

3/2/2022

2022 Primary Report

Taking Back Texas



Observations at Central Count

TARRANT COUNTY ELECTIONS/ CENTRAL COUNT - ARRIVAL 7:15 PM

Upon arrival, the observers were approved without issue by one “DL”, a Ballot Board Judge. “DL” informed observers that approximately 6,993 BBMs (Ballot By Mail) were mailed out in Tarrant County. **No public or live record exists of the total number of BBMs and, to obtain this record, observers were instructed by another Elections Worker to file an Open Records request. Open Records requests can sometimes take at minimum a week to fill and observers should expect to be granted access to this data without special action being required.** Without this data proper observation was made impossible. Effectively preventing observers from tracking the BBM, observers had no known totals telling them how many to expect, nor any base for reconciliation.

As of 3/1/2022 at 7:30pm 4,716 BBMs have been received and 4,314 have been approved. **Somehow the Democrats ended up with 1,000 ballots needing to be “cured” in the following days, a process of confirming the identity of a suspiciously or inaccurately filled out BBM. DL confirmed that this number is unusually high for BBMs needing to be cured, especially for a primary election.**

*Previous discussions with “DL” revealed that a certain candidate had listed his BBM return address incorrectly and that those BBMs would be sent to Austin before being returned to Tarrant County Elections.

*Tarrant County party chairs elected NOT to do a “Joint Primary” this election cycle, so the Poll Books, Controllers, BMDs and scanner/tabulators are programmed to only accept access codes assigned by their respective party, and both parties shall be equally equipped and staffed per polling location.

TWO KINDS OF SCANNERS IN BALLOT BOARD ROOM - 7:19 PM

Initially, upon entering the Ballot Board room, watchers observed two forms of tabulation that seem to have been in use. Initially the watchers observed a series of four HART brand scanner/tabulators set up and ready to begin scanning and tabulating BBMs per party. The second tabulation system in place is what Mr. Garcia refers to as a “commercial, off-the-shelf component” provided by HART according to Mr. Garcia. The component was a large Energy Star brand printer/scanner which was connected to an adjacent computer displaying a HART Verity program which was capturing ballot images as BBMs were scanned into the Energy Star printer/scanner. These image files are saved onto a “V-Drive” (USB) and walked down to Central Count for official tabulation; calling into question the necessity of using the previously noted HART brand scanner/tabulators for the same BBMs. This topic requires additional clarification, we were unable to pursue further details as an issue came to light that required immediate remedy. At approximately 7:35pm we were informed by Stacy that the computer capturing the images was not connected to the internet, but that it was tied to computers in Central Count behind the wall.

Taking into consideration the fact that Central Count computers must *necessarily* be connected to the internet to receive wireless transmission from “Rally Stations” (pit stops between polling location and Tarrant County Elections where V Drives are connected to a component that wirelessly transmits election data to Central Count Computers for unofficial results), the observer was unable to confirm which Central Count computer was networked in with this scanner, nor that the computer network was truly closed.

The Observer requested the Early Vote tapes be printed, **but Mr. Garcia refused, citing the busy day and lack of staff to focus on that issue. This is obstruction, and this is potentially criminal.**

***SECRETARY OF STATE REPS ARRIVE AT 8:00 PM**

CENTRAL COUNT OBSERVATIONS - 8:31 PM (APPROX)

- 34 POLLING LOCATIONS REPORTING - 542 REMAINING

***NO UNOFFICIAL RESULTS ARE REPORTED BACK TO CENTRAL COUNT FROM RALLY STATIONS YET.**

Mr. Garcia took the time to explain to observers that several polling locations were on "standby" in case he felt the need to open them on demand due to high turnout. He said he had to staff two polling locations with Democrats in order to open the location to voters per the Law. He assured observers that he had no polling locations open with only one party present. This will come up again later in the report.

*Democrat Election Judges were slowly filing at this time. Democrats had shorter lines and were allowed to close up their machines and return to Central Count as the elections were not "joint" primaries, which Mr. Garcia allegedly strongly encouraged.

RETURN TO BALLOT BOARD ROOM/ OBSERVING REPORTED ISSUE - 8:45 PM (APPROX)

Observers returned to the Ballot Board room at Mr. Garcia's invitation to observe a bag of ballots from a polling location being rescanned. The reason for needing to rescan this bag of ballots was due to the Election Judge at the polling location knowingly and intentionally adding several "Emergency Ballots" to the bag with the regular In-Person, Election Day ballots. They had no way to know which ones were "Emergency Ballots" and which ones weren't, that was the reasoning behind needing to do this. Clarification is needed as to how the "Emergency Ballots" are typically tabulated as opposed to traditionally cast Election Day ballots, as they appear to only occur if a polling station runs out of ballots and must use another batch or type of ballot paper.

The Chain of Custody form was not present with this ballot bag (**designated BTB1247 Seal #0002301 Key Pct: 1175 Ballot Transfer Bag EEC #267 from St. John Missionary Baptist Polling Location**) and the reason given was that the COC (Chain of Custody) form was "on the truck still."

Observers welcome correction, clarification and updates on the above depicted broken Chain of Custody issue.

Stacy, a Tarrant County Elections worker, suggested a number she believed to be the total amount of ballots in the bag, and that number was somewhere around 618. However, upon cutting the seal on the ballot bag and examining the content, it was immediately noted by "DL" that there were significantly fewer ballots in the ballot transfer bag than what Stacy had suggested. The approximate number of ballots in this ballot bag upon opening was only 58, further confirming the need to observe and verify these totals on the Chain of Custody forms on behalf of the appointing candidate.

Stacy and other Tarrant County Elections workers printed the Zero Tapes and began scanning the ballots into the reprogrammed scanner for tabulation. The scanner rejected the first two ballots but began accepting ballots properly after the first two. Were the first two ballots the emergency ballots mentioned?

Observers welcome correction, clarification and updates on the above depicted broken Chain of Custody issue.

The Observer noted that, just outside of the Ballot Board room, they overheard Stacy speaking on the phone to someone, and it did sound as if she was instructing them on how to recreate a Chain of Custody form, which Stacy later denied. This is an observation, not an accusation on the part of the Observer.

CENTRAL COUNT - STILL NO UPDATED TOTALS - 10:15 PM (APPROX)

All watchers present observed that totals for the candidates of either party hadn't changed in several hours, prompting them each to ask Mr. Garcia for an update. Mr. Garcia informed us that he couldn't grant their requests because "the Rally Stations" went down. Rally Stations (pit stops between polling locations and Tarrant County Elections for wireless transmission of results to Central Count) are a concept and practice not widely used in America. Mr. Garcia then informed Observers that he would be implementing "Plan B" where he utilizes Sheriffs' deputies to collect V-Drives from the Rally Stations so as to return them to Central Count quickly and begin tabulation of unofficial Primary results. This plan took so long that Observers were unable to tally any unofficial results as the night progressed, as does normally occur. Sheriffs' deputies were still filing in with V-Drives for Mr. Garcia to tabulate. **In the course of questioning Mr. Garcia about the preservation of Chain of Custody for V-Drives, Mr. Garcia informed the Observer that the V-Drives can be wiped after 60 days, despite the electronic ballots being our only standing record. Duplicators in Central Count can also wipe V-Drives if prompted.**

Observer noted that the computer displaying the number and name of polling locations seemed to glitch as the screen went black upon insertion of a V-Drive into the computer. No explanation is given; neither Mr. Garcia nor his staff had seen this happen before. A missing V-Drive from one scanner/tabulator (EEC115 – Azle ISD) was found quickly after a Tarrant County technician misplaced the V-Drive. The missing V-Drive almost caused Mr. Garcia to re-scan another box of ballots, which he had already cut the seal off of. Observers noted when the V-Drive was found Mr. Garcia no longer needed to scan ballots. **Observer noticed Mr. Garcia putting a seal back on the ballot bag, and when Observer asked to record the new seal number, Mr. Garcia informed the observer that he had attached the SAME SEAL to the ballot box he had just removed. The seal was a ball and grommet type, and it hadn't been closed all the way.**

This issue is significant, as it can easily obfuscate our elections if these seals can be REUSED.

CENTRAL COUNT – WHITE SETTLEMENT CASTS LAST BALLOT AT 11:35 PM (APPROX)

Mr. Garcia let us know the last ballot from White Settlement polling location was cast at 11:35. Rick Barnes, Tim Davis, and Aaron Harris arrived to question Mr. Garcia about the lack of vote totals and updates. Mr. Garcia says he will have to meet with HART and a district judge to determine what to do about it all.

MACHINES RESET THEMSELVES TO ZERO – 1:45 AM

Observers noted three scanner/tabulators on the table in Central Count which had reset their numbers to 0, despite the V-Drive being loaded up with votes. Techs were confused as they had never seen it before with any other machines. The Zero tapes would depict no pre-loaded votes, despite V-Drives being loaded with votes as soon as they are plugged in. **This phenomenon would never be caught without standing right next to the Central Count computer to read the V-Drives. Our elections are not secure with these machines in place.**

Machine 1 - Redeemer-59 Hidden Votes - #S1902538108

Machine 2 - FTW Event Center- 1 Hidden Vote - #S1902550408

Machine 3 - United Memorial Christian –185 Hidden Votes - #S1902848909

Observers welcome correction, clarification and updates on the above depicted phenomenon.

****Redeemer location had NO Democrat staff. Most voters were turned away, as witnessed in Harris County. When Mr. Garcia told observers that he had no polling locations with just one party, he must have forgotten this one.***

Initial attempts to recover votes from the reset machines were failing. Mr. Garcia considered rescanning the ballots when a tech noticed the “zero” readings on these machines. The tech quickly noticed that the votes could be loaded onto V-Drive if inserted into these 3 machines despite the Zero Tape readings. **This issue is damning for Free, Fair, and Secure elections. One of the first things Observers do is make notes of the Zero Tapes, alleging to depict NO PRE-LOADED VOTES on a given scanner/tabulator. It could very well mean that Observers CANNOT verify that the tabulators are not starting out at Zero.**

BALLOT BOARD HAD TO RESCAN ANOTHER BOX OF BALLOTS – 1:59 AM

Observer noticed another ballot bag needing to be rescanned because their V-Drive and recovery drives were not readable. Paper ballots would have needed to be rescanned. **BAG #3391 United Methodist Church BTB: EEC #333 + BTB 0882 SEAL: B0004394.**

ANOTHER MISSING V-DRIVE IN CENTRAL COUNT – 3:15 AM

Mr. Garcia is looking for a missing V-Drive from clear bag #418 from Como Community Center. Tech found V-Drive still in the machine. This may have rendered null the need to re-scan another bag of ballots.

FINAL RESULTS ALMOST COMPLETE – 4:04 AM

FINAL RESULTS PRINTED – 5:00 AM

OUT – 5:39 AM

RECAP

No record available for how many BBMs were approved and mailed out.

Unusually high number of Democrat ballots needing to be cured (1,000+)

No updated totals Election Night or the next day.

V-Drives can be wiped after 60 days and by duplicator machines.

Seals being reused.

Polling Locations w/o staff tuning voters away.

Machines reset themselves to Zero, still had votes on them.

Missing V-Drives all night.

Missing Chain of Custody forms.

Refusals to print EV results tapes.

It is the opinion of this Observer that ALL candidates have grounds to contest the results of their Primary Election races due to the massive failures and broken Chain of Custody issues depicted throughout this report.

Godspeed,

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