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Jurisdiction: Johnson County, MO

We do not have any concerns involving threats due to the 2020 Elections. We also do not have any testimonies regarding the 2020 elections. We have been fortunate to have not received any direct or indirect threats from constituents or others.

As far as changes in policy to protect our work force:

We had the panic buttons installed and were given instructions on how to operate them and what to expect. We do have an Emergency Operations Plan that we train our judges on prior to every election. This includes steps for power outage, tornado, snow/ice, active threat, bomb threat and fire. I think good communication between the local election authority and the public is crucial to build and keep trust in the election process and our job in general. I have a Facebook page for my office, and I provide information in the form of posts, videos, news releases and Facebook Live discussions. I also speak at local events and organizations to keep the voters of my county informed. The voters of Johnson County know that it isn't just me or my staff conducting elections – it's bipartisan teams made up of members of their communities that facilitate the election process. We recruit and train between 70 and 120 election workers for any given election and we highlight that community service regularly.

Changes we would like to see implemented in the courthouse are:

A secured area in the courthouse where employees and patrons can be sheltered and that no other person (threat) could access.

Practicing active shooter drills to ensure everyone knows what to do in that scenario

Come up with an Election Day Evacuation Plan for the courthouse in case of threats such as a bomb threat.

Signs displayed forbidding public access to work and absentee areas with wording such as: "No Entry Without Permission."

Concerns for midterm 2022 and 2024?

The midterm 2022 does not concern us safety-wise at this time. We feel comfortable with the practices we have place for the 2022 elections. With regard to retention/recruitment of Election workers, we have had minimal issues with longtime election workers stepping down from this service. Fortunately we have had new judges that have stepped up to work.

The November 2024 Presidential election does raise some concerns. Our concerns are based on the backlash experienced in other states for the previous November 2020 election. Here is what we would like to have implemented:

- During absentee voting at the courthouse, Election Day, and up until the State's Certification of the Election (2 weeks after Election Day) we would like an officer or deputy to be present.

We have not received expansive FOIA requests for election or voter information.

I hope this information is helpful. If you need anything else, please let me know.

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