

**For Immediate Release 10/7/11**

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## **Some Absentee Ballot Requests Show Confusion about Eligibility**

### **Sample Ballots Online Now**

Kootenai County Clerk Cliff Hayes announced that almost 1500 requests for absentee ballots have been received at the County Elections office by early this week. However, 469 of these requests are from voters whose residence address places them outside a city and in a fire district which has no contested races. That combination makes these particular voters ineligible to vote on November 8, as only the cities and Mica Kidd Island Fire District will have contested races on that date.

Hayes said the Elections department would begin mailing postcards Tuesday, October 11 to the ineligible voters who've requested an absentee ballot so far. The postcard wording is *"We have received your request for an absentee ballot for the November 8, 2011 Election. Because of the specific location of your residence, you are not eligible to vote in this election."*

Voters who aren't sure whether they're eligible can check <http://www.kcgov.us/elections/search/>. For voters requesting an absentee ballot in person at the County Elections office, Elections staff will immediately confirm their eligibility based on the residence address listed on their voter registration. If the voter's address has changed, that voter can re-register, and beginning October 17, voters can obtain their absentee ballot at the same time if they are indeed eligible to vote November 8.

Hayes announced that all 15 ballots for November 8's city and fire district races are posted on the County's website now: [http://www.kcgov.us/elections/sample/2011\\_City-Fire/](http://www.kcgov.us/elections/sample/2011_City-Fire/).

Finally, Hayes reminds all voters that declaring a party affiliation is NOT required for voting in the November 8, 2011 municipal and fire district elections. "Mayors, Council members and Fire District Commissioners are non-partisan offices, and party affiliation does not apply in November", he said. "Declaring a party affiliation will not become an issue until the May, 2012 primary election", Hayes concluded.

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