

Al Kolwicz  
2867 Tincup Circle  
Boulder

November 2, 2012

Boulder County Clerk & Recorder, Hillary Hall

Dear Ms. Hall,

I submitted a watcher report to your office, via Molly Tayer, on October 27<sup>th</sup>, and orally verified with Ms. Tayer, the morning of October 29<sup>th</sup>, that she had received it. This letter is a repeat request that you urgently answer our questions, and somewhat of a rant at our displeasure for the delay.

In the October 26<sup>th</sup> report, we ask numerous questions about basic functions being performed in the ballot processing center. These questions were submitted in writing because Ms. Tayer was unable to answer these questions during a live watching session on October 26th, and she asked that I submit them in writing.

We complied with this request, unhappily I may add, due the prospect of delay, and submitted our written questions in the watcher report. This procedure for getting prompt answers has failed. It is November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and after a week we still have no answers.

Tens of thousands of mail ballot return envelopes have been processed in the dark. The early voting centers will shut down today. Precinct polling places open on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Watchers in the ballot processing center are unable to witness and verify the secretive processes being used to track incoming mail ballot envelopes, qualify electors, maintain the pollbook, and track mail ballot envelopes that are treated with undisclosed exception processing procedures.

The answers we seek are fundamental to the security and verifiability of this election and we can see no reason that they are being withheld. These questions can be answered by providing us with copies of the documentation for the systems and procedures, and through immediate answers to our questions. (It is inconceivable to us that you would be conducting one of the most significant elections in recent history absent precise documentation and tested systems and procedures. But if this is true, it is imperative that watchers be encouraged to witness and verify every process, since undocumented, untested, and uncertified systems are even more likely to suffer errors and inconsistencies.)

One of our many questions left unanswered: Is it truly the case that your office does not know when, where, and how a mail-in "elector" in a contest is recorded as a participating "voter" in that contest? If this is the case, how will the canvass board determine the number of voters in each contest?

Our questions are fundamental, and we need the answers now. We empathize with you that you are in the midst of an election, and have work to do, including support of the public's legal oversight activities. Watchers also have important work to do. Colorado's system of authorized watchers has been established to assure independent public oversight of each election process, the authority and responsibility to identify, challenge, and participate in the correction of errors, and to provide facts that are used to establish voter confidence. The lack of transparency in Boulder County has created an ever-increasing public frustration and lack of confidence in the department's work product.

Will you please answer our questions, or provide us with the documentation – before it is too late?