

February 19, 1962

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Honorable Earl R. Blackwell  
State Senator, 22nd District  
Hillsboro, Missouri

Dear Senator Blackwell:

We are in receipt of your letter of recent date asking whether the county clerk of a county which has adopted local option county voter registration under Chapter 114, RSMo 1959, can, for purposes of initial voter registration, designate additional places of registry in each township in the county with a deputy county clerk in charge of each.

Section 114.080, RSMo 1959, establishes the office of the county clerk as the place of voter registration in counties adopting local option registration. Section 114.090 RSMo 1959, authorizes the county clerk of such a county, for purposes of initial voter registration, to designate additional places of registry in the county. It reads as follows:

"For the initial registration, the county clerk may designate additional places of registry in the county, but these places of registry shall not exceed more than one in each township in the county in addition to the office of the clerk of any city, town or village who is deputized by the county clerk under this chapter. If any additional place of registry is established, the county clerk shall place a deputy in charge thereof."

It will be seen that the number of additional places of registry which may be established is limited to one per township

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but if the clerk of a city, town or village is appointed deputy registration officer, as authorized by Section 114.100, subsection 2, RSMo 1959, the township in which such clerk holds office is still entitled to one additional place of registry. However, in a telephone conversation on February 5, 1962, you advised us that you are primarily concerned with the registration of voters in the northern part of your county, which, although it is quite populous, contains no incorporated areas and hence no city, town or village clerk for the county clerk to deputize.

It should also be noted that the above quoted section requires that county clerks place a deputy in charge of each additional place of registry. The clerk may use, for this purpose, any of the deputies provided for in Section 114.100, RSMo 1959.

Under the authority of the above quoted section, we believe that the county clerk of Jefferson County can create one additional place of registry in each township in his county for the purpose of initial voter registration and that upon such creation he must place a deputy in charge thereof.

Yours very truly,

THOMAS F. EAGLETON  
Attorney General

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