

Kossuth County, Ia, Monday, 02 November, and Tuesday,
03 Nov, 2020

Poll watching report of Diane Jorgenson and Lyle
Prunty, designated by Republican Party.

Diane Jorgenson report of 03 November:

Diane watched at the Lakota precinct. She verified
that the precinct election officials were evenly
divided between Republicans and Democrats and observed
activity at the polls for three hours. She reports
that operation there was smooth and fair.

Lyle Prunty report:

Monday, 02 November

08:25 am At Election Center on Hall Street - absentee
precinct.

10 precinct election workers present and Auditor Garman
T & D Cogdall among workers.

Garman announces work will be done in teams of five, on
each team:

1. Slits envelopes
2. Remove ballot in secrecy sleeve
3. Separate ballot and secrecy envelope
4. Stack ballots
5. Feed ballot to machine

At lunch break everything open will be put through
machine so no ballots remain in counting area.

Everyone to initial # of ballots on machine. All
ballots to security room.

There are about 4000 to open as of now plus more to be
cast at auditor office today and more coming by mail
today and tomorrow.

Counter voting at auditor office stops at 5:00 today.
After tomorrow (Tues), Thursday will be next work day.
Ballots post marked in time and delivered by noon next

Monday will be counted.

Garman was asked about signatures, said, "Any signature is acceptable - even a line." Also says her office checked for signatures on incoming envelopes and notified people to come in and sign if needed.

Three Democrat watchers (Scott Buchanan one) eventually showed up (before 9:00). I was only Republican.

Amber Garman comments:

We get lots of questions on procedures - if absentee ballots are locked up, etc.

We may have to remark a (mark new) ballots when the machine can't read a ballot. Military ballots are emailed and will have to mark that actual ballot (according to what is in email - presumed)

8:52 Oath was given to workers by Amber. They were given name tags and they signed in on oath.

The machine was started and it took several minutes to go through the startup, including printing a report.

9:04 Amber unlocks ballot security room and demos that boxes are locked.

9:05 First ballots on table. Ballots are folded which means more are unreadable by machine than with polling place ballots, which are not folded.

Amber comments that ballot envelopes are kept 22 months.

Worker chatter:

Are you counting?

No, should I be?

Are you?

No.

9:12 Machine still printing out report. It has to go through all precincts. Amber says ehe may have to "break seal" to put in new printout tape so don't have to do it tomorrow if runs out.

Cell phones OK in room.

Finished report and all officials had to sign it and it is stored in yellow envelope.

9:18 Machine to "voting mode".

9:23 First ballot that machine would not read.

Meanwhile Amber gets call about SOS site not showing a voter's ballot is in. She comments that that is the SOS's problem.

9:25 An security envelope has no ballot in it and it was already separated from incoming envelope. Amber says that there is nothing that can be done, saying, "No way of going back to see whose name was on it." Comments that this does not happen often.

9:34 Den watcher approached Amber about missing ballot and she now asks workers to look to see if there is a ballot in the security envelope before separating from mail-in envelope. This satisfies Dem watchers.

Amber comments that ballots here are from all precincts.

9:40 Amber explains rejected ballot procedure to Dems.

Lots of table talk among workers.

9:45 First 500 ballots have been opened (box 0-499) Appears to me the numbered ballot boxes in ballot room have a slot and ballots in the box number range are inserted into them as they are received. At least, that is what I got out of the explanation of how they work.

9:45 221 votes on machine, Amber says to Dem. Also

says ballots, "not laying right can jam machine."

10:10 Machine count 305

10:20 Count 353

[Worker has to feed in ballots one at a time - not a high speed reader with an automatic feed.]

10:25 Envelope with no signature found - Amber tries to contact person.

10:40 Amber takes away empty envelopes.

10:42 505 count

10:50 I leave.

15:25 Return to Election Center absentee precinct
Two counting machines now being used.

15:27 Ballot box switch on machines. Ballots coming out of machines put in bag to be sealed with tally sheets which workers sign (I did not see this up close.)

Appears workers now immediately checking for ballots in security envelopes.

Someone comes in to sign their envelope.

Machine counts about 2000 and 1700.

15:48 Amber takes away empty envelopes. Envelope with missing signature, no contact information, but Amber goes to address - don't know what happened in end.

13:55 Five totally blank ballots (no marks) found in 5 minutes. Clearly, those feeding ballots are looking at them. They ask Amber what to do with ballot without marks. A says - count it - some people do that. Total count in 3000s

16:10 Folded ballot won't go in machine.

A ballot in "double envelope"??

Voting machine clocks observed to be 5-6 minutes fast.

16:19 A announces that ballots out of secure room will be finished, then quit for day.

Worker comments, "a vote for Biden and also a write-in.

Worker sees a vote for Conyeya West.

One ballot has checkmarks and overvote, so won't count

in end.

16:28 Envelope slicing has stopped.

16:32 Will retry ballots that didn't work first time.

16:37 A no-mark ballot seen.

Total for day - 3360

They are remarking for the ballots that wouldn't run.

Amber gets needed number for each precinct.

16:47 Team marking begins, one reads, one marks, others observe.

Newly marked ballots to machine immediately. Amber sits near those doing remarking.

16:48 Strange ballot - marked for every presidential candidate, no other marks.

17:05 Leave - they are still doing hand interpreted ballots.

Tuesday, 03 Nov.

Columbia Events Center precincts

07:00 About 25 standing in line outside. A beautiful weather day.

I voted right away. They looked purposely at DL photo.

07:15 Done voting, start watching.

PUBLIC COUNTS ON MACHINES

TIME	10:10	11:30	20:35	20:35 -	
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provisional

PRECICNCT					
AL1-2	65	105	427	479	503
550					
AL3-4	66	108	411	476	507
547					
CR1-2	17	23	87	101	104
115					

07:25 Only a few left in line, open spots in vote booths. There are spacing markers on floor - not sticking well to carpet.

07:35 Possible election day registration going on at CR.

07:40 AL3-4 voters on standing spots (7) AL1,2 no spots

covered.

08:13 4 voters marking, little line.

08:25 2 marking, no line

Noted that AL1-2 and 3-4 have 6-8 workers, CR has 4 workers.

08:47 7 marking, 08:55 7 marking

Leave

10:23 At elections office polling place - precincts PC & UN.

10:25 Count 41; 10:44 Count 45; 11:55 51

10:45 Absentee precinct again - Same 3 Dem watchers as yesterday.

10:57 Workers signing bag of voted ballots.

Two new watchers present - they are general public - Amber says anyone can watch.

11:15 Start lunch shutdown.

Another no-vote ballot - this one "had glue".

11:18 Worker appears to try darkening a mark on original ballot that, "looks like an unreadable mark." Amber says that in test run they had to darken some spots.

A worker darkens circles without checking with anyone else. - it worked someone says, "saved a couple."

Eight ballots need to be remarked. Time for team to remark a ballot is about 3 minutes.

Judges votes - seems Trump voters vote no on many judges.

11:55 Start last remark, counts are 2017 and 2632.

Leave at noon.

Burt at 12:52 - Precinct BT-FT-UN

Line #174 on register.

Here worker asks voter what line the voter is signing.

A same day registration as R - done quickly, had DL.

13:09 Count 185

A ballot won't read, voter marks darker, still won't read, spoiled ballot, marked new that worked.

Voter who took long time says she was looking up judges on phone.

13:21 #187

13:43 #192

Voter: "Paper is so much easier."

Worker tells voter, "If there is something you don't want to vote for, you don't have to.

Electronic machine makes no visible marks on ballot, they are calling Amber, ballot is spoiled, paper ballot used.

14:00 #197

14:06 #200, 195 machine, 5 provisional

Leave Burt.

17:00 KC Hall - Columbia Events car again

17:08 6 marking.

Noted that this year disposable paper ballot shields are being used and ballots in shield when given out. Worker tracks down voter to initial ballot after voter went to booth.

17:40 5 marking

17:50 Address change at AL1-2

17:57 9 marking

18:12 Someone needs attester but ends up going home for ID.

18:20 Getting busier.

Left and returned at closing.

21:03 Removing and stacking ballots, tape printing from machine. CR tape printing, AL1 closing machine, AL3 tape printing, worker reading about handling write-ins, memory chip removal and bagging.

21:15 Discussing write-ins, "I've never done this before. I don't know if I want to do this.."

19:15 Taking down plexiglass shields, signing printout tape, trailers ready outside to load equipment.

At Burt in one instance voter knew nothing of

constitution issue and workers refused to say a single word about it.

Voter ID system using DL to check in impressed me as creating a much quicker and better organized overall operation.