

PUBLIC APOLOGY

For the first time in 48 years, I left a name off the ballot. The good news is my error was caught before Election Day so voters going to the polls will have corrected ballots. The bad news is about 2,900 Early Voters applications in the Lower Platte North Natural Resources district have to be sent a corrected ballot. These ballots are enclosed inside an envelope so envelopes have to be compared so that none of these voters can vote twice.

The race needing corrected is Subdistrict 7 of Lower Platte Natural Resources District that covers 7 counties and in Dodge County the lower quarter of the county including all of the City of Fremont and the City of North Bend.

There are 143 names of candidates on Dodge County's 85 different combinations of ballots. In the Primary there were 175 different combinations of ballots because of the 4 political parties and nonpartisan ballots in the 32 precincts. Elections are only a part time job of the County Clerk in the State. In counties of more than 20,000 residents, they could have a separate office of election commissioner. All larger counties of Nebraska have Election Commissioners and smaller counties of Cass and Platte County have an election commissioner. It's a complex part time job.

Dodge County's first proofs came on September 21st right in the middle of budget season and the new responsibilities of LB644 and my personal problems requiring me to go to the Fremont Wound Center which hasn't healed yet. On the 4th proof after numerous changes, I approved it.

Unfortunately this omission was overlooked. I want to apologize to the voters and candidates of Subdistrict 7 of the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District for the error and to my staff for the extra work this has caused. I hope the Early Voters who will get a corrected ballot and envelope will cooperate and return the corrected ballot in its envelope.

I am awaiting further instructions from the Secretary of State who was notified last Friday and when I immediately ordered a reprint of ballots.