



# Municipality of Anchorage

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## Office of the Municipal Clerk

DATE: April 23, 2022

TO: Observers/Date of Complaint:  
Cecelia Donelson – 4/19/2022  
Sami Graham – 4/19/2022

FROM: Deitra Ennis, Observer Liaison *DE*

SUBJECT: Observer Complaints – Schedule

You have complained that the schedule that detailed the times for certain election functions at the Election Center during the election cycle was often inaccurate or not timely updated. You secondly complain that the adjudication schedule set following the the Public Session of Canvass for the next day was postponed one day without notice.

With respect to the first statement in your complaint regarding the general schedule, the “Proposed Ballot Return Envelope and Ballot Processing Schedule” was prepared as a courtesy to Observers. The original, and two updated schedules, stated “[a]lthough dates and times may be subject to change due to staffing or equipment failures or other issues, no ballot processing occurs before 8:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. except on Election day or unless publicly noticed.”

From March 21-April 8, 2022, the Elections Team followed the schedule to the best extent possible – envelope sorting and signature verification began at 8:00 a.m.; envelope opening began at 9:00 or 10:00 a.m.; scanning began after noon and adjudication occurred every afternoon and results were published every day before 5. The written Ballot Processing Schedule for the dates April 11-15, does not include any specific times but instead states, “~8:00 a.m. – All other envelope and ballot processes as necessary.” The Election staff did their best to keep to the same general schedule as the previous week, specifically doing scanning and adjudication every afternoon between 1 and 3 – once at noon and one day, with the agreement of the Observers, all ballot processing extended until 6:00 p.m. During March 21-April 15, the Observers present were notified by the Liaisons of schedule changes and the Observers had at least some ability to notify other Observers.

During the week of April 11-15, there were other major election functions that were required to occur the week including the review of question and special needs ballots, facsimile training and facsimile of ballots, and the Elections Team followed those schedules. At the questioning and suggestion of the Observers, additional workers were called and existing workers were asked to work extra hours to increase sorting, envelope opening, and scanning during the week of April 11-15, and thus, by end of the day on Friday, April 15, there were very few ballots remaining in the Election Center to be processed, which only included the cures not yet processed; and the provisionally challenged ballots going to the Commission. The MOA Elections Team is grateful for this Observer suggestion and will continue to work to have extra staff on hand in the days after the election to complete processing as quickly as was done this year.

For the days beginning on Tuesday, April 19-Tuesday, April 26, the Ballot Processing Schedule includes a reference note, which states, “\*Limited ballot envelopes received via USPS; returned cure letter processing. The times listed are start times—work will continue until completed for the day depending on volume. This schedule is a courtesy notice. It is the responsibility of candidates & campaigns to contact the Election Center at 907-243-VOTE (8683) regarding any questions. For specific details of rights related to elections, please refer to the provisions of Anchorage Municipal Charter and Anchorage Municipal Code.”

On Monday, April 18, the Anchorage Election Commission worksession and Public Session of Canvass, began at 2:00 p.m. and lasted until 12:10 a.m. on April 19 - an over 10-hour public meeting that was required to be continued because the Commission was not able to finish the work on the agenda. The Commission made the decision to count approximately 205 envelopes that were no sig match but had witness signatures. With respect to the second statement in your complaint, a brief discussion between the Observers, a candidate, and staff ensued following the Public Canvass sometime after 12:20 a.m., in which it was suggested that adjudication of the 205 ballots not rejected by the Commission would start at 1 p.m. later that day. However, the next morning staff realized that the process was much more complicated than the process used to review the witness signatures on the 30 or so “X” witnessed envelopes that had been reviewed throughout the entire election. Staff did not have the time to process these ballots using the procedure developed with the Observers for verifying witness signatures. A number of alternative options were explored with the result was that more time was needed for the processing of these 205 ballots. Staff continued to discuss and figured out a new process after noon on Tuesday (given that the meeting ended at 12:10 a.m. and staff closed the Election Center at about 12:40 a.m.), this is not unreasonable. The MOA Elections Team apologizes that this was not timely communicated to the group from the night (early morning) before.

The staff implemented the procedure to process the 205 or so witnessed envelopes on Wednesday, April 20 at 9:00 a.m.; two Observers from the campaign you are both affiliated with filed challenges on both the process and on each of the 205 or of those envelopes; thus, it was determined that adjudication needed to be delayed until the challenges from other Observers from the campaigns you are affiliated with could be heard. Again, it was not anticipated this would be such a complicated process, but the Elections Team is very careful and deliberate in each of the processing steps it takes that is why the ballot processing schedule states that “dates and times may be subject to change due to staffing or equipment failures or other issues.” This was an “other issue” anticipated in the schedule. The Elections Team staff apologizes again for the delay and as detailed on the Ballot Processing Schedule, encourages the Observers to contact the Election Center at 907-243-VOTE (8683) to confirm ballot processing during the last week of the election.

## Proposed Ballot Return Envelope and Ballot Processing Schedule at MOA Election Center for the April 5, 2022 Regular Municipal Election – Updated 04/04/2022

*Although dates and times may be subject to change due to staffing or equipment failures or other issues,  
no ballot processing occurs before 8:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. except on Election Day or unless publicly noticed.*

<b>Monday, March 21</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter <b>9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution Team</b> <b>10:00 a.m. –Envelope Opening Team begins</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 22</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening, as needed	<b>Wednesday, March 23</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening, as needed	<b>Thursday, March 24</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening, as needed	<b>Friday, March 25</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening, as needed
<b>Monday, March 28</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening, as needed	<b>March 29</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening, as needed <b>1:00 p.m. – Scanning Team begins</b>	<b>Wednesday, March 30</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening, as needed 1:00 p.m. – Scanning <b>3:00 p.m. – Adjudication begins</b>	<b>Thursday, March 31</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening, as needed 1:00 p.m. – Scanning 1:00 p.m. – Adjudication	<b>Friday, April 1</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening, as needed 12:00 noon – Scanning 12:00 noon – Adjudication
<b>Monday, April 4</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening 12:00 noon – Scanning 12:00 noon – Adjudication	<b>Tuesday, April 5 – Election Day</b> <b>6:00 a.m. – Election Center (EC) opens</b> <b>7:00 a.m. – Anchorage Vote Centers open</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 9:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening 12:00 noon – Scanning 12:00 noon – Adjudication <b>6:00 p.m. – Drop Box closing training and dispatch</b> <b>After 8:00 p.m. – Drop Box teams return and AVC workers return ballot and election materials to EC</b>	<b>Wednesday April 6</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening 12:00 noon – Scanning 12:00 noon – Adjudication	<b>Thursday, April 7</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening 12:00 noon – Scanning 3:00 p.m. – Adjudication	<b>Friday, April 8</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Signature Verification 9:00 a.m. – Mail Sorter 9:00 a.m. – Review and Resolution 10:00 a.m. – Envelope Opening 12:00 noon – Scanning 3:00 p.m. – Adjudication
<b>Monday, April 11</b> ~8:00 a.m. – All other envelope and ballot processes as necessary.*9:00 a.m. – TENTATIVE Review of Questioned Ballots	<b>Tuesday, April 12</b> ~8:00 a.m. – All other envelope and ballot processes as necessary.*9:00 a.m. – TENTATIVE Facsimile training and facsimile of ballots	<b>Wednesday, April 13</b> ~8:00 a.m. – All envelope and ballot processes as necessary.*	<b>Thursday, April 14</b> ~8:00 a.m. – All envelope and ballot processes as necessary.*	<b>Friday, April 15</b> ~8:00 a.m. – All envelope and ballot processes as necessary.*
<b>Monday, April 18</b> ~8:00 a.m. – All envelope and ballot processes as necessary.* 3:00 p.m. – Anchorage Election Commission Worksession 5:00 p.m. – Anchorage Election Commission Public Session of Canvass	<b>Tuesday, April 19</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Only Military and Overseas (MILOS) envelopes and ballots processed after public session of canvass, if received.*	<b>Wednesday, April 20</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Only Military and Overseas (MILOS) envelopes and ballots processed after public session of canvass, if received.*	<b>Thursday, April 21</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Only Military and Overseas (MILOS) envelopes and ballots processed after public session of canvass, if received.*	<b>Friday, April 22</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Only Military and Overseas (MILOS) envelopes and ballots processed after public session of canvass, if received.*
<b>Monday, April 25</b> ~8:00 a.m. – Only Military and Overseas (MILOS) envelopes and ballots processed after public session of canvass, if received.*	<b>Tuesday, April 26</b> ~8:00 a.m. – noon - Only Military and Overseas (MILOS) envelopes and ballots processed after public session of canvass, if received.* <b>Election Commission meeting to confirm any rejected MILOS envelopes prior to Certification.</b>		<b>NOTES:</b> *Limited ballot envelopes received via USPS; returned cure letter processing. The times listed are start times—work will continue until completed for the day depending on volume. This schedule is a courtesy notice. It is the responsibility of candidates & campaigns to contact the Election Center at 907-243-VOTE (8683) regarding any questions. For specific details of rights related to elections, please refer to the provisions of Anchorage Municipal Charter and Anchorage Municipal Code.	



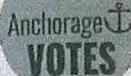
Municipality of Anchorage  
April 5, 2022 Regular Municipal Election  
Complaint Form

OBSERVER INFORMATION	<u>April, 19, 2022</u>
	Date
	<u>Cecelia Dorenson</u>
	Printed Name Of Observer
	<u>Kathy Henslee</u>
	Name Of Candidate Or Organization/Group Representing

COMPLAINT	SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING COMPLAINT, INCLUDING ELECTION OFFICIAL NAME, IF APPLICABLE:
	<p>A schedule was printed by the election officials. This schedule was so inaccurate making it impossible for observers to plan anything. 4/18/22 After the canvass, the clerk Barbara Jones informed me that processing of the additional ballots would start in the morning &amp; adjudication would be at 1pm. I arrived at the center at 12:45pm no one was working. At 2:15pm I was told nothing would be done until Wednesday! Not acceptable!</p>

SIGNATURES	<u>Cecelia D. Dorenson</u>	<u>4/20/2022</u>
	Signature of Observer	Date Submitted
	_____ Signature of Municipal Clerk or Designee	_____ Date Received





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

OBSERVER INFORMATION

April 19, 2022  
Date

Sami Graham  
Printed Name Of Observer

Sulte, Vazquez, Hensler, Cox, Taylor, Riep, Cross  
Name Of Candidate Or Organization/Group Representing

COMPLAINT

SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING COMPLAINT, INCLUDING ELECTION OFFICIAL NAME, IF APPLICABLE:

A general schedule was assured so  
disenfranchisement could be present for necessary  
election processes. The schedule was  
rarely accurate - usually off by  
three or four hours. On April 18th the  
posted adjudication actually happened  
the following day, April 19th.  
The lack of notification and changes in  
the schedule made it challenging for  
observers who were serving while also  
trying to work or run a business.

SIGNATURES

Sami Graham  
Signature of Observer

Apr. 20, '22  
Date Submitted

Signature of Municipal Clerk or Designee

Date Received