

Q&A with the Elections Division (November 3, 2022)



Agenda

- Reminders from the Trainers
- Printing of Zero Tapes/Results Tapes
- Write-in Candidates
- Poll Watcher Observing Transfer of Materials
- Corrected Ballot Timeframes



Reminders for What is to Come...

By: SOS Election Security Trainers



Early Voting Closeout

- If you have any changes to your instructions, don't forget to remind your Deputy Early Voting Clerk at your early voting locations so that they are prepared.
- Be Transparent with Chain of Custody Forms
- Things that should be locked and/or sealed for transport:
 - Ballot box with voted ballots
 - Tabulator
 - Unused ballots
 - Provisional ballots
 - Limited ballots for main offsite locations if applicable
 - ePollbook/paper OLRV
- Verify completed paperwork before your Deputy Early Voting Clerk leaves Election Headquarters
- Storage of early voted ballot boxes – is your designated area ready?
 - Create a log sheet for entering/exiting room
 - For counties with populations of 100,000 or more, verify that surveillance cameras are operating
- **Results tapes should not be printed until Election Day!**



The Day(s) Before Election Day

- **Prepared Supplies:**
 - Don't forget to check your forms to make sure that they are updated to the most current.
 - Check your Oath of Assistance and Oath of Interpreter Form in particular – the most current date on the form is 7/2022.
- **Supply Pick Up:**
 - Chain of Custody form should be verified and signed by the judge picking up equipment.
- **Setting up the polling location ahead of time:**
 - Post the required signs
 - Remind that the list of write-in candidate(s) must be posted in **ALL** the voting booths/ballot marking device(s)
 - This includes making it available to curbside voters.



Election Morning Reminders

- If using the SOS Opening the Poll Checklist, have the presiding judge complete and sign the checklist.
- Remind judges they should do the following:
 - Open the tabulator/scanner first to ensure that it will be ready at 7:00 am.
 - Print and verify zero tape. Sign zero tape.
 - Delegate Opening the Poll Checklist tasks to their clerks.
 - Allow enough time to be able to complete the tasks to open the polls at 7:00 a.m.
- If available, assign and send tech support/runner(s) to lesser experienced polling locations.
 - Plan ahead of time and route tech support/runner(s) to be able to go to all your polling locations to make sure that they are up and running smoothly.



Election Day Reminders

Hand Delivered Ballots by Mail on Election Day Only:

- Must be delivered by the voter who requested the ballot.
- Voter must provide one of the acceptable ID(s), or present List B ID and complete the RID
- Voter must sign the Signature Roster – Election Day Hand-Delivery of Ballot by Mail form 5-6 (1/2022).

Polling Locations:

- Prepare a designated time(s) for checking in with your polling locations to verify the following:
 - Total voters who voted in e-pollbook
 - Total voters who inserted their ballots in scanner/tabulator
 - Provisional ballots
 - Any discrepancies and are they notated
 - Any need of supplies
- **Remind** that all voter forms must be completed before issuing any type of ballot.
- **Curbside Voting:** 1 person may perform this task. If a voter requests assistance, then a 2nd person must go out to assist on Election Day.
- Limited ballots are not available for Election Day.



Election Night Reminders

- If using the SOS Closing the Polls Checklist, have the presiding judge complete and sign the checklist.
- Consider providing a checklist of things to bring back to Election Night Headquarters.
 - Media stick
 - Ballot box sealed
 - Completed paperwork
- Consider providing a picture of how to pack up equipment and where to put it for the person(s) that will be picking it up at a later time.
- Be prepared for extra traffic if poll watchers follow the Presiding and Alternate Judge from the polling location to Election Night Headquarters.
 - Plan parking or waiting lines accordingly.



Central Counting Station Reminders

- Perform a walk through to make sure your central count is organized and ready to go Election Night.
- Perform Test 2 and Test 3 on Election Night
- Reconciliation Form completed and results posted on website on Election Night.
- Have you scheduled a Peace Officer(s) anytime your central count convenes?

Poll Watchers:

- Provide the Poll Watchers Guide to Central Count
- Have your Sign In Sheet ready
- Make sure name tags are available

Election Night Returns (ENR):

- Don't forget after you have completed entering your results, you will be called to verify your entries. Please verify those numbers from your central count reports that you used to enter into TEAM.



Q&A Topics



Printing of Zero Tapes/Results Tapes

- Immediately before opening the polls on election day, the presiding judge shall confirm that each voting machine has any public counter reset to zero and **shall print the tape that shows the counter was set to zero.**
- Immediately after closing the polls for voting on election day, the presiding judge **shall print the tape to show the number of votes cast for each candidate or ballot measure.**
- Each presiding or alternate judge shall sign the printed tapes.

Sec. 61.002



Write-in Candidates

- Mass Email on Write-in Candidates on October 11, 2022
- Voter Intent for Write-In Candidates
 - Presiding Judge responsible for resolving voter intent questions
 - May have clerks assist with this process
 - The write-in candidate name does not have to be an exact match as long as the presiding judge is able to determine voter intent
- Counting Write-In Votes
 - All write-in votes **MUST** be counted and reported for all ballots received by 7:00 PM on election night.



Poll Watcher Observing Transfer of Materials

- **Poll Watchers Observing Transfer of Election Records**

- **Delivery of Election Records:**

- Section 33.060 provides that on request of a poll watcher, an election officer who delivers election records from a precinct polling place, an early voting polling place, a meeting place for an early voting ballot board, or a central counting station shall permit the watcher appointed to serve at that location to accompany the officer in making the delivery.
 - If delivery is made in a vehicle, an election officer must permit the watcher to follow in a different vehicle. The election officer must drive in a manner that enables the watcher to keep the vehicle in sight.

- **Data Storage Sealing and Transfer:**

- Section 33.0605 provides that a watcher appointed to serve at a polling place may observe all election activities relating to closing the polling place, including the sealing and transfer of the electronic media used by the voting system.
 - A poll watcher is entitled to follow the transfer of election materials from the polling place at which the watcher was accepted for service to any location designated for processing the election materials.
 - If that location is one in which poll watchers are eligible for service (i.e., central counting station), the poll watcher must be accepted for service in the same manner as those accepted under Section 33.051. Section 33.051 requires a poll watcher to provide their certificate of appointment and their certificate of completion from the SOS online poll watcher training.



Corrected Ballot Timeframes

- **Mass Email Sent on October 14, 2022**
- **Counting Corrected Ballots:** Section 86.009 of the Election Code provides rules for counting corrected ballots. Election Advisory No. 2020-23 contains additional detailed guidance on counting corrected ballots.
 - **Regular ABBM Votes:** If a corrected ballot is returned by the close of polls on election day, it shall be counted on election night and included in the unofficial returns. **If the corrected ballot is not returned by the close of the polls on election day, but the original, defective ballot has been received, the original ballot shall be counted on election night and the votes cast shall be included in the original returns.** Any corrected ballots that are received after election night shall be treated as not timely returned.
 - **Military/Overseas Votes with Extended Deadlines:**
 - For overseas voters using an ABBM or FPCA, the corrected ballot must arrive by the 5th day* after election day to be counted, otherwise the voter's originally returned uncorrected ballot will be counted.
 - For military voters using an FPCA, the corrected ballot must arrive by the 6th* day after election day to be counted, otherwise the voters' originally returned uncorrected ballot will be counted. (Section 101.057).
 - **For elections occurring on November 8, 2022, the deadline for both of these categories of ballots is Monday, November 14, 2022.**



Questions?

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