

For Immediate Release 10/4/11

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**Absentee & Saturday Voting Options;
Municipal Candidate Filing Deadline on October 11**

Kootenai County Clerk Cliff Hayes said the first absentee ballots for the November 8 election will be mailed out this Friday, October 7. He reminds voters that absentee ballot request forms are available on the County's website or at the County Elections office, and that return postage on voted absentee ballots will be paid by the County.

The County Elections office will be open for in-person absentee voting Monday through Friday beginning October 17 thru November 4, from 8AM to 5PM. The Elections office will also be open for in-person absentee voting on two Saturdays, October 22 & October 29, from 10AM to 2PM. "We've had low turnout for Saturday voting in the past, but we're willing to offer this option again," Hayes said. "With so many contested races this November, there may be higher voter turnout."

Hayes reminded any potential City Mayor or Council candidates that the last day to file as a write-in for municipal seats is Tuesday, October 11. Filing must be done at the appropriate City Hall.

Finally, Hayes noted 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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