



BENTON COUNTY ELECTION OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, Issue 1

March 2010

WELCOME

Welcome to the second edition of the quarterly Benton County Election Commission News Letter! The purpose of this news letter is to keep you all informed on upcoming events, as well as new changes. We are looking forward to a busy year in 2010 and seeing you all! Thank you for all your hard work and service. As always please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

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Upcoming Elections - 2010

April 13	Bentonville Special School Election
May 18	Preferential Primary and Nonpartisan General Election
June 8	Primary Election Runoff
September 21	Annual School Election
November 2	General Election and Nonpartisan Runoff
November 23	General Election Runoff



Election Updates

- We have been wading through saw dust and plaster dust since before Christmas here at the Election Commission Office. The remodeling project to make room for additional voting machines is now winding down, and our new shelves and removed walls are now ready for public viewing! Feel free to pop in and say 'hello' and take a look around!
- Elections are fast approaching and will be here before we know it! We will be increasing the number of machines at polling sites. We encourage all poll workers to come in for a refresher course on opening and closing **multiple** machines.
- Speaking of multiple machines, if you don't already know, the county is in the process of purchasing more Ivotronic voting machines. For all of you that wanted more machines, you will now have them!
- Bi-annual Poll Worker training will take place in April. See page 2 for the schedule.

Coordinator's Corner, by Helen Peltier

The month of March is a month of change and transition in Northwest Arkansas. Even with the unusual winter we've been experiencing, we are seeing some signs of Spring. And welcome changes they are!

This is also a time of change and transition at the Election Commission. We will be adding 50 more voting machines to our inventory this month. The staff here will be planning how to incorporate the new machines into the 2010 elections. We will need to make a major emphasis on training iVotronic operators on operating multiple machines, so that this will be an efficient process for our voters. As always, one-on-one training is most effective, Election Officials who operate iVotronic machines are urged to come into the office for that training.



We are also changing Election Official training so that it will be a better learning experience. This year, the training sessions will be held at the Bentonville Public Library, except for one session at John Brown University in Siloam Springs. We will have a total of 7 training sessions, and each session will have a limit of 65 participants. Smaller sessions will make it easier to hear and see, and the sessions will be more interactive.

We will need to assign Election Officials to a particular session date, because of the limitation on class size.

Please see the Training Schedule below, and notify the

Election Commission office immediately if you cannot attend your scheduled date. Election Officials who attend this training, **and** who work at the May18 Primary Election, will be paid \$25.00.

<i>Precinct Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Training Date</i>	<i>Training Time</i>
Cave Springs, Highfill, Vaughn, Centerton, Hiwasse, Highlands, BV Presbyterian, BV Methodist	Bentonville Library	April 17	10 am – 1 pm
Garfield, Lost Bridge, Prairie Creek, Lakeside Baptist, Monte Ne, Faith Christian, Mt. Springs Baptist, Hickory Creek	Bentonville Library	April 19	4 pm – 7 pm
BV Christian, BV Baptist, St. Theodore's, VFW, BV Church of Christ, Bville 1 st Presbyterian, Bville Church of Christ, Bville 1 st Baptist	Bentonville Library	April 20	10 am – 1 pm
Sulphur Springs, Gravette, Decatur, Gentry, all Siloam Springs Pcts, Robinson, Logan	John Brown U	April 23	9 am - Noon
1 st Assy. of God, Bville 1 st Christian, Christian Center, Oakley Chapel, Central United Methodist, 1 st Church of Nazarene, Grace Lutheran, Bethel Hts, Lowell 1 st Baptist	Bentonville Library	April 24	10 am – 1 pm
War Eagle, United Pentecostal, Rogers 1 st United Methodist, 1 st Christian of Rogers, Southside Church, Open Door Baptist, Rogers Christian, Charity Baptist, Rogers Freewill Baptist	Bentonville Library	April 27	4 pm to 7 pm
Colonial Baptist, Bland Chapel, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Little Flock, Cornerstone Assy of God, Avoca, Pea Ridge, St. Bernard's Catholic	Bentonville Library	April 29	10 am – 1 pm

COMMISSIONER'S BLOG

As Chairman of the Election Commission I look forward to the year of 2010, I believe this will be a most challenging year for the Election Commission.

We have started the year with many new projects on our agenda; a few of these are most noteworthy:

- Additional Ivotronic Voting machines to reduce the long lines on election day.
- We are looking into an electronic Poll Book to replace the current 3 ring binders. No decision as yet on this project.
- We will be adding to the three existing Early Voting sites (Bentonville, Rogers, and Siloam Springs) three additional sites, one each in **Gravette, Belle Vista, and Prairie Creek.**

The added early voting days will be for the convenience, easy access and efficient operation of our voting system. Hopefully this will reduce some of the waiting time on Election Day and give the voters more opportunity to cast their valuable vote.

Our meeting Schedule, Agenda, and Minutes of the Commission meetings are now on the County's web site. The Web site address is www.co.benton.ar.us.

We will be adding to our program an educational training program for our Poll workers starting in April. The classes will be held at the Bentonville Library and in smaller groups to direct more attention to detail and One on One instruction. More details are on page two of this newsletter. **This training will be a required course.**

E. J. Miller