

**Testimony submitted by:
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These are my personal observations on Election Day, November 6, 2012 at Montana Expo Park where citizens from Cascade County were voting. The elections office did not appear to be fully in charge of the chaotic situation. Several examples of my observations are below:

- I observed Attorney Lawrence Anderson walked behind where they were registering voters. He continued doing this throughout the night; coming and going in the area at will.
- I observed excessively long lines for the electors.
- I spoke directly with Attorney Ben Graybill, who told me that people who had registered to vote after October 9th did not get their registrations processed because the Elections Office was not staffed properly. He said that as a direct result, the lines are very long. *It's interesting to me that Mr. Graybill was aware of the staff shortage but it was not common knowledge to the public. No mention had been made publically by Ms. Rina Fontana Moore, who is the Chief Elections Officer for Cascade County.*
- I observed several cardboard boxes with yellow and blue envelopes neatly stacked inside. Although I didn't touch the boxes, it was obvious that the envelopes had been opened. However, I couldn't ascertain if the contents had been removed.
- I observed an adult female entering through an unsecured door, near the women's restroom which happened to be propped open. She was carrying a tray with a number of yellow envelopes inside. I asked the individual if those were ballots inside the tray, and she said "yes". The individual proceeded into the women's restroom with the ballots. She did not wear a name tag, and did not have any identification visible to show she was election staff. When she left the women's restroom, I asked her if she picked up the ballots or if they were delivered. She replied that she picked them up. I then observed her walk into the area immediately behind where Rina Fontana-Moore was seated. I didn't know who the woman was, or why she was bringing ballots from the outside, and taking them into the bathroom.

A short while later, a female election official, who I later found out was Kandy Sonsteg, approached me and asked if I had a question about the boxes that were sitting on the floor in the area. She said that it's okay because they are all empty envelopes.

I told her that my concern was that a woman had just brought a box of ballots from outside and taken them directly into the restroom. She said, *"It's not the end of the world."* I mentioned that I didn't think it was appropriate to take the ballots into the bathroom and they should have been taken to the main polling location. Kandy said she would talk with the other woman who she identified as someone named Denise.

- A short time later, Shantell McGraw, Election Supervisor along with Attorney Benjamin Graybill; Attorney Larry Anderson; and Nancy Anderson, Montana Democratic Vice-Chair approached me in front of 20A polling location. Shantell asked me if there was a question.

I replied that I was concerned about the ballots that were brought in from outside and told her what had happened in and near the women's restroom a few minutes earlier. She told me that I should have come to get either her or Rina. She said, "For future reference, DO NOT speak to my staff." I explained to Shantell that I didn't have any idea who the woman was who was carrying in ballots. The woman didn't have a name tag, didn't identify herself, and I had never seen her before. I also told Shantell that any reasonable person seeing someone entering a polling location through an unsecure back door carrying a box of ballots, taking them into the bathroom, would be concerned. I pointed out that she did not have a nametag on either. If they want people to know they are Election Official staff, I suggested that they should probably wear nametags.

I did, however, observe that at each of the polling locations, Election Judges all wore nametags.

- I observed Tom Jacobson candidate for HD25 numerous times handing out candy, cupcakes, cookies, candy, water, etc. to electors standing in line. He was not wearing a nametag. I could hear him talking with the electors saying that this is a "Don't Give Up Box." Since he is running for office I interpreted that to mean *he is not giving up*. He gave out food and drink items to Election Judges at the polling locations. Rina Fontana-Moore and Shantell McGraw both saw this going on. Sometimes Jacobson was accompanied by Attorney/Senator Anders Blewett, who was wearing nametag with his name and the word "Senator" on it.
- I also observed Carlie Boland behind the Provisional Ballot area assisting with the ballots. She was a candidate for HD 23.
- I observed Precinct 18C ran out of ballots. I overheard someone say they were going to print more ballots.
- At 8:00 PM an announcement should have been made closing the polls. **No announcement was ever made.** The Election Judges just started closing procedures. I noticed that someone at the door was not allowing anyone else to enter to vote.

Given the near circus atmosphere at Expo Park, it appeared to me that same day registration is not an efficient, nor a safe way to ensure the integrity of our elections.

Respectfully submitted:

Judy A. Tankink