

Summary report of Poll Watching 10-26-12

Jim August

303-776-4514

[jim@jfaugust.us](mailto:jim@jfaugust.us)

1. Observed operations at the Ballot Processing facility at Clerk's facility from 1:00 pm until after 3:30 pm.
2. **About 1:36, two B&H technicians and two staff (?) were having discussions at the scanner area. Why are B&H technicians needed there every day and during most operations of the B&H system?**
3. **About 1:38, Hillary Hall stopped by and thanked me for my input ( this is for my letter to her dated October 25, 2012), which was concerning the problems with the Bell and Howell (B&H) scanner / sorted signature verification hardware and software malfunctions. She said they would continue to use the B&H system.**
4. **About 1:40 two B&H technicians working on B&H scanner / sorter and feeding in 1 envelope at a time and watching operation on that envelope.**
5. **About 1:52 B&H technicians still feeding one envelope at a time. Faith and Dan Gould as other poll watchers were there and may have observed this operation.**
6. About 1:56 B&H technicians done and seemed please with the operation.
7. About 2:14 I observed Signature Verification operation. This is the first time I have observed teams of 2 working together. **I was told the teams were bi-partisan but there was no way to verify their party affiliation. A staff person told me at a later time that she was registered as unaffiliated which meant she could partner with either a democrat or a republican.** I don't think an individual should be allowed to function in ballot processing as a bipartisan person. This just doesn't seem right. There might be a connection between team makeup and the speed that they perform signature verification since some team are still OKing 4 signatures in less than 4 seconds. **Dan Gould at a different time timed about 6 teams and I think he said he found that in a 5-minute period the speed varied between 7 screens of 4 (10.7 seconds per screen), to 41 screens of 4 (1.8 seconds per screen of 4 which included screen refresh).**
8. **Observed a team reviewing rejected signatures. They were changing about 1 in 4 back to "Good". One signature came up that had a signature for "Witness" and one team member said they were told if there was a witness's signature they were to accept it all the time. This is not the only time I heard this stated. This seems a significant source of potential voter fraud.** Witness signatures should under go some form of verification and maybe these should be

processed as provisional ballots. **I would suggest that we should challenge all witnessed signatures if we can.**

9. About 3:10 observed 1 B&H technician and 1 B&H Engineer (?) still sending one envelope at a time through the scanner / sorter.
10. About 3:23 scanner / sorter tossing some envelopes on floor.
- 11. When I left about 3:34 they were still fussing with the B&H scanner / sorter**