



DOUGLAS COUNTY
ASSESSOR · REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE

Diane L. Battiato, CPO

MEDIA ALERT

March 18, 2020

TO: News directors, assignment and city editors

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact: Diane Battiato, Douglas County Assessor/Register of Deeds, 402-444-7457, or Larry Miller, Chief Office Deputy, 402-444-6780.

FOR RELEASE: Immediately

Assessor/Register of Deeds Initiates Second Round of Operations Changes; **suspends all walk-in traffic**

Omaha, NE—As a result of the increasing dangers posed by COVID-19, Diane Battiato, Douglas County Assessor/Register of Deeds, announced another round of changes today regarding her office's policies and procedures—including that **all walk-in traffic is suspended**.

Effective immediately, the Register of Deeds office no longer will accept documents for filing via walk-in. Battiato said if an individual has a time-sensitive filing, he or she can make an appointment with the office to file the document(s). The number to call is 402-444-7160.

Battiato also explained other changes. For example, also effective immediately, **ALL** 24 Homestead Exemption Program help sites are closed. Following a review of the current COVID-19 situation, Battiato said her office and Volunteers Serving Seniors (VAS) agreed that conducting the help sites would place volunteers, staff and senior citizens at considerable risk. Battiato explained that they evaluated the possible effect of COVID-19 and concluded that the negative impact could be too great, especially for senior citizens. VAS partners with the Assessor/Register of Deeds to provide the help sites, which offer application assistance to individuals who want to take advantage of the exemption program.

"We truly regret having to cancel all of the help sites; we understand how important the homestead exemption program is to property owners. And we apologize for the inconvenience," Battiato said.

Battiato added that the office still is processing homestead applications, and "the best way to get them to us, now, is to print the forms from our website (unless you already have them): dcassessor.org—Homestead Exemption--and print the forms located on the left side of the page. After you have completed the application, mail it to Douglas County Assessor/Register of Deeds, 1819 Farnam St., 4th floor, Omaha, NE 68183, or email the application to homestead@douglascounty-ne.gov. Applicants will be contacted, if necessary".