

# LAWRENCE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVOCACY COUNCIL ON AGING

Independence Inc., 2001 Haskell Avenue, Lawrence, KS 6044

Minutes of August 21, 2018

**Attending:** Mary Johnson, Marvel Williamson (Senior Resource Center), Tamara Cash, Karen Heintzen, Susan Harris (JAAA), Tracy Harmon (Arbor Court), Jenn Preston (Project Lively) Katie Whitenight (CVL), Judy Bellome, Jamie Shew (Dg Co Clerk)

Mary welcomed all attendees to the meeting and introduced our speaker and topic for the day:

Jamie Shew, Douglas County Clerk

Following is a summary of Mr. Shew's remarks:

Many types of voting available.

- Advance voting – Permanent Advance voting – available due to mobility issues and age. Don't have to apply to get a ballot every election. People don't want to admit that they can get to the polls. There are about 350 people on this program.
- Curbside voting – available on election day and also during advance voting periods. Two poll workers come to the car with the ballot which is then put in the privacy sleeve and deposited in the ballot box.
- Advance ballot envelope – has to be signed. Someone can sign for the person who can't sign by use of a power of attorney. The POA forms can be gotten at the clerk's office. Used to verify the signature of the signer.
- Signatures – any legal mark can be used.
- On Election Day or during advance voting – can always ask for assistance – don't assume! It is ok for someone to help at the voting booth. Cheat sheets and aids are ok as well.
- Photo ID – if over 65, even an expired ID (drivers license) can be used. This is to verify the photo and name of the person, NOT the address.
  - Clerk is a stickler on the name. is there a logical reason for a different name, ex: first & middle? Can always file a provisional ballot and clear up difficulty later.
  - Free Photo ID – The Clerk's office has mobile capability and will go to care facilities. Also working on a Community ID. Not having a home is not a deterrent from voting.
- ADA Compliant equipment – new this year – lightweight and very portable. This is not just for those who have ADA issues, but the screen is easier to read for anyone who wants to use it. At some of the bigger care facilities, they will have several ADA machines available to speed up any lines.
- Polling place changes - due to upgraded security in schools, polling places are away from schools. Polling places have to comply with federal guidelines and ADA accessible.
  - 15,000 voters have polling place changes. The clerk's send out reminders of location changes. 3 post cards in the mail.
  - If anyone has a suggestion for a new polling place, please tell the clerk's office. There are Federal grants to make things ADA accessible.
  - There are 60 polling places in Douglas County.
- Mail-in ballots- recent state law change. If mailed-in, must be postmarked by election day and the ballot must arrive by EOB on the Friday after election day.
- In 2016, 45% of the votes cast were done by advance voting.
- The canvass to confirm the vote tally is conducted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday after Election Day.
- Jamie also provided a short demo of the ADA equipment that he had set up.

Legislative Forum – this will be held at the Lawrence Public Library on October 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm. LDCACA are partnering with the Council on Aging to staff the registration desk, to pick up questions from the audience. General questions are chosen by the Council on Aging and pre-sent to the legislative candidates. If anyone would like to have input into the form, the COA meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 8am at the Senior Resource Center. Megan Poindexter is the chair of COA.

League of Women Voters is hosting a “meet the candidates” on Sunday Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4-9pm. This is a pot luck held at Centennial Park.

Announcements –

Susan Harris of JAAA reported that they are looking at 2 providers to continue the Senior Meals program. No news beyond that.

Judy reported that she met with Lynn Jenkins and talked about the SNAP program and affordable rural broadband.

The next meeting will be September 18th at 11:30 for eat and greet so bring your lunch and visit.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Johnson, Secretary

**Breakout groups:**

**Transportation** – Brenda, MaryJ, Ellen, Dawn

**Caregiving** – Michele D, Tamara, Judy

**Affordable Housing** – Tamara, Brenda, Dawn