

Assemblymember Nowers

I MOVE to amend Resolution 22-072 as attached.

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 22-072**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY DIRECTING THE CLERK TO VERIFY ELECTION RESULTS BY HAND COUNTING THREE PRECINCTS ~~PERFORMING A HAND COUNT~~ OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022, REGULAR ELECTION AND TO ALLOW FOR A REQUESTED RECOUNT TO BE DONE AS A HAND COUNT.

WHEREAS, one of the most important functions the Borough provides is conducting elections; and

WHEREAS, one of the most important civic duties the public has is voting in local, state, and federal elections; and

WHEREAS, the Borough takes the security and the accountability of Borough elections very seriously; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has used ballot tabulating machines since the 1990's; and

WHEREAS, prior to the 2020 regular election, the Borough used the State's AccuVote tabulators from the 1990's until 2019 and is now using the newer ballot tabulating machines called ImageCast Precinct (ICP) from Dominion; and

WHEREAS, some of the public have expressed concerns that the new Dominion ICP tabulators can be hacked electronically, which in turn can change the election results; and

WHEREAS, the ICPs that the Borough uses do not have modems or bluetooth connectivity, nor does the Borough electronically transmit election results, however the distrust of the Dominion

ICPs has been very public on the national level; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk will be in charge of overseeing the hand counting teams and the Canvass Board that will be meeting simultaneously; and

WHEREAS, the hand counting teams will be comprised of election officials which have gone through the election official appointment process; and

WHEREAS, hand counting three precincts chosen at random from the 38 precincts represents 7.9% of the precincts which would be a representative sampling of how the ICP machines tabulated the ballots; and

WHEREAS, this hand count will reaffirm election integrity and can be done without compromising election security or significantly delaying election results which could threaten certification deadlines; and

WHEREAS, the three precincts will be chosen after machines counts are tabulated, and this process will occur in a transparent way, observable by the candidate(s) or their assigned observer; and

WHEREAS, the recount will be done in accordance with current borough election regulations;

WHEREAS, it is important that the Canvass Board review the ballot accountability reports prior to hand counting the ballots; and

WHEREAS, the hand counting teams will meet after the ballot accountability reports are verified by the Canvass Board; and

WHEREAS, the Canvass Board will need to continue to meet to perform the rest of their duties during the time that the hand counting is taking place; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the cost of verifying the election results via hand count for the three precincts will be approximately \$240 ~~\$7,000~~; and

WHEREAS, to make changes in the way elections are conducted and tabulated should be a longer thought out process, rather than implementing and requiring the Clerk to make changes 6 weeks prior to voting starting. Hand counting three precincts is more practical with this short of notice; and

WHEREAS, with the candidates(s) or their assigned observer, the precinct number and name of each Borough precinct will be mixed together in a container whereby the Chair of the Canvass Board will pull the three precincts selected for hand count one draw at a time; and

WHEREAS, at least one of the precincts drawn shall be a larger precinct of 2,500 registered voters or more to ensure there is a larger hand count and the Canvass Board Chair shall continue to draw until that threshold is met; and

WHEREAS, hand counting three precincts will take less than half a day compared to 2-1/2 days for hand counting all precincts and will allow for the work of the Canvass Board not to be delayed

and/or interrupted; and

Whereas hand counting three precincts could be done efficiently within the time allotted for certification deadlines and avoid a situation where the clerk and deputy clerk would simultaneously oversee both the canvass board review and a hand count for an extended period which could result in reducing election integrity; and

WHEREAS, for this election, if a recount is requested by a candidate the Clerk is directed to allow the requestor of the recount to have the option to ask for a hand count.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly directs the Borough Clerk to verify the election results with a hand count after the machine counts have been tabulated of three randomly chosen precincts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk is directed to allow for a candidate that requests an election recount, to ask for that recount to be performed by a hand count rather than by machine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assembly directs the Clerk to advise the Assembly of the outcome of the hand count.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day of -, 2022.

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)