




Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4311 • Fax: (907) 343-4313 <http://www.muni.org/assembly>

Office of the Municipal Clerk

TO: Daniel E. Smith, Election Observer

FROM: Barbara A. Jones, Municipal Clerk, 
Jamie Heinz, Acting Deputy Municipal Clerk

DATE: March 21, 2022

SUBJECT: Response to Your Complaint Filed March 18, 2022

Thank you for your complaint filed on March 18, 2022 filed on behalf of Liz Vasquez. We appreciate your concerns about transparency and are willing to work together to address it. With regard to the specifics of the complaint, we offer the following:

- The complaint does not identify a violation of municipal law, policy or procedure. Nor does it identify a perceived administrative error or irregularity by an election official. Therefore, the complaint does not identify a correctable error.
- Even though the complaint does not identify a correctable error, we are in the process of instituting the following changes to address your concerns about transparency:
 - We will repurpose one of the partially used supply cages for the storage of the undeliverable envelopes so that the undeliverable envelopes are visible to the public.
 - We will add an additional step in the process for undeliverable envelopes to further ensure that a returned envelope is not sandwiched, pinched, or stuck between undeliverable envelopes.
 - We will allow observers a specific time each day to cull through the undeliverable envelopes in the presence of two election officials. A daily schedule will be developed with your input to determine when and where. Because this is a new process that requires the presence of two election officials, we will not be able to deviate from this schedule if observers are not available. We anticipate securing the undeliverable envelopes after the opportunity for observers to review them and will discuss this procedure with you.
- With regard to your request for a daily report of undeliverables, we have not previously run the undeliverable envelopes mid-election in this manner; we have not developed procedures for this process; and we have not tested running undeliverables during a current election and there are risks to doing this without testing. Thus, we cannot meet that request at this time because it could jeopardize the integrity of the ballot envelope processing for the current election.

- You may wish to request the daily voted ballot report; you may also wish to request the list of all registered voters who were mailed ballots. You may use this information to compare to your individual observations under bullet 5.
- With regard to security, the undeliverable ballots have always been stored in a segregated location within the vault; there is a camera in the vault; there are two election officials at all times that go into the vault. Since we are moving them to a cage, the same level of security will apply to the cage.
- Consistent with our process for all prior elections, after this election the undeliverable ballot envelopes will be run through the mail sorting system when it is reconfigured for undeliverables. A report is produced for the State of Alaska and can be reproduced for the observers and public.


This response has been developed in collaboration with the Deputy Clerk – Elections, the Observer Liaisons, and the MOA Elections Project Manager.

C: Dee Ennis, Observer Liaison
Ralph Duerre, Observer Liaison
Dennis Wheeler, MOA Elections Project Manager
Observer Contacts for other campaigns

**Municipality of Anchorage
April 5, 2022 Regular Municipal Election
Complaint Form**

OBSERVER INFORMATION	<u>3.10.22</u>
	Date
	<u>DANIEL SMITH</u>
	Printed Name Of Observer
	<u>LIZ VAZQUEZ</u>
	Name Of Candidate Or Organization/Group Representing

COMPLAINT	<p>SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING COMPLAINT, INCLUDING ELECTION OFFICIAL NAME, IF APPLICABLE:</p> <p>There are concerns regarding the transparency of process and accountability of ballots returned to Election Center</p> <p>Currently, ballots are being returned to the Election Center at 619 E. Ship Creek Ave. These ballots include some from the United States Post Office as "Not Deliverable", "Return to Sender" or similar.</p> <p>These ballots are being stored in the same locked room (vault) designated for fully processed and scanned ballots.</p> <p>Regardless of where they are stored these returned, "not deliverable" ballots must be accounted for on a daily basis by voter name, ballot number, precinct and every other unique identifier just as a voted and returned ballot is accounted for. The accounting for the "not deliverable" ballots must be public knowledge and published daily. The undeliverable ballots are not currently accounted for on the Daily Ballot Status Report or anywhere else that I am aware of.</p> <p>A total of "not deliverable" ballots must be accounted for on a daily basis and well as a cumulative basis every day. The daily and cumulative totals of undeliverable ballots must be reconciled with the names and numbers of undeliverable ballots in possession of the Municipal Clerk at the end of the election April 5, 2022.</p>
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SIGNATURES	 Signature of Observer	3.18.22 Date Submitted
	_____ Signature of Municipal Clerk or Designee	_____ Date Received