

Vacancy Story Problem #1

January 2, 2009

Martha Stuart has been the Roosevelt County Auditor since January 2, 1969. She did not run for re-election in 2008. At the General Election Marvin Goodhue was elected County Auditor.

Mr. Goodhue has never worked in county government before so he paid a courtesy call on Ms. Stuart shortly after the county canvass of votes. He asked Ms. Stuart for a short list of all of the duties and responsibilities of the office. She closed her office door and started talking.

Several hours later Mr. Goodhue emerged from the Courthouse looking dazed and frightened. He got into his car, drove south out of town and has not been seen or heard from since. He did not appear to be sworn in today.

What happens now?

Vacancy Story Problem #2

August 1, 2008

County Supervisor Roger “Dude” Ross is having some turmoil in his personal life. At the request of his wife he has moved from the family home and taken an apartment. Rumors are flying. Mr. Ross’s apartment is just across the county line in the city of Fillmore. He has been living there for a couple of months. He still comes to meetings and carries out his duties as a county supervisor.

Mr. Ross has said nothing to anyone about his personal situation, although Mrs. Ross has confided in a few folks who then spread tales of an impending divorce along with speculation about Mr. Ross having plans to flee the country.

Several citizens have asked County Auditor Martha Stuart whether Mr. Ross having moved outside the county makes a vacancy on the Board of Supervisors. The local newspaper has printed an editorial calling for Mr. Ross to resign or move back to the county. Mr. Ross has remained steadfastly silent.

How can this be resolved?

Vacancy Story Problem #3

January 17, 2008

Millie Truman resigned from the School Board of the Eleanor Community School District on September 12, 2008. The School Board now consists of 2 factions each having 2 members. These folks couldn't agree on the time of day without mediation. Ms. Truman's term does not expire until 2009 and the board has done nothing about filling the vacancy created when she left. They have, however, fired the school secretary.

Some of the board members wanted a special election but they never managed to follow through to get it done. They have decided (by not deciding) to leave the seat vacant until September 2009 when it will be on the ballot anyway.

What happens now?

Vacancy Story Problem #4

January 17, 2008

State Representative Alexander Anderson died today. This is the fourth day of the legislative session.

What happens now?