



SHERRY HALL  
CLERK

Last October, the county Elections office reported an incident of ballot tampering involving a temporary County Elections employee. The employee was caught immediately and, despite lots of media speculation, the integrity of the November 12, 2012 General Election was never in question. My office reported the incident immediately and we fully cooperated with the Oregon Secretary of State and the Oregon Department of Justice.

Election integrity in Clackamas County is paramount to me, my staff and Clackamas County. As a direct result of the ballot tampering incident, last Fall I created a non-partisan committee to investigate ways to further enhance election integrity in Clackamas County. Today I am pleased to share with this Final Report which describes the work that was accomplished.

Final Report  
June 5, 2013

The Committee was named: Election Integrity Committee

#### **Committee Members:**

Nancy Benthin, Elections Division Retired  
Arleigh Dodson, Clackamas County Democratic Party  
Vicki Greenwood, Clerk's Office Retired  
Sherry Hall, County Clerk  
Margie Hughes, Clackamas County Republican Party  
Steve Kindred, Elections Division Manager  
Scot Sideras, County Counsel  
Larry Skidmore, Clackamas County Democratic Party  
Jennifer Wessels, Election Division Staff

A total of 5 meetings took place: December 2012. January, March, May, June 2013. The March meeting included a trip to Multnomah County Elections Division for a tour of that facility and explanation and discussion of their processes and procedures.

The committee was given two tasks:

1. To decide what enhancements, if any, should be made to Clackamas County's Election practices and procedures in order to prevent the possibility of ballot tampering in the future. The November incident was truly an anomaly. In its wake, County Staff reacted promptly and properly. There must never be another incident that might compromise an election. The committee was asked to consider any reasonable and additional safeguards that should be put into place.
2. Review Election Procedures from the point of view of an Elections Observer in order to enhance transparency. The Clerk's Office views Observers as partners in the process. Observers are citizens who are experienced and independent. They are encouraged to ask questions. Observers are an asset to County Elections, not only in making sure the process is working perfectly, but also in letting the public know that all is truly going well in the Elections Division.

The result of the Committee's work were several immediate changes. The desired result of the changes would be to deter any individual from tampering with ballots. Ballot processing security must be first and foremost in everyone's mind at all times. Changes include:

1. Processing tables where ballot envelopes are opened and ballots are inspected (location where the ballot tampering incident occurred) are now realigned. They are in perpendicular position rather than parallel to the Observer area. This allows Observers to, more easily, see the entire process.
2. The Oath all temporary workers swear to (for each Election) has been revised. Before this revision, there were separate oaths for separate tasks. The new, single, oath includes all tasks that may be performed by any Election Temporary Worker. A copy of the oath was included in your packet.
3. Only unique color pens are allowed at the processing tables. Our decision took effect immediately and then Secretary of State issued a directive to all Counties in Oregon requiring that only "distinctive" ink colors be used at the processing tables.
4. The number of supervisors in the processing area has been increased. Historically there have been two supervisors for the whole room – up to 16 tables. It has now become a standard that one supervisor handles no more than 5 tables. While the November ballot tampering was detected by a table worker, not a supervisor, more supervisors in the area should deter an individual from wrongdoing.
5. Only the complete processing team (members of different political affiliations) will be seated at the table at any one time. When one member must be absent temporarily, no matter how short the absence, other team members will stand and remain standing until each member has arrived back at the table.

It should be noted that these changes were put into place for the May 2013 Special Districts Election and the processing teams (**without exception**) welcomed the changes listed above.

Another change, that has not yet been fully implemented, is to enhance all doors to the processing areas so that individuals will be tracked as they "card in" as well as "card out" of the area. Presently individuals only "card in" and there is no precise record of when a person leaves the area. We hope to have this change in place before the May 2014 Primary Election. This change includes the installation of new card readers by Facilities staff on the inside of the doors in the processing room.

One item, still under discussion, is the addition of cameras in the ballot inspection area. It should be noted that cameras are already in the ballot tally room - and were present here long before the Secretary of State mandated their presence. Cameras are also in place at each entry point and exit point from the ballot processing areas as well as the front counter in the Elections Office area. Cameras **would not detect ballot tampering** since we would not have a person reviewing each team of ballot processors either on the other end of each camera in "real time" or in hindsight. This is the job our supervisors do when they're in the room with the processing teams. Some Counties in Oregon have cameras in the ballot inspection area but none, that I'm aware of, have a focus which would have detected the type of ballot incident we experienced in November 2012. None of the Counties, which have cameras, review the activity in real time or hindsight. Nevertheless, since cameras would give us the ability to follow up on allegations of wrong doing, it seems appropriate to have cameras installed in the ballot inspection area. My understanding is that the Secretary of State's Office is looking into making this a requirement in all Counties. If this becomes the case, it's likely that funding for camera installation will be made available at that time.