

THE V.I.P.

Spring 2021

Our Changing Election Process, Part 1

By: Frank Friday
Gov't Affairs Executive

One thing everyone might agree on is how contentious our American elections have become, not just between the candidates, but now in the very systems we use to tally the votes.

Nobody wants their side to miss out, so a lot of charges are thrown about; and more changes from the legislature are on the way.

This story starts way back in 2003, just as many states replaced their old voting machines after the Florida punch-card fiasco. It transpired that the CEO of Diebold, the country's largest optical scan voting machine company, Walden O'Dell, was identified as a major fundraiser for President Bush's re-election. Various allegations of "black-box" voting then proliferated.

Mr. O'Dell left Diebold in 2005 but the various theories only grew. Diebold itself was sold to competitor ES&S in 2009, now the country's largest vote machine maker with about 60% of the market. Jefferson County currently uses the ES&S systems after replacing its obsolete Diebold equipment.

Then, in 2020, Dominion Voting Systems was the target of many conspiracy theorists. Dominion started in Canada and bought a subsidiary, Sequoia, off a company called Smartmatic. Smartmatic has sold machines to many countries, including

Continued on page 2

A Message from the Jefferson County Clerk



Spring seems to have come and gone so quickly. Warmer temperatures are here, and many businesses are reopening to full capacity. After nearly 15 months, a sense of normalcy is returning to our daily lives.

Recently, several Jefferson County Clerk departments that occupied the 531 Court Place building have relocated to the First Trust Centre at the other end of the block. They include: the Downtown Motor Vehicle Branch; Dealer/Specials; Motor Vehicle Records; the Call & Processing Center; Liens; Motor Vehicle Administration; Information Technology; Logistics; and the Communications Division. Finance and Human Resources also found a new home at First Trust, moving over from the Edison Center.

Prior to the recent downtown relocations, the Election Center also moved from Edison. Their new home is at 1000 E. Liberty Street.

Recently, the Kentucky Legislature passed some new guidelines altering how we will be voting in the 2022 Elections. The Jefferson County Clerk's Office looks forward to tackling more goals and projects as we approach summer and fall, and we safely continue to open back up.

It is a busy time of year, and if life gets a little hectic, save yourself a trip to one of our motor vehicle branches. Consider the convenience of renewing your motor vehicle registration by mail, phone, online or via drop-box. Also, remember that our website and Facebook page are terrific resources for all announcements and updates.

If you have any questions or suggestions as to how the Clerk's Office can better assist you, please contact us.

As always, we look forward to serving you.



Bobbie Holsclaw
Jefferson County Clerk

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Continued from page 1

the controversial Venezuelan regime. Dominion also bought part of the old Diebold voting division from ES&S in 2010.

However, it must be emphasized: at no time or place has it ever been shown that any voting machine in United States, used by any jurisdiction, failed to accurately record the votes entered by the voters on their ballots.

As employees of the JCCO can well attest, rigging election machines in even one county would take a conspiracy of immense proportion and technical sophistication. And since there is a paper ballot trail for all votes cast, the evidence of any such skullduggery would be right there sitting in custody of the boards of elections, open for inspection.

Nonetheless, new election laws in Kentucky prohibiting the connection of voting systems to the internet are on the way. This was essentially already covered by State Board regulation, but it will be further elaborated.

The effect of running last year's election under virus lockdowns and restrictions has brought about many permanent changes in Kentucky voting laws. This was largely due to the overall popularity of the ad hoc system Kentucky had to use. So, this session, the General Assembly has passed and the Governor signed HB 574.

The bill was put together with the help of the Jefferson County Clerk and the KCCA. It contains many ideas Bobbie Holsclaw has been proposing for over 20 years, including in-house, no-excuse-needed early voting.

It builds on the emergency procedures put in place last year, but we will also be returning to normal voting locations in 2022.

The main features of the bill are-



TOP) Voters at Seneca High School cast their ballots on November 3rd, 2020. **ABOVE)** An election technician explains the inner-workings of the epollbooks.

- 1)** Mail-in Absentee ballots can now be requested directly from the internet from 45 to 14 days before the elections. This is quick and simple and will no longer require someone to first get an official application form.
- 2)** The absentee ballot can be mailed back or put in "drop-boxes" at the clerk's offices. Drop boxes will be a permanent part of the election process.
- 3)** The county Board of Elections can start processing absentee ballots 14 days before the election and may

contact voters to "cure" problem signatures. This should help speed up the vote counting so our election staff is not swamped election day and days after with this task.

4) The Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before elections, any registered voter, no excuse needed, may come vote early at the clerk's in-house voting location. This will likely be done in Jefferson County at a large central location with plenty of parking, such as the Kentucky Expo Center was used last year. Many outsiders predicted this would not work, but the clerk's office demonstrated the utility of such a location, handling tens of thousands of voters with ease.

5) Each county can also establish "voter centers" where multiple precincts may vote if it proves more convenient for that area.

6) A candidate can request a re-c canvass only if the margin is less than 1%. This will keep frivolous claims from taking up the time of election officials, but gives candidates who lost very closely a cost free opportunity to re-examine the results.

There are many other features in this bill, but it permanently gives Kentuckians two big things they said they found attractive from last year's emergency procedure: a simple way to get a mail-in ballot by the internet, and a chance to go to an early voting center.

We also have the enhanced Voter ID requirements of last year in effect, such as the full bar-code tracking system for every absentee ballot in the state, which allows anyone to follow the progress of their ballot online in real time.

In 2022, with all these features in place, as well as with the normal neighborhood voting locations most people still want to use, our Kentucky elections will be more convenient than ever before, and at the same time achieve a safety and security everyone can trust.

Cars Always Win Collisions

By: Frank Friday
Gov't Affairs Executive

As we get back to normal after year one of the virus, let's hope a recent trend does not continue- fatal crashes between automobiles, pedestrians, and bikers.

As we previously noted, Generation Y is much less car-centric than previous Americans. That's good in that more walking and peddling is healthy for everybody. But what we need to consider is the increased safety required, when so many different types of traffic are co-mingling.

Bicycle fatalities used to be something confined to youth, but the good news is those have steadily declined the last decade. Now, fewer than 100 persons under 20 are killed on bicycles each year. Unfortunately, more adults now cycle regularly on busy streets and

the results are predictable. The number of males over 20 is approaching 700 per year, more than double a few decades ago.

Motorcycle deaths are also on the rise. After a long-term decline to around 2000 in 1995, they have been increasing steadily and have been reaching upwards of 5,000 per year in the United States. It is estimated motorcycle deaths currently account for over 14% of all motor vehicle deaths, where they were less than 6% in the 1990s. This may be in part due to the popularity of smaller scooters and mopeds. Full-size motorcycle riders tend to be very safety-aware and are much easier to spot from inside an automobile. Scooter riders may be picking up bad habits from bicycle riding on the streets with consequent fatal results.

Pedestrian deaths are also up. In 2019, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association, pedestrian deaths were up 5% compared to the year prior, with 6,590 pedestrians killed, the highest number since 1988. That total translates to 2 deaths per 100,000 people, which is the highest since 1997. Five states—California, Arizona, Texas, Georgia, and Florida—accounted for 47% of pedestrian deaths, yet these states make up 33% of the U.S. population. That may explain much of the recent increase, as areas without many sidewalks in high growth states experience greater pedestrian traffic that motorists are simply not used to seeing.

Whatever the reason, its incumbent on everyone - on car, bike or foot - to be extra careful as traffic patterns return to normal and inevitably increase.



'Bicycle fatalities used to be something confined to youth, but the good news is those have steadily declined the last decade. Now, fewer than 100 persons under 20 are killed on bicycles each year.'

Clerk Holsclaw Celebrates 22 Years of Commitment to VIP Service, Quality Facilities

By: Jordan Kelch,
Public Relations

▼ First Trust Centre



For 22 years, the Jefferson County Clerk's Office has been structured around several key priorities. Customer service is certainly one of them, with "VIP Service" existing as the unofficial slogan of the JCCO. Accessibility is another. Eight branch locations serve various portions of the county, echoing this agency's commitment to making customer interaction as efficient and easy as possible.

Another crucial piece of the puzzle is offering facilities that customers and employees can be proud of. Since the beginning of her tenure, Clerk Holsclaw has systematically overhauled, renovated, and expanded upon the offices of the Jefferson County Clerk. In fact, over the last twenty years, Holsclaw has overseen renovations to seven motor vehicle branches while opening an eighth (in Fairdale). The historic Deed Room in Metro Hall was completely renovated in tandem with landmark requirements. The Election Center, along with the divisions of Finance and Human Resources, moved from the aging Urban Government Center to the refurbished Edison Center in 2016.

Even more recently, all departments housed in the Fiscal Court Building have been relocated to the First Trust Center. For a great number of years, the Fiscal

▼ Election Center



TOP) The atrium of the First Trust Centre at 200 S. Fifth Street. **ABOVE)** Patio area of the new Election Center located at 1000 E. Liberty Street.

Court Building has been home to the Downtown Branch, Dealer/Specials, Motor Vehicle Records, Liens, the Call & Processing Center, Information Technology, and members of the Communications Division. The move has been a long time coming, and the beautiful new facilities are a major upgrade for every department. However, it will be sad to finally say goodbye to the Fiscal Court Building, a downtown staple with an interesting past.

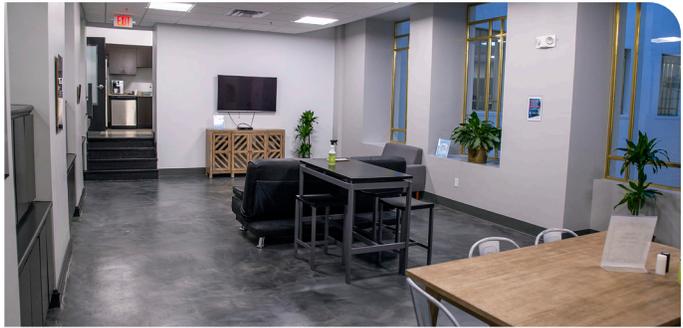
The corner of 6th street and Court Place was, at the turn of the 20th century, site to the Home Laundry Company building, as well as the Congress Hotel. Both properties were acquired by Jefferson County in 1937, the year of the great flood. Rather than take on incredible costs to repair the structures following major damages, both the hotel and the laundry company were sold to the city. Not long after, both were quickly demolished. Then, Louisville architect Walter Wagner designed a ten-story building, the construction of which was completed by 1938.

The Fiscal Court Building was named a local landmark by the Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission in 2001. Sadly, the years were tough on the yellow brick structure. Mold and water damage affect various areas of the interior. Age caught up with the elevators, too, which frequently require repair. The ground floor of the exterior is currently wrapped with scaffolding, serving as protection against falling bricks. Again, the idea of relocating had been discussed multiple times, but in 2019 official plans were put into motion. The next step, of course, was finding a new home for so many JCCO employees.

Enter the First Trust Centre – known colloquially as the Stock Yards Bank Building. Interestingly, the First Trust complex is dual structures. The first portion, known as the Louisville Trust Building, was designed by Maury Mason and William Dodd and opened in 1889. A limestone high-rise, Louisville Trust was built in the Romanesque Revival style and sits at the corner of Fifth and Market streets. By 1927, an addition had been built, known as the First National Bank-Kentucky Title Company Building. Designed by Carl M. Ziegler in the Colonial Revival style, the First National Bank building is located at the corner of Fifth Street and Court Place. Both structures are on the National Register of Historic Places, and both have been impeccably kept over the last 100 years.

With marble, dark wood, and a striking 5-story atrium, the First Trust Centre is a stately building that also offers modern amenities. Employees of Motor Vehicles, Information Technology, Finance, Human Resources,

First Trust Centre



The First Trust Centre offers beautiful accommodations, including a large break area for all employees.



First Trust Centre even offers a workout room for employees to utilize.

Election Center



The large conference area of the new Election Center.



The new Election Center sits adjacent to Lucille Grant Park in the Phoenix Hill neighborhood.

Continued on page 6

Clerk Holsclaw Celebrates 22 Years of Commitment to VIP Service, Quality Facilities

By: Jordan Kelch,
Public Relations

Continued from page 5

Logistics, and Communications now occupy the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors of the South Tower.

As if moving all departments and divisions out of the Fiscal Court Building wasn't tough enough, the JCCO also relocated the Election Center late last year. It's previous site, the Edison Center, now functions solely as home to LMPD. Therefore, after a search for appropriate accommodations, Clerk Holsclaw decided upon 1000 E. Liberty. Formerly occupied by New Directions, this location is known by most long-term Louisville residents as the old Casa Grisanti's. The sprawling new Election Center boasts over 15 private offices as well as large conference rooms, a kitchen, and an outdoor porch. "It's perfectly suited to our needs and offers a centrally located Elections hub that is accessible to all Jefferson County Residents," said County Clerk Bobbie Holsclaw.

"My aim has always been to improve the experience of our citizens. This office takes pride in its duties, its facilities, and its reputation. I want people to be impressed with our service, so we have worked to better all aspects of our offerings. We owe our very best to the community, and I think my team rises to that challenge daily."

Clerk Holsclaw has spent two decades building an agency based around value, integrity, and performance. With the goals of elevating customer experience and honoring the facilities she oversees, the Jefferson County Clerk has put to rest the tired misconception of the sluggish, dingy 'government office'.

Sources: *National Registry of Historic Places*, npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail?assetID=9754000f-7488-4035-9e8d-2983eb03ee0e, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/07fde765-c532-4839-8855-2cea85a567f5>

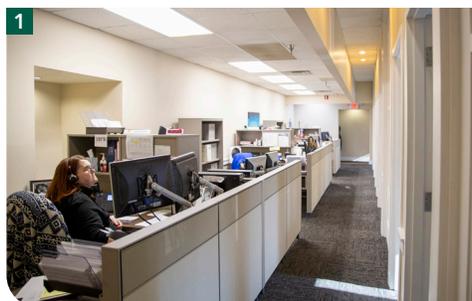
Courier-Journal, [courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2020/02/26/louisville-employees-to-be-moved-out-fiscal-court-building-downtown/4811422002/](https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2020/02/26/louisville-employees-to-be-moved-out-fiscal-court-building-downtown/4811422002/)

First Trust Centre



- 1) The new Downtown Motor Vehicle Branch on the second floor of the First Trust Centre.
- 2) Logistics is stationed on the fourth floor of First Trust, along with Human Resources and Finance.
- 3) The new Motor Vehicle Call & Processing Center on First Trust's second floor.
- 4) Dealer/ Specialists, Motor Vehicle Records, and Liens all occupy the third floor of the First Trust Centre.
- 5) Information Technology has a view of the atrium.

Election Center



- 1) Election Center employees enjoy their new space.
- 2) The break area features a full kitchen.

Unemployment Insurance Fraud in the COVID-19 Era

By: Vickie Williams, Kellie Harbison, & Lisa Logsdon,
Human Resources Division



Over the course of the past year our lives have been deeply impacted by COVID-19. We have lived by special guidelines such as wearing masks, social distancing, and cleaning and disinfecting everything we touch. We have been unable to spend time with family and friends, which in some cases, has taken a toll on our mental health. Now, many of us are racing to get the COVID vaccination so we can get back to normal activity. All these things have been done in the name of safety! However, there is a new and ongoing problem in our midst. Not only do we have to continue to follow all the precautionary measures to stay healthy, but we now must protect our identity from identity thieves who are preying on those of us who are already vulnerable.

Within this past year states have experienced a surge in fraudulent unemployment claims. It has been determined that organized crime rings are using stolen identities that were purchased in past data breaches to file unemployment claims on unexpected working individuals. The Jefferson County Clerk's Office has not been exempted from this fraudulent activity. We have had several employees who have been victimized by these unnamed thieves. This criminal activity could wreak havoc in our lives if we do not take the necessary steps to combat it immediately.

According to the Courier-Journal, 70% of claims filed in January 2021 have identity verification issues, which is an indicator of fraud. The Kentucky unemployment office says about half of the approximately 82,000 unresolved claims from 2020 are likely fraudulent. In most cases, we are unaware that we are victims of unemployment insurance fraud. It is not until we as individuals or our employer receives correspondence in the mail that we are alerted to the damaging crime.

How do we protect ourselves from



these criminals? Once we are notified that our information has been compromised, both the employee and employer should file a fraud claim with the Office of Unemployment Insurance (OUI) at the following web address <https://kcc.ky.gov>. This is the standard practice of the Human Resources Department when notice is received of a potential unemployment insurance fraud filing. Other precautions one should take include: checking your credit report for suspicious activity; filing a police report so it can be provided to creditors and credit agencies; filing a complaint with the National Center for Disaster Fraud; and reporting identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). You should also consider changing your passwords on your email, banking, and other personal accounts. Similarly, be sure to ask your creditors, such as banks, credit card companies and other financial institutions to put a fraud alert on your account.

Governor Beshear is also stepping up efforts to combat this ongoing problem. On April 5, 2021, the governor announced that he signed an executive order to develop a special task force to address the rising problem of unemployment insurance fraud. Hopefully those on the task force will be able to find ways to stop the madness before it

ruins the credit and lives of thousands of individuals.

These thieves should beware because those who are caught committing unemployment insurance fraud can face steep penalties, such as repayment of any monies received fraudulently. They may also have to pay a fine and could receive probation or face jail time depending on the severity of the offense.

Just as we continue to take precautions in fighting COVID-19 with wearing our masks and getting the vaccination, we must be also be vigilant with protecting our identity. We must check our credit report on a regular basis, taking advantage of the federal regulation to get a free report each year from each of the three credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, Transunion) through AnnualCreditReport.com. We must also report suspicious activity on our credit report or questionable mailings from the Office of Unemployment Insurance. These measures are necessary so we can keep all aspects of our lives safe, from COVID-19 and identity thieves!

Sources: Task force will target fraudulent unemployment claims, by Chad Hedrick

State launches site as fraudulent unemployment insurance claims continue to plague the system, by Jacqueline Pitts

Milestones

December 16, 2020 to April 15, 2021

Retirement

Beverly Wright	CSA	Fairdale Branch
Eva Wells	CSA	Fairdale
Ramona Cornelison	Manager	West Branch
Roger Wilson	Director	Legal Records

Promotions

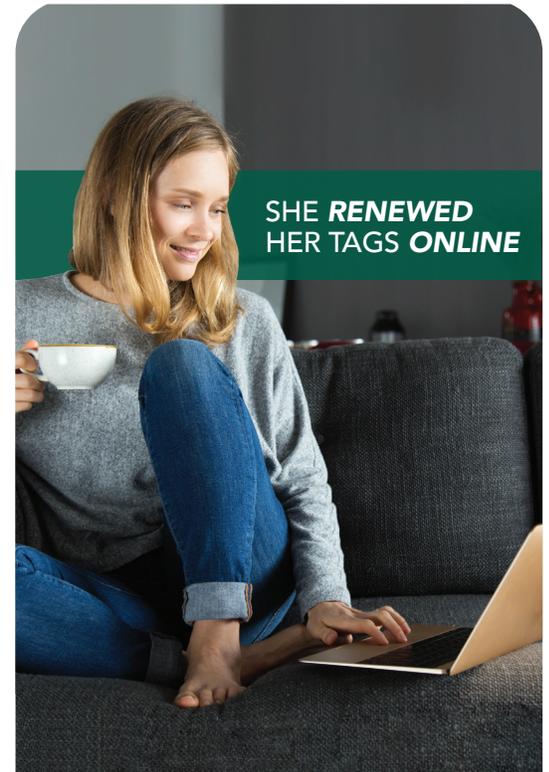
Ashley Elkins	Assistant Manager	West Branch
Laurie Warren	Assistant Manager	Election Center
Laverne Manion	Manager	West Branch
Vickie Williams	Director	Human Resources

New Hires

Anthony Williams	CSR	Westport Branch
Cassandra Bell	CSR	J-town Branch
Deborah Sparks	CSR	Dixie Branch
Hannah Eubanks	CSR	East Branch
Jacobi Dix	CSR	Logistics
Jajuan Stafford	Fac. Mgmt. Specialist	Logistics
Jason Harlow	CSR	West Branch
LaToya Robinson	CSR	Highview Branch
Lauren Hudson	CSR	MV Records
Michael Higdon	CSR	Downtown Branch
Olivia Alexander	CSR	Legal Records
Samantha Schwaniger	CSR	Dixie Branch
Tammy Stallard	CSR	Fairdale Branch
Timothy Irwin	CSR	MVPC

Anniversaries

Jordan Kelch	Comm. & Media Relations	10 Years
Dennis Gore	Dixie Branch	15 Years
Donna Rogers	MVPC	15 Years
Vanessa Viers	Finance	15 Years
Rochelle Brown	Election Center	15 Years
Teresa Higgs	Legal Records	20 Years
Demarcus Berry	Election Center	20 Years
Toy Edwards	Legal Records	20 Years



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