

November 2, 2021 Election

After Action Review Report

L & A Testing BMDs & ICPs

Logic & Accuracy testing proved to be a welcomed learning curve in preparing for an election. However, the following problems and challenges which we encountered did significantly extend the amount of time spent on this process.

Advance Voting Precinct

5 – BMDs (Ballot Marking Devices). The poll had not been closed for the February Election. This required time to pull data from CES (Center of Elections Systems) for this specific election, create media to be able to access the poll closing procedure in the BMD, and then close the poll for the February election in order to be able to upload the November 2, 2021 Election data.

3 BMDs. The poll had not been closed for the January 2021 election; therefore, we followed the same procedure as above.

Precinct 1

Miscellaneous items found upon opening the ICP. Keys, Election Data Paperwork, and pliers. On three BMDs, the polls had not been closed; therefore, we followed the same procedure as above.

Precinct 3

Three BMDs were not updated to the V5.5.10.32. Pulled two more BMDs which did not consist of the update as well. All BMDs were at 1% or no charge.

Precinct 6

The handicap BMD head-phone set was found to be in non-working order. Replaced.

Precinct 7

The handicap BMD head-phone set was found to be in non-working order. Replaced.

Precinct 8

Lid would not lock to the ICP, replaced with working lid.

Precinct 9

All BMDs were at 1% power or no power charge at all.

Precinct 10

All BMD's were at 1% power or no power charge at all.

Precinct 11

ICP scanner not in working order, made beeping sound continuously.

Precinct 12

Handicap BMD did not have headphones, all BMD's at 1% power charge.

Precinct 13

All BMD's at 1% power charge.

Precinct 14

All BMD's at 1% power charge.

Precinct 16

The ICP scanner reflected the year 2020, re-programmed to reflect 2021.

Precinct 20

All BMD's at 1% power charge, one BMD was not closed from the February 2021 election.

Precinct 21

All BMD's at 1% power charge or no power charge at all, one BMD was not closed from the February 2021 election. The handicap headphones were broken, were replaced with new headphones.

Although BMDs assigned to individual precincts had some charge, there were not any which were significantly charged and it took approximately 2 to 3 hours to fully charge the BMDs.

L & A Testing Poll Pads

The logic and accuracy testing utilizing the poll pads was conducted successfully with the exception of coming across two slow charging Poll pads which we are presently working with Knowlnk for testing.

Poll Worker Challenge

The November 2, 2021, election consisted of 61 poll workers. Out of 61 poll workers, 36 were brand new. This was a tremendous challenge for my staff and myself as well as there had not been any electronic records left from the prior administration. The lack of information and starting from scratch left the Office of Elections & Voter Registration at a very vulnerable place in regard to election matters. There were an extraordinary amount of hours spent obtaining Poll Workers in a very short period of time and I will always be grateful to poll workers who returned and those who decided to take on the challenge. Therefore, I have began building a Poll Worker Master list and will conduct a Poll Worker outreach at the beginning of the year so that we do not find ourselves in this horrendous predicament again.

Equipment Status

Since being employed and upon reviewing Spalding County's voting equipment, it was noted that the following equipment was in need of servicing:

- 1 – ICP (Image Cast Precinct) Scanner has a burning smell.
- 1 – ICP (Image Cast Precinct) Scanner makes a continuing beeping noise.
- 1 – ICP (Image Cast Precinct) Cannot access menu
- 1 – ICP (Image Cast Precinct Scanner has a broken wheel.
- 2 – Ballot Box lids have broken locks.
- 33 BMDs (Ballot Marking Devices) in need of an update version.

We are presently working with Dominion in completing Request Maintenance forms and they will direct us on how to ship and what can be repaired and or updated in office.

Update: Stephanie Silavong & Xavier Khouri visited from Dominion on this past Friday, December 10, 2021. The following maintenance and updates were completed:

- 33 – ICX - BMDs version were updated to the correct version. The updated version was sent to Spalding County Elections & Voter Registration in October of 2020.
- 2 - ICX- BMDs were found with broken power buttons. (These will be shipped to Texas for repair.)
- 1 – Printer language needed updated to English (Now needs recertification from CES for securing).
- 3– ICP (Scanners) will be shipped to Texas for repair (one would not boot up, one would not stop beeping, and one would not allow access to the menu.)

Shipping will take place this week.

Election Day

I'm pleased to state that we held a successful Election on November 2, 2021 with only a few hiccups.

We successfully answered all phone calls and resolved any questions or concerns in a timely manner. Our goal was to ensure that all Poll Workers knew that we were here to support them in their efforts of holding a successful election as well to answer any questions from voters.

A Few hiccups:

L & A instructions led us to only rezero the ICP (scanners) and not to close the poll at the end of the ICP Logic and Accuracy testing (Exhibit A). Due to thorough training, the poll workers knew that the scanner should read open poll and it read Reopen poll on election morning. We quickly led them through the steps of closing the poll, confirmed the zero count that matches our zero count tape from L & A, the poll worker then produced their zero tape as is a part of the opening process of the poll. Everything continued as normal. This was no more than a one minute process.

Poll Pads: Some precincts reported that the poll pads worked better plugged into a power strip instead of to the wall which is how we were directed to train our poll workers by KnowInk. After speaking to KnowInk, David Greenwalt stated that maybe the weakness is due to power surges within a building and the power strip protects from the power surge. The poll pads work well for the most part but until the design is changed to better support the voter card encoder along with the wire, there will continue to be challenges.

How to Improve

I desire to work with the Board and the County to increase storage and workspace. We are presently looking at how to better utilize the space that we have at present for various reasons. One example: Moving all the required equipment for L & A back and forth to the Hall of Fame is an inconvenience as well as time consuming. We also need to move all the workstations into the main office area for practical use and to better serve the public as well.

Forming a larger team for the Logic & Accuracy testing in the future will ensure that we finish the L & A process in a better time frame.

Continue to build an office staff which consists of integrity and the desire for fair and balanced elections. Interviews begin next week for the Election Assistant and a part time Voter Registration Clerk.

Conduct a Poll Worker outreach to increase the number of poll workers to better serve our community.

The training time for poll workers will be extended in order to cover additional information about Election Day and to allow for additional practice with the Poll Pads.

Power strips will be provided to all Precincts for the connection of Poll Pads.

Summary:

The November 2, 2021 Election was successful but we did experience some issues that we had control over and some we did not. However, there were no issues that prevented voters the right to vote or interfered with the outcome of Election results and the process itself. Our staff looks forward to taking the lessons learned and the knowledge acquired during the November 2, 2021 election and build on this experience for the next election for Spalding County.

Redistricting Update:

I have spoken with County Manager Steve Ledbetter. The redistricting of the County will be the same as the Board of Education and everything is scheduled to move forward to our local legislators and once the January session opens, the bill will be ready for approval.

We have requested and the state has opened a training redistricting portal to begin practicing on entering required information for voters affected by redistricting.

