

A message from Ann Hess, Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds:

Notary Public Information

***** ATTENTION LANCASTER COUNTY NOTARIES*****

To date, notary commission expiration dates have **not** been extended. A notary's commission expires by operation of law (four years after appointment). The Department of State does not have the unilateral authority to extend notary commission dates and, to date, have not extended any dates. The notary should stop notarizing if their commission expires.

Please note that the notary oath of office is **not required** to be taken before the Recorder of Deeds. Notaries that are trying to record bonds/oaths/commissions may take the oath of office before another official authorized to take the oath (any fellow notary public, judge, etc) thereby eliminating the need to appear at the Recorder's office. Once the oath has been taken, (and the notary signs in front of the person administering the oath) the notary can send in the oath, the completed power of attorney and a copy of a valid government issued photo ID to the Recorder's Office along with a check in the amount of \$36.50 and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Once received, the documents (if completed correctly) will be recorded and returned to the notary along with a Notary Signature Register Card that must be completed and returned to our office in order for the commission to be effective. **You may not notarize documents without returning the signature register card.**