



PRESS RELEASE

08/18/2017

Amanda K. Moser, Deputy Clerk – Elections

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anchorage Municipal Clerk Barbara Jones is excited to announce the delivery of the Bell and Howell Envelope Intake and Signature Verification System to the Elections Center, 619 East Ship Creek Avenue, Door D, on Monday, August 21, 2017, between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. coincidentally the same time as the solar eclipse. The solar eclipse, which Anchorage is not in the path of totality, is almost as exciting as the advancements in local elections that includes the transition to Vote by Mail, a once in a lifetime event.

“The Bell and Howell system is an integral part of maintaining election integrity and capturing fraud attempts. All vote by mail ballot envelopes that are returned will be scanned and tracked by the system, and a snapshot is taken of the signature on the voter declaration and is compared to a signature on file,” Municipal Clerk Barbara Jones stated.

The Bell and Howell Envelope Intake and Signature Verification System is a major component of the Municipality’s Vote by Mail implementation, which will go live for the April 3, 2018 Regular Municipal Election. The Bell and Howell System scans and tracks returned ballot envelopes at the Election Center. Workers trained in state-of-the-art handwriting analysis will compare the ballot return envelope signature to the voter signature on file. After the voter information is verified, the returned envelope is accepted, opened in a way that protects the secrecy of the ballot, and the ballot is scanned for counting.

The Municipal Clerk’s Office is informing voters that, “Vote by Mail is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Vote your ballot, filling in the ovals completely, place it in the security envelope, then place both into the ballot return envelope.
2. Sign the declaration on the back of the ballot return envelope
3. Return your ballot with a first class stamp through the United States Postal Service or save postage and return it at an accessible vote center or a secure drop box.”

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