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TO: Registered Voters in Mail Ballot Precincts

FROM: Vicki Doehling, Douglas County Elections Administrator

RE: Adoption of mail balloting in your precinct effective for 2020

We're all aware of how COVID-19 has impacted our world. Many difficult decisions have been made for the purpose of slowing the spread of the virus to protect our public health and to not overwhelm the capacity of our hospitals and clinics. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that this pandemic has also affected preparations for the upcoming elections.

Your local city or township was faced with the difficult task of determining if they'll be able to safely utilize your normal polling place on election day or if mail balloting needed to be adopted by the May 13th deadline (90 days prior to the primary election).

After careful consideration of one or more of the following concerns, your city/township has chosen to adopt mail balloting effective for the 2020 election cycle.

- Public health concerns for voters and election judges;
- Inadequate polling place space for social distancing of election judges and voters;
- Number of registered voters predicted to vote at that location would create long lines, possibly out the door, due to social distancing;
- Limiting the number of voters allowed into the polling place at one time would create parking concerns;
- Election judges dropping out due to their own health concerns (most election judges are over 65 and fall into the high-risk category for COVID-19).

This decision was not made lightly and there is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution countywide or statewide. Therefore, each municipality had to make this decision based on what was best for their residents and election judges.

A 'Notice of Mail Ballot Procedures' is enclosed along with a list of anticipated questions you may have. This information will also be posted locally and on the county web site. The Q&A portion will continue to be updated on the county web site as additional questions arise.