

ELECTION INTEGRITY

It's vital to protect the integrity of our local elections and no one knows that better than Warren County Election Commission administrator Donna Smith.

"Could fraud be committed in Warren County? I'm not saying it couldn't be, but I'd like to think that we're smart enough to get an inkling something is awry," said Smith. "There are enough safeguards, seal numbers verified every day and every night, and measures in place that I'm confident we are doing everything possible to prevent it."

The Election Commission is responsible for calling, canvassing and certifying all statutorily required elections in Warren County.

Among the numerous safeguards are security cameras running 24-7 in the department.

"I have three security cameras. I can watch everything that goes on from my office," said Smith. "One is of our voting machine room. The only other people who have access to that room are the chairman of my Election Commission, but he didn't want a key and I insisted that he take one, staff and the voting machine technicians. If someone leaves employment with the election office, all the locks are immediately changed."

The lobby, as well as Smith's office where the ballot boxes are housed, are also under surveillance.

"As soon as they are locked and sealed, they are kept in here," said Smith of the ballot boxes. "They are locked by one member of each party, who retain the keys. The seals are affixed. They are recorded. The original is immediately sent to Nashville. I retain a copy. If any seals are ever changed, we know. If someone messes with any seal, we'll know it. I'm going to run that camera back and see who that somebody is."

Voting machines are also protected with seals.

"Let's say during early voting, we have a machine malfunction. The machine tech

has to break the seal on the back of the machine in order to repair it," said Smith. "They must document the date and time they were there, what they did to the machine and the new seal number. That has to be posted on that machine throughout the election. It lets the public know the seal was changed, this is why, this is the date and the time, and who it was changed by."

Voters must present a valid ID containing the voter's name and photograph when voting at the polls. Voters may also use an absentee ballot and cast their vote by mail, if they have a valid reason to do so.

"They submit all the information - name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, the reason they want to vote by mail," said Smith, of the absentee ballot process. "An early voter doesn't have to have a reason. A by-mail voter does. When I issue the absentee ballot, I go onto the computer and record the number. When this portion is torn off, there is no identifying. The stub is the only thing that identifies the ballot. The ballots are then coded and read by a card reader. It's a quick and easy process."

How does the Election Commission verify the identity of absentee voter through the mail?

"I was asked this the other day by a candidate. This is a ballot envelope. What it has is what primary the voter wants to vote in, what election is it, what district and precinct, the date of the election. This is filled out when the voter returns it, they print their name there and signs there. Then when it's returned to the office, I verify the signature to make sure it's the same signature we have on file. If it is, I accept it. If it's not, I reject it. An absentee counting board convenes on the day of the election."

Fraudulent use of absentee ballots is an avenue for voter fraud. Smith says she personally monitors the situation because of that.

"When you are talking about the possi-

bility of an election fraud, a lot of times your election fraud starts in the absentees," said Smith. "That's why we really keep a close eye on them and always have. I've always done the absentee ballots, because I'm a control freak. If I'm going to be responsible, I want to be the one making the mistake. I try not to make them."

Are the ballot machines connected to the internet?

"We had one gentleman in a presidential election who refused to vote on the machines. He just knew they were connected to the internet," said Smith. "I talked to him about how the machine worked and how the machine processing happened and he finally agreed to vote on the machine. He was assured that nothing on that machine is connected to the web."

The election commissioners oversee the operation of the Election Commission. Current members are Bill Webb, chair, Patricia Davis, Bill Lee, Ben Nixon and Charles Yancy. There are three deputies in the department: Sandy Goble, Susie Davenport and Inez Nunley.

To report suspected voter fraud, the department is located at 201 Locust Street, Suite 3 and can be reached at 473-5834.



Election Commission administrator Donna Smith says preventing voter fraud is a constant emphasis and her department exerts much energy to ensure local election results are accurate. She encourages local residents to register to vote as she says every vote does count.



TERRY SMITH REGISTER OF DEEDS



The primary duties of Register of Deeds is to make and preserve the records and Instruments that are required or allowed by law to be filed or recorded. These documents include deeds, powers of attorney, deeds of trust, mortgages, liens, contracts, plats, leases, judgements, court orders, wills, military discharges, UCC's and other types of documents.

I have experience that matters. I graduated from Central High School, attended MTSU, and I have been certified as a public administrator through CTAS and the University of Tennessee with over 400 hours of classes.

I have implemented and continue to update new software, e-mail to offices of title search, attorneys, banks and individuals. We take payments by credit card, and added electronic filing and 3 title search computers. You can go online at USTitleSearch.com. All of this is for the convenience of our customers. I send microfilming to state archives and a copy is kept in safety box. I have a disaster plan, required by computer auditors, and a copy is also kept in safety box. We are 1 of 36 counties to have all of the above.

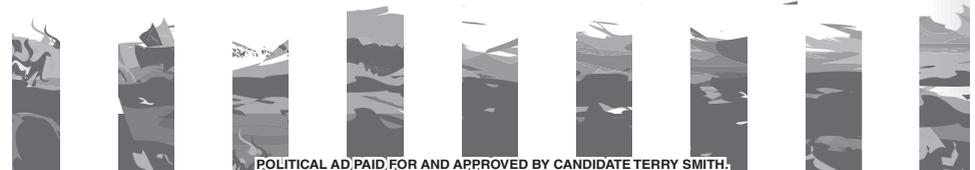
I am a member of Westwood Church of Christ, COATS, and have been President of Middle Tennessee Registers Association on two occasions, and I have served in the military.

LEADERSHIP, EXPERIENCE, AND KNOWLEDGE MATTERS!

Vote for and elect **Terry Smith** for Register of Deeds in Warren County

Early voting April 11 through April 26 - Primary May 1, 2018

Thank You!







CARLENE BROWN

COMMISSIONER 9th DISTRICT



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Vote For Knowledge



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Contact: rbbrown@blomand.net Phone: 931-808-2397