

PUBLIC PRINTING
BALLOTS:

Charge for printing ballots is
limited by law.

December 21, 1942

Honorable Mark Morris
Prosecuting Attorney
Pike County
Bowling Green, Missouri



Dear Sir:

This is in reply to your letter of recent date, which is as follows:

"Would appreciate an opinion on the following question: 'Is there a legal monetary limit on the cost of printing ballots for a general election?'"

Section 11593 R. S. Mo. 1939, which pertains to preparation of ballots for a general election, reads as follows:

"All ballots cast in elections for public officers within this state shall be printed and distributed at public expense, as hereinafter provided. The printing of the ballots and of the cards of instruction for the electors in each county, and the delivery of the same to the election officers, as provided in section 11598, shall be a county charge, except where the officers to be voted for are exclusively city officers, in which case such printing and delivery shall be a city charge, the payment of which shall be provided for in the same manner as the payment of other county or city expenses."

Section 14966 R. S. Mo. 1939 fixes charges for publication of public notices etc., but it does not include charges for printing ballots. In the absence of a statute fixing rates, since the clerk, under Section 11594 R. S. Mo. 1939 is required to cause to have the ballots printed and since Section 11593 R. S. Mo. 1939, provides that cost of the ballot and its delivery shall

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be a public charge, then the price for the printing would be fixed by contract.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore, the conclusion of this Department that there is no statutory provision fixing the cost of printing ballots for a general election.

Respectfully submitted

TYRE W. BURTON
Assistant Attorney-General

APPROVED:

ROY McKITTRICK
Attorney-General

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