



County Technical Assistance Service
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

County Officials E-News

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Opioid Assistance

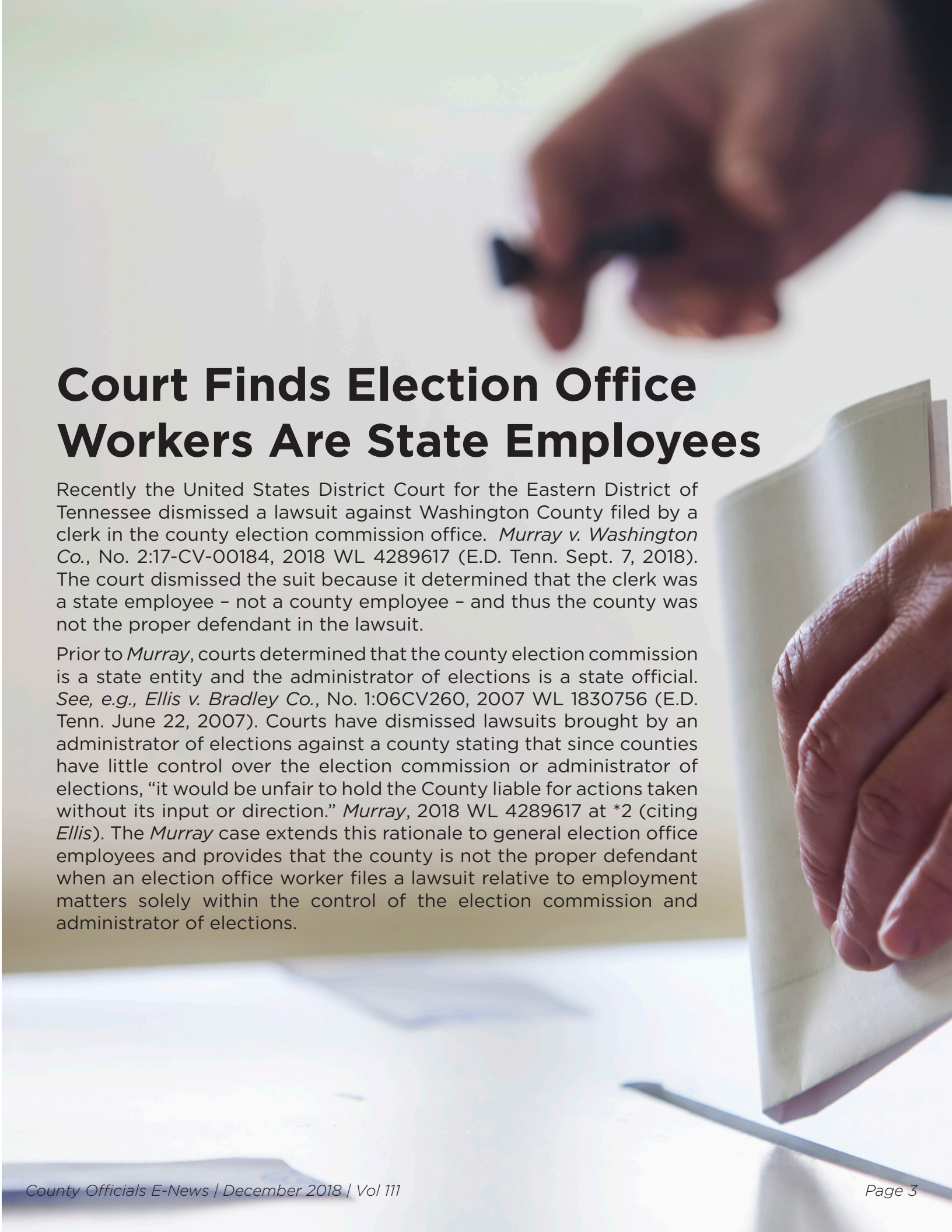
The effects of the opioid epidemic are devastating to our communities. No corner of the country has gone untouched, but it has had a particularly significant effect on rural America. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has resources available to help support rural communities that are impacted by the crisis. Funding is available for equipment, facilities, and support. For more information on their programs, see the [USDA's opioids website](#). You can contact the USDA Rural Development Office in your community to find out more about available resources and assistance.

CTAS is *Hiring!*

We are currently recruiting for the following open positions:

- [IPS Program Manager II, CCFO](#)
- [IPS Consultant II, CCFO](#)
- [Administrative Intern, 6-Month Appointment](#)
- [Administrative Intern, 1-Year Appointment](#)

If you are interested or know someone who might be a good fit for us, please use the links above to apply today.



Court Finds Election Office Workers Are State Employees

Recently the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee dismissed a lawsuit against Washington County filed by a clerk in the county election commission office. *Murray v. Washington Co.*, No. 2:17-CV-00184, 2018 WL 4289617 (E.D. Tenn. Sept. 7, 2018). The court dismissed the suit because it determined that the clerk was a state employee – not a county employee – and thus the county was not the proper defendant in the lawsuit.

Prior to *Murray*, courts determined that the county election commission is a state entity and the administrator of elections is a state official. See, e.g., *Ellis v. Bradley Co.*, No. 1:06CV260, 2007 WL 1830756 (E.D. Tenn. June 22, 2007). Courts have dismissed lawsuits brought by an administrator of elections against a county stating that since counties have little control over the election commission or administrator of elections, “it would be unfair to hold the County liable for actions taken without its input or direction.” *Murray*, 2018 WL 4289617 at *2 (citing *Ellis*). The *Murray* case extends this rationale to general election office employees and provides that the county is not the proper defendant when an election office worker files a lawsuit relative to employment matters solely within the control of the election commission and administrator of elections.

CTAS Office Closing Schedule

CTAS offices will be closed for a winter break (following the University of Tennessee administrative closing schedule) **from December 24 through December 28, 2018, and on January 1, 2019.** We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!





Upcoming COCTP Training

December 2018

Date	Title	Location
Dec 12-14	Renewal Conference	Franklin - Marriott

January 2019

Date	Title	Location
Jan 16	Legal Issues for County Officials	Franklin - Embassy Suites
Jan 31	Mentoring in the Workplace	Knoxville - UT Conference Center



Log into k@te to register for these classes
<http://kate.tennessee.edu/ctas>

Need help? Call (615) 532-3555 and
ask for Training



Please **verify** your official contact information in our Directory.

1. Please go to <http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu>
2. Click on Directory.
3. Go to your county then click your title.
4. Click Request Update.
5. Update info and click Submit.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in making sure your information is correct in the Directory!



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