

## OBSERVATION OF 2020 BALLOT PROCEDURES

On Wednesday October 21st I went down to the courthouse to do observation on the first day of the official start of the counting process of the 2020 ballots for Josephine County. It was rather all very exciting. I arrived promptly at 9am as instructed and was met in the office by Gary. I was handed a badge after showing my ID and completing a form agreeing to all their rules and stating whom I was representing. I was then ushered to a separate room where there was about 8 chairs set out with blue crosses of tape on the floor showing their dedication to social distancing. There was a large tv screen on the wall split into 6 cameras showing different angles and places in the main county clerk's office. I was alone for the first hour watching very interestedly at the procedures. Here is what takes place.

Two people take bags at 9am and go to collect the ballots from the ballot boxes around the courthouse. Those are brought back into one of the back rooms which is stacked with cardboard boxes about 2ft by 10inches by 4inches. There are sorting trays along the back wall filled with ballots that have been sorted to simply face the same way up. The bags are emptied into these sorting trays where they get sorted into 25 envelope bunches and are placed into the same trays which appear to hold about 200 ballots.

There are three signature verifiers who are employed by a temp agency and are brought in by the county every election. These people, all three were ladies on this day, have a computer station placed next to each other in the middle of the open section of the room. Each lady took a cardboard box, scanned the number of the next set of ballots and placed the sticker on the side of that cardboard box. She then returned to her station and placed her cardboard box up on the shelf above her station. Her tray of ballots was placed on one side. She then proceeded to take a batch of 25 ballots and placed them in front of the computer screen. Each ballot is raised, scanned with a scanner and the signature samples of that person appeared on the screen. The signature was compared and if satisfactory, was placed to the side. If there was a questionable signature or if the signature was missing, the ballot was stamped and dated and placed in a separate tray. Once the tray of ballots had all been verified they were moved to the cardboard box above and the ballots being questioned were taken to a separate tray behind the verifiers.

The county employees (3 of them) go back to the questioned ballots and do a verification and if there is still doubt or a missing signature, the county employee writes a letter to the voter giving them an explanation and the opportunity to come back and "fix" the mistake. These letters are mailed out on the same day.

Once the cardboard box is full of what appears to be about 250 ballots, this is closed and scanned and returned to the back room where the counting machines are. No ballots have been opened yet until the 27th.

There was a reporter and a photographer in the room with me for one hour as well as a lady from the Republican Party who was very pleasant. She introduced herself to me as Dotty Schwartz. She said she was representing herself and was simply interested in the process. For the remainder of the three hours I was pretty much alone glued to the TV screen and found the entire process very interesting. Nothing unusual happened and everyone seemed cordial and determined to have a good election.

I look forward to going back on the 27th for the first openings and counting of the ballots.