

After months of uncertainty brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, all Arkansans can request an absentee ballot to vote in the November general election. Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced Thursday he agreed with Secretary of State John Thurston's interpretation that state voting laws would allow for more absentee voting due to COVID-19. Terri Hollingsworth is Circuit and County Clerk for Pulaski County. She says her office has already begun seeing more requests for absentee ballots.

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"...that kinda thing."

Hollingsworth says Pulaski County usually sees only about 9-thousand absentee votes cast in a typical presidential election year. She says she's asking the governor and secretary of state to use emergency funds to supplement money counties will already receive from the \$2 Trillion dollar federal CARES Act.

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"...budget for that."

Hollingsworth says it would cost as much as \$125-thousand dollars to send absentee ballot applications to all of the roughly 251-thousand registered voters in Pulaski County. She says voters should request an application as soon as possible from the Clerk's Office or the Secretary of State's website. She says Pulaski County alone could see as many people cast absentee ballots in the November election than did in the entire state in 2016.