

Chris Taggart

From: Donna Eno <deeno@denoforensics.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Chris Taggart; Greg Chilcott; Chris A. Hoffman; Jeff Burrows; Regina Plettenberg
Subject: RE: Covid19 Voting Concerns / Mitigation etc.

I did watch the recent meeting in which the upcoming election was discussed and voted upon. I realize that decisions have been made etc., I do have some concerns with possible solutions that I would request the Commissioners and the Election Administrator at least consider....

The greatest concern for mail in ballots is overall system integrity. Currently there is no ..NO audit trail in place. The only way to completely insure the integrity of the ballot is to implement some type of audit trail. There must be some way for a voter to know their vote was tallied in the way that the voter intended. Currently at a voter poll booth, the scanner will display on the screen, once the ballot has been scanned: Accepted or Rejected. The voter, regardless of all other claims of fraud, would know that their vote was tallied or at the very least, received. Therefore I propose the following:

Send back to the voter a sealed postcard of how their ballot was tallied. This would be one of those postcards that have perforations on each side that would need to be opened by the voter. This postcard would contain the record of the individual's vote as it was tallied and counted. There are already in place the mechanisms that are available to report on this. This would mitigate the scenario where ballots may be mailed to individual voters who no longer are located at the address to where their ballot was mailed and then someone else is actually voting their ballot. Signatures notwithstanding.

IF >>> the postcard solution will not work, I would suggest simply making copies of the tallied ballots, using the number on the ballot, match the ballot back to the voter and mail them a copy of their ballot as it was tallied. This will NOT mitigate ballot stuffing, and other forms of voter fraud, but at least honest individual voters will know their ballot was tallied correctly. This also provides an incredible audit trail if needed. More work? Absolutely. Necessary? That would depend upon how important maintaining system integrity is to the officials. Costly? Certainly not more than a poll vote.

Also... put a camera in the counting room and stream it live during the counting process. This would mitigate unnecessary people from being in the counting room as well as allow as many people as care to watch the process. IF Ms Plettenberg's concern is making this activity as public as possible, this would be the way to do it. You have the infrastructure in place now... Granica ... just set up a camera in that room, wide angle, patch it in to the existing network. IF the counting room is not located in a facility that this would work in, I recommend using the Commsioner's meeting room. This COVID19 virus is beyond the pale contagious. Having people in the room watching is (IMO) silly when the infrastructure is already in place to monitor online.

There was No mention of how provisional ballots would be handled. I would think there would be NO provisional ballots in a mail in scenario due to every ballot requiring a signature... and NOT being counted unless there was a verified signature on file etc. That being said, what would define a provisional ballot? How would they be handled? Most voter fraud occurs in the provisional ballot process. Also, signatures... How does the county obtain a signature if the voter has not signed up for absentee voting? In the meeting it was stated emphatically the current active voters would have to do nothing...they would receive a ballot in the mail. So if a person has never signed up for Absentee voting...where does the verification signature come from?

Also... I would request that NO drop off locations be used. IF the county is providing the 'stamp' for return postage, I can think of no situation where, if the voter is personally responsible for their ballot, where it would be more convenient for them to drop off their ballot instead of mailing their ballot. Even if the person enjoyed a PO Box... they would receive their ballot in the same location they would mail it from. Ballot harvesting occurs via drop off locations. In this particular election (thank you ALL for the return postage), drop off locations are completely unnecessary. Mailboxes are everywhere. We mail in our taxes. :)

These are my concerns. I hope these can be mitigated. Ms Regina Plettenberg may have confidence in the system as it stands for mailing in ballots... I do not.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via the information provided below.

Donna Eno, CCNA
Owner / Forensic Engineer
D.ENO FORENSICS, P.L.L.C.
1-855-558-3366
www.denoforensics.com



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