

**CLARK COUNTY ELECTION BOARD
501 E. COURT AVENUE
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47130
812-285-6329**

November 8, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

**Statement from the Clark County Election Board
Regarding the 2024 General Election**

First, the Election Board would like to thank all of the citizens of Clark County that turned out to vote in the 2024 General Election. This includes all of the candidates and their campaigns. We would especially like to thank all of the poll workers, poll watchers, clerks, judges, and inspectors that served this year. You all performed admirably and your patriotism is to be commended.

Second, the Election Board would like to apologize and address the delay in reporting results in a timely manner on Election Day. It is our first duty to the people that we provide a clear, transparent, and accurate process and we hope to address many of those concerns with this statement.

Much like 2020, this was another record setting year in Clark County for voter turnout. We received 22,522 absentee ballots prior to Election Day to process at our central count operation at the Clark County Courthouse. By law, the opening and counting of ballots cannot begin until 6:00 AM on Election Day. We employed 17 bi-partisan workers to work in 2 to 3-member teams to sort the absentee ballots by precincts and to use nine machines to count the results. This was similar to the number of workers and machines that we employed in 2020 and our expectation was to deliver the results on time as we did in 2020.

As the count proceeded, it became apparent that our staff struggled with the sheer volume of ballots. If there were any miscounts or errors in the sorting of the ballot envelopes it would require additional time for our teams to find the mistake and rectify the numbers. By 2:00 PM, our delays were significant enough that we knew we were not going to be able to finish by 6:00 PM.

We committed a mistake, by not calling the party chairs to request additional workers to work through the backlog. Instead, the Board members joined the counting process and we deputized a few more poll watchers to assist our bipartisan teams. We added six more people to the team, but it was not sufficient. We should have requested at least six more people from the parties to assist us. By 6:00 PM, we had made some progress, but there were still approximately 9,000 ballots to process. Our decision was to press forward with what we had and that was a mistake.

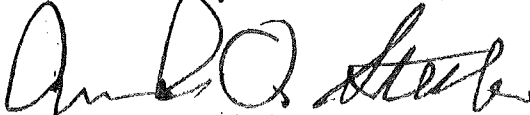
We completed the Absentee count at about 6:00 AM Wednesday morning and began tabulating the results with the data drives from all of our polling locations and central count. We completed that results tabulation at approximately 7:00 AM and prepared the summary results for release and everything was balanced out correctly. However, we noticed that our report did not include the total number of registered voters so we decided to re-run the tabulations from the drives and add the number of registered voters to the report.

Third, on Thursday, we noted a discrepancy in the total number of ballots counted between the original summary report and the second summary report. We discovered that three of the data drives did not read correctly as they did in the first summary report so the Clerk consulted with our election equipment vendor ES&S for a solution and that was to re-run the data drives a third time. On the third run, all of the drives read correctly and included all of the ballot counts from the original report. That is the reason for the revised third summary report that we are publishing today.

In conclusion, the Board would like to reassure everyone that accuracy is always our highest priority and that if we have made any errors we take responsibility and work to address them going forward. Our machines performed as they were expected to and our staff worked diligently throughout the process to get it right for you. Going forward, we will be reviewing the 2024 General Election and we promise to address our deficiencies and eliminate them in future elections.

Sincerely,

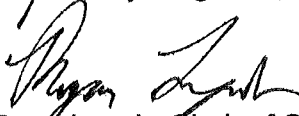
The Clark County Election Board,



Andrew Steele, Chairman



C. Anthony Singleton, Vice-Chairman



Ryan Lynch, Clerk of Clark County

* Please Print *

November 18th CEB Sign-in Sheet

James R. McClure^{dr.}

Alice Butler

Jenny Khuri

Kaitlin Blessitt

Reese Galloway

K-R-

John Croucher

Kevin Khuri

April Rickert - Louisville Public Media