



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greene County Collector to resign from office

After 18 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Greene County, Leah Betts is resigning her elected position as Greene County Collector effective February 28.

Betts started with the County when a temp agency placed her in a position at the Collector's Office while she was visiting home during a long-term mission trip. It was there she learned the various responsibilities of the department. She eventually went full time and gained several promotions. In 2014 she was elected Greene County Collector, a position that oversees more than a quarter billion dollars in tax collections each year for distribution to more than 40 local taxing districts such as schools, municipalities and the library.

"It is with great sadness that I am resigning as I have thoroughly enjoyed making a difference in our community during my days at the County," Betts said. "During my time in office, I have succeeded at giving a government office a personal touch, as well as enhanced many efficiencies and procedures. My office has won a couple of notable customer service awards in the last few years and it also received a flawless audit from the recent state audit. It is important that citizens know that I strategically chose the timing of my last day to get through and tackle the most challenging tasks presented during this tax season. One of my goals will be to make the best transition possible to the newly appointed Collector for the good of the citizens of the County."

"We wish Leah all the best in her future endeavors and thank her for her dedication to the citizens of Greene County," said Presiding Commissioner Bob Dixon. "She is to be commended for her tireless efforts to provide top quality customer service to those who interact with the Greene County Collector's Office and we further thank her for working to complete this year's cycle of tax statements."

The vacancy at the Greene County Collector's Office will be filled by a gubernatorial appointment.

While this year's tax cycle has been a challenging one for the County, Betts and the Commission assure citizens that the process continues to be a collaborative effort. Several offices, including the Commission, Assessor, Clerk, Collector and Information Systems department, remain committed to working together to address the issues with data and the transfer of that data between systems. This has resulted in the ability to mail the majority of the tax statements before the end of the year and has allowed for significant progress on processing the remaining statements. This same collaborative approach is helping to identify options to streamline assessment, billing and collections in the future.

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Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving more than 275,000 people (2010 census). Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

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