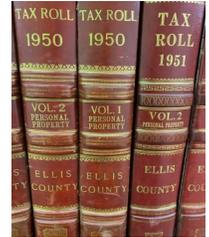




Treasury Newsletter

November 2019

Dear Ellis County Citizens:



Thank you for another rewarding year as your Treasurer. Since my election in 2016, measurable results from my new practices are evident. Staff are cross-trained; banking practices were negotiated and updated; collection practices are improved. Inter-office relationships throughout the county are more effective, particularly communication lines between the Treasurer and the Commissioners and more effective working practices between the County’s two big record-keepers: The Clerk and Treasurer. The Clerk said she had all the outside entity’s information on November 1. However, I am disappointed the tax roll was delivered by the Clerk to the Treasurer late again this year. Taxpayers called asking how much they owed, and again they waited. Since 2012 the tax roll was received between 2 and 3 weeks late each year. Citizens need to know why this is important. Receiving the tax roll on time gives citizens the ability to pay earlier before the holidays and allows me to invest those funds longer before distributing them to local tax entities in the County. That translates to extra interest income for Ellis County, but more importantly, more notice and time for taxpayers.

My intent between 2016 and now remains the same: to make things even better for you, the citizens of Ellis County Kansas. As an elected official, I answer not to other elected officials or to other departments in the county. I answer only to you, the citizens. I am proud to have brought a new balance to the Treasury where state-sanctioned autonomy prevents muddying of waters that politics can foster. I have established that autonomy while working with commissioners and other offices to simply “get the job done.” That is the goal, after all. I would like to hear what you think. It is every elected official’s job to *hear* it all and *listen to the citizens* and then, work to make things better. We cannot survive without communication. To move forward, we need to consider all informed viewpoints at the table and embrace them calmly.

So what has been going on in the Treasury this year?:

- ◆ New security protections for the County’s electronic funds
- ◆ Well over *half a million* dollars in annual interest income from proactive negotiations with competitive, local banks
- ◆ Increased procedural safeguards of taxpayer information
- ◆ \$315,000 extra income from fair and annual delinquent tax collection practices
- ◆ A growing escrow program to streamline tax payments and increase collections
- ◆ The Treasury is the first department in the Ellis County Administrative building to save money by voluntarily adopting more practical office hours

Lisa Schlegel

Lisa Schlegel



Ellis County Treasurer



I intend to continue producing measurable successes for our County. Thank you for your trust in me. You can count on me to keep serving you with honesty and integrity through 2020.



“Leadership, Dependability, & Integrity”



