



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 *BAJ*

DATE: March 26, 2022

SUBJECT: Response to Your Complaint Regarding “the Vault” Filed March 23, 2022

Thank you for your complaint filed on March 23, 2022 regarding “the vault,” which is the secure location in the Election Center designated for scanned, processed ballots. We appreciate the concerns that you raised regarding the three “Confidential Shred Material” bins being in the same secure room as the scanned ballots. We understand your complaint requests, and we have granted the request, “to remove the bins and their contents from the vault prior to any ballots being stored in the vault.”

- We have completed the following steps to address the specifics of the complaint:
 - The MOA Elections Team moved the three garbage bins labeled “Confidential Shred Material” to the office, a different secure location in the Election Center. The Elections Team offered the opportunity to review the confidential material in the bins to be shredded, but it was declined.
 - We re-reviewed the approximately 10 ballot envelopes that were banded together; we explained that the envelopes had been used in training to demonstrate use of the envelope “slitter” or opening machine. The envelopes were torn in half and replaced in the confidential shred bins.
- Although not a subject of this complaint, the Elections Team addressed the need to store the opened, processed ballot return envelopes, which may contain confidential information, in a segregated location in the vault. We demonstrated that the opened envelopes are “strung” and placed in empty envelope boxes. We created a new sign for the vault door indicating that processed ballot envelopes will be stored in the vault. At your request, we agreed to “wrap” the boxes with plastic stretch wrap, as well as date and number the boxes. We also agreed to leave the light on in the vault 24/7.

Although this complaint did not identify a violation of municipal law, policy or procedure and did not allege an irregularity by an election official, we agree that it identifies a perceived operational issue and have taken steps to address the complaint. The process in response to this complaint, and related process, were developed and implemented over the last several days.

C: Jamie Heinz, Deputy Municipal Clerk – Elections
Dee Ennis, Observer Liaison
Ralph Duerre, Observer Liaison
Observer Contacts for other campaigns



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

OBSERVER INFORMATION	<u>3-23-22</u> Date
	DANIEL E. SMITH Printed Name Of Observer
	LIZ VAZQUEZ Name Of Candidate Or Organization/Group Representing

COMPLAINT	SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING COMPLAINT, INCLUDING ELECTION OFFICIAL NAME, IF APPLICABLE:
	<p>There are concerns about the contents of the room labeled "vault" at the Election Center. The vault is where ballots go to be stored after being scanned, as I understand it. After a brief review of the vault contents with Municipal Clerk Barbara Jones, it was discovered that three garbage bins labeled "Confidential Shred Material" were in the vault. The contents of the bins are to be shredded. Two of the larger bins were full of papers and documents that had yet to be shredded. One bin was empty. One of the full bins contained ballot envelopes (about 10 that could be seen) banded together on top of the other papers.</p> <p>It seems like an operational conflict to have bins of paper that are intended to be shredded in the same secure room with scanned ballots. Please consider this Complaint a request to remove the bins and their contents from the vault prior to any ballots being stored in the vault. Blank ballot envelopes and other confidential garbage which is scheduled to be shredded, should not be stored with scanned ballots.</p>

SIGNATURES	<u>Daniel E. Smith</u> Signature of Observer	<u>3-23-22</u> Date Submitted
	_____ Signature of Municipal Clerk or Designee	_____ Date Received