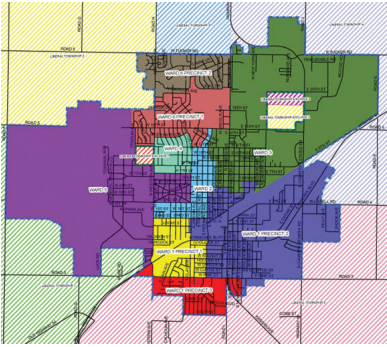


Voters must live in city limits to participate in sales tax question

Thursday, 20 March 2014 10:25



City limits in bright colors, for voters who can vote on 1/2-cent sales tax for school bond issue.

By RACHEL COLEMAN

• Leader & Times

Kansas state law limits which voters registered in Seward County can participate in the Special Election set for April 8. Some who do qualify will only be able to vote on one of the two ballot issues.

“It’s state law,” said Crystal Clemens, deputy county clerk. “People can only vote on issues if they actually live in the area that the question affects.”

Only residents of Liberal will vote on the sales tax initiative administered through the City of Liberal.

Only people who live within the boundaries of USD 480 will vote on the school bond issue.

“People out in the county don’t vote on the sales tax,” Clemens specified, “and not everyone in the county will vote on the bond issue.”

Clemens encouraged voters to go online to the website “myvoteinfo.voteks.org” to get individual answers. The website will clarify whether a person is registered and generate a sample ballot that shows exactly which questions the voter qualifies to answer.

“If they question their district, that’s where the voter view comes in handy,” Clemens said, “and if they can’t check on the Internet, they can just call our office or stop in.”

In every election, Clemens said, “we have a few people who show up to vote (at the Activity Center) who are supposed to vote in Kismet. That’s the issue we don’t want to run into. If people come out on election day and find out they can’t vote, they’re going to be upset.”

For now, the election office hopes to get the word out. A map of the city of Liberal’s exact boundaries shows clearly who will be allowed to vote on the half-cent sales tax. Very soon, the election office plans to release a county map with school district boundaries clearly marked.

EDITOR’S NOTE — The sample ballot published in the Wednesday Leader & Times showed both questions, which would be available for a registered voter who lives within Liberal city limits (sales tax question) and within USD 480 school district (school bond question).