

Court Ruling Could Cost Missouri Counties

(KTNC)--Twenty-one words are going to cost Missouri Counties tens of thousands of dollars.

An appeals court panel ruled that wording approved by lawmakers for an early-voting proposal was misleading, because it failed to note that the six-day early voting period would occur only if the state provides funding.

Atchison County Clerk Suzette Taylor, the president of the state association of county clerks and election authorities, has checked the printers who produce ballots throughout the state and has found two-thirds of the November ballots will have to be reprinted.

Taylor says the five-figure cost to reprint ballots is causing serious budget problems in many counties this late in the year.

Holt County Clerk Kathy Kunkel says their ballots had already been printed and will have to be reprinted, which will cost the county over \$3,000. She says county election officials are petitioning the Secretary of State to pick up at least part of the cost to reprint the ballots.

Kunkel says they were able to get the military ballots sent out on Friday, thanks to technology. She says they were able to change the wording of the amendment on a digital ballot on a military web portal used across the state.

Absentee voting will begin in Holt County on Tuesday as scheduled. Kunkel says they have P-D-F document ballots available that can be printed on demand.

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