

Michael Mason

From: Campione, Anna R. <anna.campione@anchorageak.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 9:42 AM
To: Michael Mason
Cc: Jones, Barbara A.
Subject: Question about vote by mail election integrity

Hi Mike,

Thanks for reaching out. I'll try to answer your questions, with help from Municipal Clerk Barbara Jones, as succinctly as possible. Our security plan is multi-faceted including physical security of the facility, security procedures, and extensive cybersecurity procedures. The MOA Election Center has some of the following security features:

- Every person in the Election Center wears a colored lanyard that indicates that person's level of access to the floor.
- Nine security cameras detect and record movement in ballot processing areas.
- Two election workers are present with ballots at all times during processing.
- Computers and servers that host sensitive data and air-gapped from the internet, meaning there is no wired or wireless internet access to the elections systems or data. Internet is restricted to the staff work area.
- Locked cages protect servers and have limited access entry by election team managers.
- To protect voter privacy, no cell phones are permitted on the Election Center floor.

As to your first question - how do we prevent someone from submitting a mail ballot and then showing up to a polling place - the Municipality had procedures in place to address this issue in poll based election when voters requested an absentee by mail ballot and then voted at an early voting center. To address your second question - how does the Municipality address the issue of someone mailing in a ballot and then showing up at a vote center to cast a ballot - we have updated our prior election procedures to Vote by Mail. The Municipality assigns a unique ballot package ID to each voter and provides that information to our ballot printer; this unique ballot package ID is printed on the ballot return envelope that each voter is mailed. Then, a database – with some of the same information - is downloaded to all of Accessible Vote Center (AVC) computers. The Accessible Vote Center workers are essentially providing voter a "replacement" ballot package with the same ballot package ID as on the ballot package that was mailed. Then, just as in poll based elections, if a voter returns his or her by mail ballot and then goes to an AVC and submits another ballot, the second ballot received will be rejected because it is a duplicate.

Information about voters who appear to vote twice is provided to the Anchorage Election Commission; the Commission makes the final decision on which preliminarily challenged ballots to reject. If the Commission rejects ballot envelopes for voters who vote more than once, the voters will be sent a letter that the ballot envelope was rejected and that voting more than once is an election offense and could be referred to APD and the Municipal Prosecutor.

We apologize for the long answer; we would love to have you and Senator Tuck and anyone else who is interested come for a tour of the MOA Election Center to further discuss Vote by Mail.

Best,

Anna

Anna Campione
Election Assistant

Barbara A. Jones
Anchorage Municipal Clerk