



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 27, 2022

SUBJECT: Response to Your Complaint Regarding Empty Boxes Filed March 23, 2022

Thank you for your complaint filed on March 23, 2022 regarding empty boxes stored on top of the cages and along the north wall of the Election Center. We appreciate the concerns that you raised. The MOA Elections Team agreed that you and other Observers could examine the empty boxes, however, we cannot remove all of the boxes from the Election Center because we re-use empty boxes to save money instead of buying new boxes and we do not have any new boxes to store election materials. The MOA Elections Team and Observers have come to an understanding regarding storage, marking, and an examination and the empty boxes as follows to address the specifics of the complaint:

- The empty boxes stacked on top of the cages in the Envelope Opening section of the Election Center, which are and will be used by the Envelope Opening Team to store (1) opened processed ballot return envelopes and (2) used security sleeves, were all opened and turned upside down. We believe it is now clear to the Observers, the public, and Election Officials that there are no contents in the empty boxes on top of these cages.
- The MOA Elections Team agreed to and purchased red tape and, after examination by the Observers, Election Officials will tape closed the empty boxes stacked along the north wall of the Election Center. We anticipate the Election Officials will complete this task on Monday, March 28 before scanning of ballots begin on Tuesday, March 29.
 - Please note: These empty boxes with the red tape will be retrieved as needed and unsealed by Election Officials and re-used to store (3) scanned ballots before placing them in the vault.
- If there are empty boxes on top of one the server cages, we will move the empty boxes to another location and manage them in a similar manner as the empty boxes discussed above.

Although this complaint did not identify a violation of municipal law, policy or procedure and did not allege an irregularity by an election official, nor does it identify an administrative or operational error, the MOA Elections Team believes that it raises an issue of transparency and has taken steps to display the contents or seal certain empty, unused boxes. The steps detailed above in response to this complaint, were developed and partially implemented in collaboration with the Observers over the last several days and are anticipated to be fully implemented on Monday, March 28, 2022.

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 is a large quantity of boxes labeled "Empty" within Election Center. There are approximately 80 of these boxes stacked along the north wall of the facility and on top of cages including one cage with a server in the cage. There are concerns about the contents, if any, of the boxes. In a meeting with Municipal Clerk Barbara Jones on March 22, 2022 it was agreed that the contents of the boxes could be examined and the boxes removed from the facility.</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