



Municipality of Anchorage

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Office of the Municipal Clerk

Date: April 24, 2022

TO: Observer/Date of Complaint:
Daniel E. Smith – 4/21/22

FROM: Dee Ennis, Observer Liaison *DE*

SUBJECT: Observer Complaint re Return to In Person Voting

The first part of your complaint addresses the use of witness signatures to count ballots rejected for signature verification. This concern has been addressed in a separate response regarding witness signatures.

You next, and for many reasons, suggest a return to in person voting at the polling locations. You, as well as some of the other observers, have engaged in many discussions about this topic.

As you know, Observer challenges are limited to voter eligibility, whether a ballot was properly cast or improperly rejected, signature verification, adjudication, and election official misconduct. The Election staff and the Observer Liaisons have attempted in many instances to respond to suggestions and procedures outside of this list. But the pros and cons of vote by mail or poll-based voting is a much larger and more complicated policy decision not under the jurisdiction of the Election staff. Your suggestion is respectfully noted.



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

OBSERVER INFORMATION	<u>4.22.2022</u> Date
	<u>DANIEL E. SMITH</u> Printed Name Of Observer
	<u>LIZ VAZQUEZ</u> Name Of Candidate Or Organization/Group Representing

COMPLAINT	SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING COMPLAINT, INCLUDING ELECTION OFFICIAL NAME, IF APPLICABLE: <u>PLEASE REFERENCE ATTACHED COMPLAINT DATED 4.22.22.</u>
	<u>PAGE 1 OF 2</u>

SIGNATURES	<u>Daniel E. Smith</u> Signature of Observer	<u>4.22.2022</u> Date Submitted
	_____ Signature of Municipal Clerk or Designee	_____ Date Received

4-22-22

There were approximately 900 challenged ballot envelopes due to no signature match and which remained uncured by voters at the public session of canvass. On April 18th, 2022 the Election Commission determined that these should be processed and counted in the final vote tally.

About 200 of these challenged ballots were subsequently determined to have no signature example what so ever, on file with the State. Election Center officials have not processed these 200 ballots as scheduled on April 21, 2022, giving the Election Commission time for reconsideration.

The correct solution may be not counting these ballots. They could be fraudulent as signatures cannot be verified. The correct solution could also be to process and count these ballots, as they could be legitimate ballots. Without a positive in person identification with picture ID, there is no way to tell.

This dilemma is indicative of an inherent flaw with the mail in voting system. The inability to positively identify a fraudulent ballot vs. a legitimate ballot is troubling. We will either allow 200 fraudulent votes and signatures into the voter rolls by counting these ballots and forever devaluing our election integrity or we will disenfranchise 200 legitimate voters. This is a no win situation. This problem would be eliminated with in person voting.

In fact there are many problems that would be eliminated with in person voting. The entire signature verification process goes away when an individual presents a picture ID or Voter ID at a polling station. Challenged ballots would be limited to those individuals voting out of their precinct.

The labor cost of signature verification goes away with in person voting. The ballot opening process goes away with in person voting. The labor cost of opening the envelopes goes away. The cost of envelopes and postage goes away. The cost of mailing, receiving and sorting approximately 17,500 undeliverable ballots goes away.

As ballots are tallied at individual precincts with in person voting, the cost and uncertainties of a centralized Dominion tally machine goes away.

The voting and counting of votes is reduced from a four to five week process to a one or two day process. You need a few more election workers for in person voting but you need them for a far shorter period of time. This alone will result in major cost savings.

When you rely on the US Postal Service to deliver ballots, you introduce a third party over which you have no control and who have failed us in this election. The USPS did not mail out ballots in a timely fashion. Furthermore, we are still trying to quantify the total amount of voters who never received their ballots through the USPS for this election. We know there are many. In person voting solves this problem.

In person voting solves a lot of problems.