



MESA COUNTY

CLERK & RECORDER

News Release

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ELECTION ERROR RESULTS IN PROCEDURE CHANGES

Mesa County, Colo. –

When the first Presidential Primary ballots were collected from the ballot dropbox located outside Mesa County's election office at 200 S. Spruce Street this week, it was discovered that some ballots from the 2019 Coordinated Election were still in the box and were never counted. The Secretary of State's Office was immediately contacted and apprised of the discovery.

Our initial investigation has shown that approximately 500 ballots were not retrieved prior to the dropbox being locked at 7 p.m. on Election Day when the polls closed. We are continuing to look into this matter to determine how this error occurred.

As your Clerk and Recorder, I would like to say I'm sorry for this mistake. Transparency and accuracy in elections in Colorado is a sacred thing and my office strives to be beyond reproach in that regard. From bipartisan election judges and audits like the Logic and Accuracy tests, as well as signature verification and Canvass at the end of the election to verify results, we work very hard to ensure the accuracy and transparency of elections.

Our initial review leads us to believe that had the ballots that were left in the dropbox been counted, it would not have produced a different result in any of the elections. However, the Mesa County Clerk & Recorder's Office understands that this was a serious mistake that should not have happened. Steps to ensure that this won't occur during the upcoming Primary Election have been taken, and the procedures followed by the elections staff are continuing to be reviewed and modified to ensure that this mistake will never happen again.

The confidence of the voter and the assurance that every ballot is counted and every voice is heard are of paramount importance to me, my elections staff and the integrity of the election.

As your Clerk, I apologize for this error and will always face challenges head-on with transparency and integrity in order to always keep your trust.

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