

Ravalli County Commissioners
Greg Chilcott
Dan Huls
Jeff Burrows

rec'd
5/23/22
@wtg

May 23, 2022

Dear Commissioners,

In early 2020, I was trained as an election worker by Regina Plattenberg. I learned how she always makes sure that Democrats and Republicans work together at the polls as internal checks and balances. I learned that she has us speak loudly and clearly so that poll watchers can keep abreast of what's happening. I learned that we can watch the counting of ballots and watch the audits if we desire to do so.

Of course 2020 turned out to be unusual. I was worried about my safety due to the pandemic and due to conspiracy theories and conjecture that was already being fomented by elected officials and news organizations before the election even started. The kinds of things that get some members of the public up in arms. All-in-all, it was a positive experience. All three Commissioners were there to help make sure we were warm enough and had the resources we needed. I was paired with a nice Republican lady and we accepted dropped off mail-in ballots on the lawn of the County Offices. We helped folks get their ballots into their envelopes correctly and made sure they signed and dated the outside envelope so their votes would count. We even had one gentlemen stop by because he received a letter that his signature on his mail-in ballot wasn't similar to what was on file, so he came in to verify it was him. We sent him inside to the Election Office.

However, we had one person who bought into the conspiracy theories. He came up to us and started yelling and berating the system. Immediately, Commissioner Chilcott came over and talked to him about how our elections are run very well. That mail-in ballots were a legitimate form of voting. That we work very hard to make sure every registered citizen in the county can vote. That we have a system that is full of checks and balances that work. It took a while, but I think the gentleman left feeling better about what was happening. I thanked Commissioner Chilcott for taking the time to make sure this man felt like his vote counted and that there was nothing nefarious going on.

Regina Plattenberg is a consummate professional and not once have I ever witnessed anything that would remotely be considered fraudulent. To suggest otherwise is an insult to her and the staff at the Clerk & Recorder office, to you the Commissioners, to the voters of Ravalli County, and to all of the trained election workers who believe in free and fair elections.

Sincerely,
Cindi Schwartz
358 Grantsdale Rd
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-381-2333