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Applications For Absentee Voting In Texas County Are Ready

Voters in Texas County who want to have absentee ballots mailed to them for the July 27th, Primary Election should apply now, County Election Board Secretary Kimberly Sloat said today. Although the County Election Board can accept applications for absentee ballots until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21st, Sloat urged voters who want to vote by absentee ballot to apply early. Absentee ballot application forms are available at the County Election Board office located at 301 N. Main St., Guymon.

"At least two mail transactions must be made," Sloat said. "The County Election Board must mail the ballots to the voter and the voter must return the voted ballots by mail." Ballots must be in the hands of the County Election Board by 7 p.m. on election day in order to be counted.

Sloat said that any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot in any election in which he or she is eligible to vote. It is not necessary to give a reason---or excuse---for voting absentee. "While anyone can vote absentee without giving a reason, the law still provides several excuses and it is to the advantage of some voters to use one of them," Sloat said. By stating one of the following reasons on their applications, these voters can activate some special conditions that make it easier for them to use absentee ballots. The reasons are:

-- Voters who are physically incapacitated and voters who care for physically incapacitated persons who cannot be left unattended may vote absentee. They may apply only by mail, by fax or by telegraph.

-- Voters who are confined to nursing homes in the county may vote absentee. An Absentee Voting Board actually goes to the nursing home a few days before the election, sets up a small polling place and allows these persons to vote under circumstances similar to those at a regular precinct polling place. They may apply only by mail or by fax.

-- Military personnel and residents of the county living overseas and the spouses and dependents of each group are eligible to vote absentee without being registered. These voters may apply only by mail or by fax. Military personnel should contact the Voting Service Officers in their units for application forms and additional information. Residents of Oklahoma living overseas can obtain the same materials from any United States military installation and from United States Embassies and Consulates.

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