/she is eligible to vote. However, a voter must be registered and reside at an address within the geographical boundaries of a school district or a municipality to be eligible to vote in school district or municipal elections. It is not necessary to give a reason-or excuse-for voting absentee.

“While anyone can vote absentee without giving a reason, the law still provides several excuses, and it is to the advantage of some voters to use one of them,” Rapp said. By stating one of the following reasons on their applications, these voters can activate some special conditions that make it easier for them to use absentee ballots. The reasons are:

- Voters who are physically incapacitated and voters who care for physically incapacitated persons who cannot be left unattended may vote absentee. They may apply only by mail, by fax, or by email.
- Voters who are confined to nursing homes in the county may vote absentee. An Absentee Voting Board will go to the nursing home a few days before the election to accommodate persons to vote under these circumstances like those at a regular precinct polling place. They also may apply by mail, by fax or by email.
- Military personnel and residents of the county living overseas and the spouses and dependents of each group are eligible to receive absentee ballots. These voters may apply only by mail, fax, or by email. Military personnel should contact the Voting Service Officers in their units for application forms and additional information or visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website(www.fvap.gov/oklahoma) for more information and instructions. Residents of Oklahoma living overseas can obtain the same materials from any United States military installation and from United States Embassies and Consulates as well as on FVAP website.