



Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Troup County Addresses Absentee Ballot Application Concerns

Troup County, Ga. April 9, 2020 – Due to the growing concerns regarding the upcoming elections in Troup County, the Troup County Board of Commissioners would like to provide an update and address specific concerns related to Absentee Voting with regards to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to encourage voting by mail for the upcoming May 19th Primary Election and to reduce the amount of in-person voting, Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger mailed Absentee Ballot Applications to all active voters in Georgia; however, the return address on the return envelope included in the mailed application from the state delivered to active voters in Troup County incorrectly listed the county's address as 1705 Ridley Avenue. This mistake was not conducted by Troup County, as the applications were printed and mailed directly from Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger. "This was an unfortunate mistake by the Secretary of State's office. We have had extensive conversations with the United States Postal Service (USPS), and they have assured us that all incoming applications will be routed to the appropriate mailbox. In fact, we have already received and processed several. At this time, I don't believe that there is a better way for us to handle this situation, as we do not want to confuse voters any further," said Patrick Crews, Chairman of the Troup County Board of Commissioners.

The county has verified with the USPS that all applications sent to this address will be forwarded to Troup County as a way to ensure that the county does receive all completed and mailed applications. "We, along with the Secretary of State's Office, are making every effort possible to ensure proper delivery of mailed applications, and I feel confident that this issue will be resolved and will not occur again. Our local representatives at the USPS have assured us that any mail sent to the Troup County Elections and Registration Office would be delivered regardless of the printed street address line," said William "Bill" Tatum, Chairman of the Troup County Board of Elections and Registration.

Voters that may not want to utilize mail-in services may also return completed applications to the Troup County Elections and Registration Office via fax at (706) 883-1692, via email at elections@troupco.org, and in person via the Drop-box service located at the entrance of the Troup County Government Center; furthermore, voters may also still vote in person. The upcoming primary election is currently still scheduled for May 19th per Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, so Troup County will continue to hold three weeks of in-person early voting as well as in-person voting on Election Day at all current precincts. To view the list of current precincts, please visit the Troup County Elections & Registration online at: <https://www.troupcountyga.gov/Services/Elections>.

Due to the current circumstances, Troup County has transferred employees from the Parks and Recreation department, State Court Office, and the State Court Public Defender's Office to assist with Troup County Elections & Registration tasks as a way to remain well-prepared and productive. As of April 9, 2020, the Troup County Elections and Registration Office has processed approximately 2,000 Absentee Ballot applications and is continuing to process incoming applications daily. Troup County voters that have specific questions regarding their application process may contact the Elections and Registration Office at (706) 883-1745 during normal business hours, Monday-Friday from 8:00AM-5:00PM.

Troup County residents who apply for an absentee ballot will receive it via mail before the upcoming election from the Troup County Elections and Registration Office. It is required to be returned to the office by 7:00PM on Election Day.

Media Contact: Rachel Camp, Communications Manager, (706) 298-3670 or rcamp@troupcogov.org.

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