

# Election Observing Report

October 21, 2009

submitted by Robbi Ferron

Hello, I did my first observation this election (), arriving about 9:30 A.M.

1. I went directly to the Auditor's Office - I did not have to go through Security. As you know the Auditor's Office is to the right of Security when you get to the top of the stairs.

2. I did not need to sign in because what is happening today can be seen (observed) by anyone. As you enter the Auditor's Office to the right is a window a work room. In the work room are a "slicer" machine, two work tables against the wall on the left, a table in the middle of the room with plastic 'trays' of envelopes. On the far side of the room are "buggies" (rolling carts) with more trays of envelopes. There were three workers (women) in the room; one doing something with the trays on the buggies, and two seated each working with a tray and a scanner. What I observed follows in #4 below.

3. Lori (one of our trainers) told me that the envelopes were brought from the post office in trays of about 120 envelopes to this work room. There were about 20 trays in the room. Each envelope was put in the "slicing" machine which acts like a letter opener, slicing open the top of the envelope. The machine counts and records each envelope. The opened envelopes are then in trays again of 100 to 120 envelopes. I did not observe this. I could have if I had been there at 8:30.

I HOPE ONE OF YOU WILL OBSERVE THIS ASPECT.

4. The two women worked slightly differently. One put piles of envelopes on the table, whereas the other took envelopes directly from a tray. They scanned the long white postal sticker. The scanner is stationary, so they put each envelope under the scanner. They folded back the signature flap. The signature flap on the envelope is where the voter signs their name before sealing and mailing the envelope. The envelope was placed in a 'already scanned' tray. Each scanning and folding back the signature flap took about 5 seconds. I observed for about 10 minutes. Occasionally the worker nearest the window would look up and smile at me. At one point she stopped. She was intently looking at the envelope she was holding. After about 5 seconds she got up and walked out of the work room with the envelope. She took it to a woman sitting at her desk in the main office discussed it. I moved back to the counter, where Lori saw and recognized me. I asked what the problem was. Meanwhile the woman walked back into the room with the envelope. I do not know if she scanned it because I was talking with Lori. Lori asked the woman at the desk who told her that the voter was voting a primary ballot. I didn't think to ask how that was determined.

Lori also told me that the scanning determines the bundles. It appears that this is the beginning of a bundle. We learned at the training the bundle is made of 120 envelopes in a tray.

5. The next process to be observed would be the signature verification. Before that could begin, all the trays on the table would need to be scanned. Then verification would begin in the same room. I decided I did not want to watch scanning for a couple of hours so I could watch the signature verification. I HOPE SOMEONE WILL OBSERVE AND REPORT ON THAT ASPECT.

6. Once scanned the trays are put on the buggies.