

December 20, 2024

WEC,

The City of Madison Clerk's Office is requesting a reconciliation override for Wards 56 and 65 for the November 5, 2024 Presidential Election. The following is an explanation of events:

All absentee ballots were sealed in Absentee Ballot Carrier Envelopes (EL-125) to be delivered to each polling place. To facilitate transport of high numbers of ballots, carrier envelopes were sealed in larger green or red courier bags.

Ward 56: On Election night, materials were brought back to the Clerk's Office. Due to high numbers of absentee ballots, the same courier bags were also used to return absentee certificate envelopes contained in Used Certificate Envelopes (EL-103). Reconciliation, the process of comparing all counts and assigning participation in WisVote, began immediately after the election. Clerks have 45 days to complete this process after a presidential election. On Monday December 3, reconciliation began on Ward 56. During this process, it was noticed that there were many outstanding returned absentee ballots. The certificate envelopes were retrieved, and a sealed courier bag was discovered (Seal #21183883). Upon breaking the seal and opening, two sealed EL-125 carrier envelopes were discovered (Seal #17142 and #29057). Upon opening, #17142 contained 51 unprocessed absentee ballots and #29057 contained 74 unprocessed absentee ballots, for a total of 125 unprocessed absentee ballots.

Ward 65: To facilitate the transport of absentee ballots, absentee ballot carrier envelopes are sealed inside the tabulator and then delivered to the polling place before each election. If a ward has a high number of ballots, courier bags are used and delivered next to the tabulator, in our secure red cages. After the November 5 Election, City of Madison Clerk's Office staff were clearing out tabulators and discovered 1 green courier bag on Tuesday November 12th. That bag was then delivered to the Clerk's Office on Wednesday November 13th. The courier bag seal #22117341 was broken and opened after arriving at the Clerk's Office. Inside was one Absentee Ballot Carrier Envelope (seal #017034). The envelope contained 68 unprocessed absentee ballots, 67 for Ward 65 and 1 for Ward 68 (mis-sorted).

The City of Madison Clerk's Office staff plans to debrief these incidents and implement better processes to ensure all delivered carrier envelopes are accounted for and processed on Election Night.

Madison City Clerk's Office
City-County Bldg, Room 105
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Madison, WI 53703
TEL: (608) 266-4601