

Treasury Summer Newsletter

Interest Income

On April 9th I did a presentation to the County Commissioners at their regular Monday meeting to provide an update on Ellis County's finances. Since taking office in October, I have implemented a new practice of consistently investing "idle funds," (money not currently being tapped for county expenses).

My goal: Increase interest income on those funds.

In the 1st quarter of 2018, which includes Dec, Jan, and Feb, the Treasury earned over \$78,000.00 in Interest Income. Meaning, as of the end of February, the interest totals already exceeded the annual totals for each year of the prior seven years. As of the end of April, we approached \$100,000. Based on the 1st quarter's earnings and my purposeful investment strategy, I estimate Ellis County will earn over a quarter of a million dollars in "Interest Income" alone in 2018.

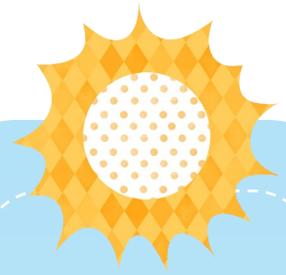
It is important to note interest rates on our accounts. For the past five years, they have been stagnant, ranging from .02-.05 percent. That is not 5% or 2%, but .02 and .05%. I have secured interest income for the county because, and only because, I have taken the initiative to make investments at every possible moment, not leaving any funds "un-invested." The competition generated by soliciting bids from local banking institutions since I took office got them competing to the tune of 1-1.4%, versus if I would have simply accepted the *standard* .02-.05%. First quarter interest earnings for Ellis County illustrate the value of proactive account management, and I look forward to producing even greater return on our investments in the future.

Banking Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

In other news, in January 2018 I solicited proposals and gathered information from banks upon examining Ellis County's investment potential. Due to comparing the County's banking fees with other Treasuries across Kansas, I made this a top priority. Two objectives I set forth with the new banking proposal were to increase interest income and decrease monthly banking fees; the process was successful on both fronts. I sent out banking requests for proposals (RFPs) this winter, and have since been grateful to have met and worked with the banking executives in Ellis County. On May 1, I awarded Astra Bank the opportunity to be the banking institution that handles the County's main operating accounts. (These are the active accounts, and different from idle fund investment accounts). I was drawn to the adaptability of Astra's qualified staff and various services to meet the county's required banking needs at the best cost-value to the county.

I am happy and grateful to work for Ellis County citizens, and I enjoy the challenges that come with the responsibilities of being your Treasurer. Make it a good spring, and be glad you are part of such a great County and Country as ours.

Lisa Schlegel 
Ellis County Treasurer



Summer 2018

Important Dates

June	Per Statute 79-2101 Notice of Delinquent Personal Property Tax mailed on or before June 10
July	Per Statute 79-2302 & 79- 2303: Delinquent Real Estate Tax listing sent to the newspaper
August	Delinquent Real Estate Tax published in the newspaper

