

March 22, 1972

OPINION LETTER NO. 112  
Answer by Letter - Klaffenbach

Honorable J. H. Frappier  
State Representative, District 24  
Room 202J Capitol Building  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101



Dear Representative Frappier:

This letter is in response to your question in which you ask:

"Does the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners have the authority to register qualified county residents outside of the geographical boundaries of St. Louis County?"

You further state that:

"Various organizations have attempted to sponsor registration efforts at various institutions, shopping centers, factories, etc. It would encourage & facilitate registration if the vehicle contained clerks from both the city and county boards and thereby be able to register residents of either area. As the attached letter indicates, a strict interpretation of chapter 113.180 RSMo subsection 3, prevents the efficient registration of voters."

Although you mention Section 113.180, we believe you refer to Section 113.210, RSMo Supp. 1971.

Subsection 3 of Section 113.210, RSMo Supp. 1971, which is applicable to St. Louis County provides:

Honorable J. H. Frappier

"The board of election commissioners shall, for the purpose of registering new voters, or reinstating the classes of persons whose registration was suspended or canceled, cause its office to be open on at least three separate days of each week to register or reinstate them on the registration list of the precinct in which they then reside, but no new registration of voters or reinstatement of persons suspended or canceled on the registration records shall be made at any time later than 5:00 p.m. on the twenty-eighth day preceding any general, special or primary election except that, when a special election is held at a time so as to interfere with normal registration under this section, no person shall be denied the right to register at a time not later than the twenty-eighth day preceding any general or primary election. No registration of new voters shall be permitted sooner than fifteen days after an election in counties included in sections 113.010 to 113.420. The board of election commissioners may establish additional places of registration in the county and supervise the registration of voters at the additional places of registry. Registration shall be held at each additional place of registry at the time and hours to be determined by the board of election commissioners. The additional places of registry may be established in public, private or mobile units and subject to change by the board from time to time as, in its discretion, the circumstances require. The clerk and assistants regularly employed in the office of the clerk of any city, town, or village and regular employees of fire protection districts, school districts, and public libraries may be appointed by the board of election commissioners as deputy registration officers. All persons so appointed may accept registration of voters at their offices at the time and hours to be determined by the board." (Emphasis added)

We have reviewed the opinion of the legal counsel for the Board and agree with such opinion that the provisions of the section, which we have underscored for emphasis, indicate a clear legislative intent that the registration be conducted as prescribed therein thus excluding registration at such places you mention outside the boundaries

Honorable J. H. Frappier

of St. Louis County. In this respect we call your attention to our enclosed Opinion No. 206, dated May 29, 1967, to Almond.

Very truly yours,

JOHN C. DANFORTH  
Attorney General

Enclosure: Op. No. 206  
5-29-67, Almond