



Municipality of Anchorage

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Office of the Municipal Clerk

MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE: APRIL 4, 2012

The Municipal Clerk's Office understands there is a high level of interest in this election. In order to facilitate the distribution of information regarding the election and, at the same time, work through the business of organizing, reviewing, and counting ballots, the Municipal Clerk's Office will not be able to field and respond to the numerous calls and emails on an ongoing basis. Instead, the Clerk's Office will issue a series of media releases as information becomes available.

Today, the Office anticipates finalizing its organization of all the early voting ballots for later review and counting. In addition, the Office will be examining each precinct to determine which precincts ran short of ballots and how each precinct handled instances of ballot shortages. These actions will assist the Office in developing a raw count of ballots cast.

Our early review indicates that of the 35 different kinds of ballots used in this election, we only ran out of ballot style 4 in certain precincts. The alternative polling sites at UAA and Anchorage International Airport finished the night with a surplus of unused ballots on hand. Any reports or messages that these sites had run out of ballots were incorrect. The Municipal Attorney's Office is reviewing the impact, if any, on the validity of the election if there is voter disenfranchisement as a result of a shortage of ballots.

We want to reassure voters who ended up voting questioned ballots because of the shortage that their vote counts. Voters who were properly registered at least 30 days before the election and qualified to vote will have their vote counted in accordance with the law. However, voters who registered to vote yesterday will likely not have their votes counted. We are currently aware of only 121 voters who registered yesterday.

The review process is open to public observation. During the review, the Election Commission will examine each questioned or absentee ballot envelope and will determine whether the questioned or absentee voter is qualified to vote at the election and whether the questioned or absentee ballot has been properly cast. We anticipate the hours will be 8-5 weekdays. At the upcoming public canvass, currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, the Election Commission will make its final decisions as to whether certain questioned and absentee ballots will be rejected or counted. Any person present at the public canvass may challenge vote qualifications or the propriety of a cast ballot.

We ask for everyone's patience during this process.

Community, Security, Prosperity