

Some Holyoke residents will receive ballots by mail

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Close to half of Holyoke's registered voters will receive their municipal election ballots by mail this year.

This may come as a surprise to many of the 598 registered voters who may not realize when they signed up to be a Permanent Mail In Voter (PMIV) with the county, they were also signing up to receive their municipal ballot by mail.

City Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Olofson said the April 6 election will be the first in which she will be sending ballots to residents who have requested to be a PMIV with the county.

Those ballots will be mailed as soon as they are available, but no later than Monday, March 29. Olofson said they will be mailed to the mailing address specified, not necessarily to the Holyoke residence.

Historically, the only option for voting in the municipal election the first Tuesday in April in the even-numbered years has been to go to the polling place.

While mail-in ballots are a nice way to assure people can vote if they are unable to attend a polling place, it just may come as a surprise this year.

Olofson said she welcomes the opportunity to increase voter turnout and will be interested to see if voting numbers will increase with the 598 mail-in ballots.

Those who are on the PMIV list to receive a ballot by mail will receive an envelope to place their ballot in and to sign. Those envelopes may be returned by mail or may be dropped off at the polling place, which is City Hall. They can be dropped off prior to election day, but must be received before the close of polls at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6 in order to be counted.

Those who would like to reconsider being on the PMIV list may rescind that request by contacting Phillips County Clerk and Recorder Beth Cumming. No change can be made for this year's April 6 election, but the record can be changed for future elections.

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