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Subject: Concerns re: 7/29 ballot validation procedures

Date: July 29, 2015 at 12:54 AM

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Christian,

Thank you for finally getting me the scans and your “draft” of the procedures. I hope that since it is draft you are open to suggestions for the validation process. My comments and suggestions below do not in any way convey my opinion as to the correct use or format (particularly format) of the affidavit ballot.

I know that I made my request as a resident of the Town who is interested in a fair and transparent process that the election results be tallied separate and apart from the affidavit ballots and absentee ballots. I also feel that it is imperative to count the affidavit ballots separately and apart from the affidavit ballots; in this way any contest of the applicability of these ballots can be dealt with more expeditiously.

I noticed that all the affidavits which ought to be organized by the polling location where they were cast are now all mixed up. Your process does not call for sorting by election district (as you do for the absentee ballots). How are you planning to check these against the polls books when you don’t know which book to look in as per your step 4? It seems to me that you will need to presort the ballots by polling location first.

Questions that need to be addressed by the process:

- 1) For affidavit envelopes not marked with polling location, how do you know where these envelopes came from?
- 2) For envelopes with no polling location how will you match up with challenge reports which are by polling location?
- 3) For envelopes without a ballot number, the ballot number should be added as part of the process so that as the Town Clerk you will be able to have a full picture of what occurred under your supervision.

Step #5 – Checking the ballot envelope entries should be amended as follows:

- 1) **Type of envelope:** Check the top box to see if it is an affidavit ballot or an emergency ballot. If not checked then mark with red X and insert the word – Unspecified and put in bin not to open.
- 2) **Box 1 processing:** Current step 5a only calls for a review if there is more than one check mark. If box 1 was selected then this says that the voter is swearing they were registered and their registration must be confirmed. All those envelopes must be given to you for further inspection. If their record cannot be found these should not be processed and should be marked with “X-no oath” since what they attested to cannot be confirmed.
- 3) **DOB:** After checking for residency, check that the DOB is 9/30/1996 or earlier, otherwise mark with red X and add “<18” next to the X and put in bin not to open.
- 4) **Dates:** Check the envelope for the date of the signature of the voter or the date of the inspector confirming the swearing of the oath. If the date is missing or incomplete (month, day or year) mark with a red X and add “date” and put in bin not to open.
- 5) **Inspector signature:** Check the envelope to see if it has been signed by an inspector; if not, mark with a red X and add “inspection” and put in bin not to open.

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- 6) **Polling Location:** If the polling location of the envelope cannot be ascertained then it should be marked with a red X and the note "polling location" and not processed since a chain of custody cannot be determined and it cannot be related to books and records of the polling location.

If the signature is printed or is not legible at all and no ID has been noted how will process those envelopes?

If someone checks box 1 and is not found in the voter database as they ascertain then you should not process them because their oath was incorrect.

If the affidavit ballot is an obvious copy and not original it should be set aside/challenged by yourself as Town Clerk as the provenance of those envelopes is clearly suspect. (Note: Many of the envelopes are actually incomplete.)

Given the lack of time with the scans and the procedure book this is all that I can provide to you prior to tomorrow's (I mean this morning's) proceeding. I hope this helps.

Best wishes,

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