



Robert Beadles <[REDACTED].com>

Fwd: Washoe County's Opportunity to Improve Election Integrity & Transparency

1 message

Tracey Thomas <[REDACTED].com>
To: Robert Beadles <[REDACTED].com>

Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 1:34 PM

Sorry, it was March apparently. This is the email Jeanne forwarded to Carol Fineberg, who contacted me requesting I speak to the CTL group. From that lunch, Jim Hindle approached me to enroll in the Candidate College and Nicole Herris asked me to speak to the Reno Republican Women's group. And the rest is history.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tracey Thomas** <[REDACTED].com>

Date: Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 10:30 PM

Subject: Washoe County's Opportunity to Improve Election Integrity & Transparency

To: <AHILL@washoecounty.us>, <VHARTUNG@washoecounty.us>, <BLUCEY@washoecounty.us>, <JHERMAN@washoecounty.us>, <KJUNG@washoecounty.us>

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I come humbly before you to boldly provide only testimony within the boundaries of the work God has given me.

BACKGROUND

I have enjoyed serving Washoe County Registrar of Voters under three different Registrars as a polling place manager since 2000. I also served as one of their field registrars at Nevada's naturalization ceremonies in 2019 and have been serving as a member of their Poll Worker Advisory Committee due to the institutional knowledge and skill sets blessed upon me.

I have also faithfully served with perfect attendance as foreperson for the Grand Jury from 2016-2018 and served on the board of the Washoe County Employees Association from 2010-2014 during my 16½ year employment within the Technology Services Department.

This year, Washoe County enjoyed an **unusually** high interest in volunteers in addition to several challenges imposed by sudden changes to Nevada's voting laws. I was asked to assist with the in-person training of Intake associates and Managers for polling locations alongside with six other Advisory Committee Members. I was also asked to help in the call center which allowed me to **personally** observe several areas of concern with regard to the ethics and integrity of operations as they relate to the Equal Protection Clause, NRS 293, and Title 24.

It is not my intent to accuse or speculate, but rather provide feedback for improving the integrity and transparency of Washoe County's elections AND protection for the integrity of poll workers through Washoe County's Code, Chapter 5. You have the power to set precedence for Washoe County in pioneering an example for other Nevada counties, as well as other states in the oversight of how Washoe County's elections are conducted. I pray that you give them serious consideration.

POLLING PLACE VOLUNTEERS/WORKERS

Washoe County has historically experienced a 30±% decline in polling place volunteers once they learn of the arduous work schedule (10+ hours per day for 14 days straight during early voting and 16+ hours on election day) and complete the exhaustive training. Additional volunteers also quit/walk out after a few hours of dealing with overwhelming numbers of voters and/or hostile

voters. There is also confusion on the rate of pay. (I just received compensation for my work this year on February 25, 2021.)

When considering which portions of the population have the ability to “completely” commit 14 days straight, you are discriminating against those who are employed, going to school, and/or caretakers of children and elderly. Consequently, the majority of volunteers have been retirees with an average age of 70± and are not highly skilled in technology. (There are also challenges with reading small print on poll book stations and forms.)

The pool of available resources was higher this year due to the governor's closure of our state. So, it is not realistic to plan on those resources in future elections.

Request #1: Your “top-down” guidance in encouraging realistic scheduling of early voting hours and staff shifts would benefit greatly in retaining skilled volunteers.

There also needs to be legal protection for our volunteers from hostile and violent voters. We are required to sign an oath before we can begin any duties, which makes us an election official. The right to vote does not unilaterally include any right to abuse poll workers or election officials. Voting should only be allowed to be exercised “peacefully.” A polling place manager should have the power to encourage a voter to return when they can do so peacefully.

Request #2: Legal provisions need to be provided for the reporting and fining of abuse at sufficient levels to discourage this behavior (ie \$1,000 per incident/officer). This language needs to be placed on ballot material so that voters are well advised.

VOTER VERIFICATION

NRS293.325 1(b) states “If at least two employees in the office of the county clerk believe there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature on the absent ballot matches the signature of the voter...” which implies signatures are being checked by at least two employees. Washoe County had only one person checking signatures, IF that. I witnessed a broadcast message sent out to intake staff on their poll books reminding them to check signatures. Messages are only sent when something is **not** being done correctly and are only effective IF the employee goes in to read the message.

Signatures (1±/10) for digital ballots (in-person voting) in binders I scanned did **NOT** match signatures on file nor was there any cross check of them in the office (harboring false voter registration and promoting voter fraud).

Request #3: IF Washoe County is going to continue using signatures for verification, please make amendments to **require bipartisan confirmation of each and every signature**, whether submitted in-person or on a paper envelope.

Washoe County is actually in a prime position to implement “thumbprint” verification! The vendor of the previous signature “tablet” solution used in 2018 was actually fired and we went back to legacy solution of paper label sheets. Thumbprint verification would remove the challenges associated with signature matching, ballot harvesting, fraudulent voters, AND speeds up processing! There are very affordable “thumbprint” solutions available. Please place some serious thought in this!

BIPARTISAN MANAGEMENT TEAMS

In the few days I assisted with training new managers and intake associates, there were three sets of married couples co-managing a polling place. Washoe County also utilized four teams to transport mail ballots from drop off locations and polling locations of which two of these teams (50%) were married couples. Areas in the Registrars office were also not “manned” in bipartisan manner. Washoe County provided live video 11am-5pm during early voting. I observed no process

being conducted in pairs. In future elections, it would be more transparent to post/hang signs over the designated processes for auditing purposes.

This behavior does not meet integrity or ethic standards. While it may be convenient, it unnecessarily places poll workers and Washoe County in an ethically compromised position.

Request #4: Please make amendments with County Code to mandate bipartisan management, handling, and processing of polling places and election material.

TRANSPARENCY of ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Request #5: To encourage confidence and security in Washoe County's election system, staff and/or independent authority needs the ability to conduct "forensic" audits. Please mandate open source software on Washoe County's election equipment. Let us also set the precedence in removing foreign influence by requiring all election software be developed in the United States.

PROTECT OUR "VALID" REGISTERED VOTERS

Christopher Wray (Director, FBI) stated in his report on September 17, 2020 "If you are an American adult, it is more likely than not that China has stolen your personal data."
(<https://www.fbi.gov/news/testimony/worldwide-threats-to-the-homeland-091720>)

Norton reports one identity is stolen every 3 seconds and there are multiple sources on the ease of obtaining fraudulent drivers licenses and other forms of identification.

Washoe County's website (www.washoecounty.us/voters) currently publishes voter ID, names, residence and mailing addresses, party affiliation, phone number, military status, birthplace, birthdate, and absentee voting status.

Request #6: Please provide revisions limiting the publishing of "complete" voter information. Washoe County doesn't need to make it easy to commit fraud.

ACCURATE VOTER ROLLS

I was questioned by two friends of why they received ballots for their deceased loved one (husband who passed November of 2018 and mother who passed June 2020). This MUST be improved. (Again, thumbprint verification would at least ensure these type of ballots do not get cast.)

Washoe County's website reported 12,200± undeliverable ballots effectively placing election officials in a position of "issuing ballots to ineligible voters" and "harbor false voter registration."

Request #7: Please provide revisions establishing consistent weekly mandates for maintaining clean rolls, as well as the day following an election day, BEFORE election results are certified.

SAME DAY REGISTRATION

From the time same day registration was legislated into Nevada's statutes to when it was recklessly changed again for COVID, there has been no clear direction to counties on how to meet these logistically thoughtless mandates. As such, voters of different Nevada counties are being treated disparately and on an arbitrary basis (violation of the Equal Protection Clause).

Washoe County's website reported an increase of 7,661 registered voters from 10/15 to 11/5. That would equate to 364± provisional ballots being processed per day for valid citizenship and authentic "residence" (not just a check of whether the address exists, but that the voter actually resides there).

Request #8: Please provide revisions outlining uniform same day registration procedures for validating citizenship and residence, as well as checks for dual registration in other states

participating in ERIC as well as states not participating in ERIC (namely California), BEFORE a ballot is accepted into the election system.

In the call center, I spoke to several polling place managers who were registering voters with California drivers licenses because they showed Reno address (unconstitutional deviations from the technicalities of the election code).

Request #9: Please provide revisions outlining the process for fraudulent registrations (ie submitted to investigative committee for persecution, etc.).

Same day voter updates tend to be less scrutinized by intake staff for signatures. I have a witness who received a card from the Registrars office to confirm her voter information and her party affiliation had been changed. She believes someone falsely submitted a voter update form under her name (which is freely available on Washoe County's website within spreadsheets) in order to vote through the same day registration process.

Request #10: Please provide revisions outlining stricter procedures for same day voter updates.

MORE THAN ONE BALLOT CAST PER VOTER

I personally witnessed more than a dozen voters "flagged" in Washoe County's "ding-ding" program for successfully casting a digital ballot after a paper ballot had already been received in the office. Three were "flagged" by me. One was a registered democrat, one was republican, and one was independent. So, this is NOT partisan specific. There were also several that attempted to vote twice, but we were able to call the manager in time for them to pull their card before they could cast another ballot. However, no record was kept of these "attempts." (ie negligence, harboring voter fraud, etc.)

IF Washoe County is going to continue using mass mail ballots, envelopes and signatures MUST be verified at the drop boxes and documented as received in real time and location AT the drop box. Not when it is brought back to the office. The poll book scans conducted at the drop boxes in Washoe County were for appearances only in an attempt to give the voter false confidence that their ballot had been received.

I also observed two bags "discovered" in the ballot processing area which had not been secured in the vault; no knowledge of when they appeared, how they got there, or how long they were there (unconstitutional deviations from the technicalities of the election code, violation of the Equal Protection Clause, corrupting election legitimacy).

Request #11: There needs to be some provision for forensic audit of paper ballots. The inability to extract "spoiled" ballots AFTER they have been incorrectly processed and accepted, does NOT constitute a blanket certification of those ballots.

OBSERVERS

It goes without saying there is great room for improvement in this area! Washoe County enjoyed great success with their polling location "wait time" application and I look forward to the possibility of providing future voters on-line reservations somewhat similar to hair salons and DMV. Similarly, observers should have an application for reserving seats at polling locations.

Request #12: In the spirit of the top-down registrations, observers should also be registered at the state level with database access granted to the Registrars and Clerks offices. Digitizing this process not only reduces paperwork, it also reduces the polling place manager's distraction from voters and streamlines processing. Add in the reservation application and managers can better diffuse "tug-of-wars" between observers while providing more immediate and efficient reports of violations and/or issues to investigative entities.

Again, it is not my intent to accuse or speculate, but rather provide feedback for improving the integrity and transparency of Washoe County's elections through Washoe County's Code, Chapter 5. By incorporating written guidelines into the county's ordinances, it provides citizens greater opportunity for understanding the processes and confidence in our elections.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact me. I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Tracey Thomas

Sparks, NV