



# Municipality of Anchorage

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Office of the Municipal Clerk

## **MEDIA ADVISORY 4**

DATE: APRIL 6, 2012

As of approximately 3 pm this afternoon, all 121 precincts have been preliminarily reviewed:

In the 119 precincts, 6,095 Questioned ballots were cast. By way of comparison, the number of Questioned ballots in last year's election for ALL 121 precincts was 1,060. Of the 6,095 Questioned ballots identified, 4,929 were cast before the ballot shortage arose and 1,166 Questioned ballots were cast after the issue arose. In addition, there were 1,433 unscanned ballots cast. These are ballots where the voter signed the voter register, but used a ballot that could not be scanned. Unscanned ballots are not Questioned ballots, but could not be counted election night by the voting machine at the precinct.

The Airport and UAA Absentee Polling Places and 64 of the 119 precincts never experienced ballot shortages.

The Election Commission will work tomorrow, Saturday April 7, from 8am -5pm in City Hall Room #105 verifying the qualification of Questioned ballot voters.

THE DATA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Note that the ballots cast does not mean all of those ballots will be counted. Decisions about which ballot will be counted will be made by the Election Commission. Once the information is complete for more precincts, the Clerk's Office will take written questions and broadcast the answers through additional Media Advisories.

### **ELECTION WORKERS**

Following a competitive bid process, the Municipality entered into a Professional Services Contract with ESS Labor Services to provide employment and payroll services for 550 – 600 temporary election workers. The MOA provided ESS with a historical database of temporary election workers to be used as a pool of candidates for recruitment. The compensation of election workers is set by State statute – the guidelines for compensation for election workers was not changed. Employment specification and duties of the election workers also remained the same from 2011.

The decision to move to an independent contractor was based on management of resources. Prior to this contract, an election worker was hired as a municipal employee. All the hiring documentation, employment applications, verification, employee classification, payroll, filing, tax reporting, tax

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withholding, and then termination (the reverse of all of the hiring paperwork) required for a municipal employee also applied to these 600 temporary employees.

The Clerk's Office reminds people who attempted to vote, but were unable to because of a shortage of ballots, that they may contact the Clerk's Office. Please email the Clerk's Office at [election2012@muni.org](mailto:election2012@muni.org). When doing so, please include your full name and the number, name or location of the precinct(s) involved. If you are willing to be contacted by phone, please also include your phone number. The Clerk's Office will collect and catalogue the information so that the Municipality can take this information into consideration, but will not be able to personally respond due to the present heavy workload.

The review process is proceeding and is open to public observation.