

MESSAGE FROM THE NOBLE COUNTY CLERK

Citizens of Noble County,

Since the Vote Center concept started in Indiana Elections in 2007, Noble County has been carefully observing its effect on voters, county budgets, and on the election process. We have developed a plan to make Vote Centers a reality in Noble County, beginning with primary elections in May 2014.

The Vote Center concept gives registered Noble County voters the opportunity to cast their ballot at any Vote Center location throughout the county. No one is restricted to one polling place on Election Day. In addition to making it easier for voters on Election Day, the Vote Center concept also calls for increased early voting opportunities at what are called "Satellite Vote Centers" that will be open prior to Election Day.

The most common questions we hear during an election is, "Where is my polling place?" or "Why can't I just vote at the polling place across from where I work or drop off the kids for school?" A common complaint is, "I can't make it back to the polls by 6:00 p.m. on Election Day." Vote Centers address these common voter concerns. By moving to Vote Centers, voter convenience is improved and will give the voter more options on when and where they can vote. The administration of the election process will be streamlined and simplified making it more efficient from beginning to end.

Another important part of the Vote Center concept is the financial impact it will have on Noble County. By combining voting locations, we will make better use of Vote Center staff, increase the number of voting machines available at each Vote Center, and will better utilize our support staff on Election Day. These changes will help the county realize a projected cost savings on items such as poll/location costs, meal costs, equipment programming, and maintenance costs, which will improve the county's long-term fiscal stance when it comes to elections.

As we move forward with Vote Centers, I want to ask that community organizations and church groups invite me to speak and I will provide a demonstration on the new e-poll books. I look forward to introducing Noble County to the Vote Center concept.

I want to thank all the wonderful people who have worked so hard, and in a bipartisan manner, to move the county toward Vote Centers. Noble County should be proud of its community leaders who work together for the citizens best interest. We are forever grateful to all the community centers and churches that have willingly allowed us to utilize their facilities as voting locations.

Sincerely,

Shelley Mawhorter
Noble County Circuit Court Clerk
260-636-2736
smawhorter@nobleco.org