



**"Election Integrity - Not Just a "Big City" issue:
Shocking Findings from the Smith County
2020 General Election Records Review."**

February 13, 2023

Recommendations

- **Numerous process and policy changes were identified**
 - **Current EA has identified and implemented several changes**
 - **Additional process, procedure and chain of custody solutions were recommended**
- **Initiate an official inquiry into:**
 - **584 disenfranchised Absentee Ballot Voters**
 - **Four highly questionable hand-marked absentee ballots**
- **Conduct a citizen review of the 2022 General Election**
 - **Validate current improvements**
 - **Identify any residual issues**

Definitions

- **Provisional Ballot** – Ballot cast but not tabulated pending Ballot Board Review of registration issues
- **Military/Overseas** – Ballots requiring special handling, including transcribing “email ballots” onto scannable ballot
- **Restricted Ballots** – Ballots from individuals whose addresses are hidden from public voter records (e.g. police, judges, etc.)
- **Limited Ballots** – Voters moving inter-county within the 30 day window must vote in their new county but are limited to state/federal contests
- **Cast Vote Record (CVR)** – Stored details of voter selections – not traceable
- **Vote Not Recorded** – Situations in which In-Person or Absentee voters have reported as casting their ballot, but county records do not reflect their vote counting

Records Management Problems

- **Voters disenfranchised by incorrect precinct assignment (local races)**
- **Bullard Trustee candidates left off relevant ballots**
- **Missing control logs from Work Hub and Lindale**
- **No control logs for Limited Ballots**
- **Provisional Ballot Logs partially dispositioned or incorrectly processed**
- **The fifty-six storage boxes were incorrectly marked**
- **Critical records in many boxes were totally disorganized**



VOTE COUNT RECONCILIATION

November 3, 2020

General Election
Smith County

This Reconciliation
shows what the review
determined from the
records
**WHAT YOU DON'T
SEE ARE 584
MISSING VOTES**

	Election				
	Absentee	Early	Day	Unknown	Total
Official Reported Results	8,372	79,787	12,538	-	100,697
Voter Export GE 07202022 from M. Allcon 7-20-22	8,621	78,784	12,520	16	99,941
<i>versus reported</i>	249	(1,003)	(18)	16	(756)
Adjustments to Voter Export:					
Privacy voters	-	24	4	-	28
Limited ballot voters * <i>Pct. 0001 turnout vs. CVR report</i>	-	522	-	-	522
Provisional ballot accepted * <i>per envelope count ED and EV loaded as EV</i>	-	206	-	-	206
Total Adjustments	-	752	4	-	756
ADJUSTED TOTALS	8,621	79,536	12,524	16	100,697
Reported less adjusted totals	(249)	251	14	(16)	-
<i>* Not verifiable, best estimate available</i>					

Focus on Absentee Voters vs In -Person

- **Absentee Records required for auditing WERE available to the Team**
 - ✓ Absentee Ballot requests and mail-out logs
 - ✓ Signature Sheets for drop off ballots
 - ✓ Post processing envelopes
 - ✓ Voter history records
 - ✓ Physical ballots
- **In-Person Records were NOT available**
 - *NOTE: The same types of anomalies were reported in In-Person as with Absentee*
 - *But there was no way to complete an audit*
 - VOTEC Poll Books which record IP voter details were replaced post 2020 election
 - The team did NOT have access to ES&S data bases or software
- **The Election Administrator in charge in 2020 has been replaced**

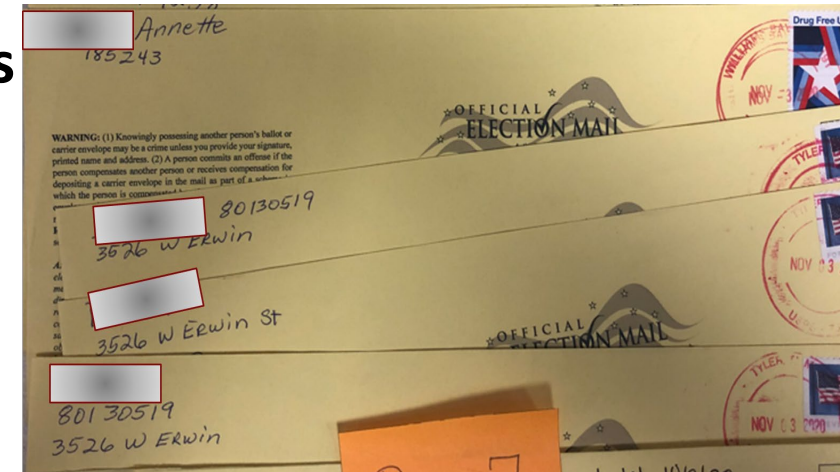
Absentee Ballots: What Is the “Right” Number?

Method	CVR	Official	Voter List	History File	SoS
Absentee	8242	8372	8398	8621	8310

Answer: None of them!
Five “systems” out of balance on just 8% of the total vote is simply not acceptable

Analysis Identified Multiple Problems

- 7,240 Absentee Ballot envelopes analyzed
 - *Over 1,000 others were missing*
- 197 Unsealed Envelopes found for voters *not recorded as voting*
 - *Included 15 of 16 voters originally canvassed as VNR-AB*
- 9 Envelopes were still sealed with *ballots inside*
- 223 Absentee voters added after November 3rd
- 4 Hand Marked envelopes apparently issued and postmarked Nov 3rd ←
- Physical Ballots examined and compared to county records
 - 9 batches of *physical absentee ballots* were counted
 - **8,234 ballots** vs 8,398 recorded voters



Scope of Absentee Ballot Problems

Absentee Ballot Categories	Counts
Voter List from Smith County	8,398
Voters added AFTER Nov 3 rd	223
Absentee Ballots NOT Recorded	197
Total Number of <i>Documented</i> AB Voters	8,818

**There were 584 More Absentee Voters than ballots accounted for
(8,818 Voters vs 8,234 Ballots)**

**Approximately 6.6% of all Absentee Voters were likely
disenfranchised because their vote was not recorded**

Impact of Disenfranchised Absentee Voters

Seven LOCAL 2020 General Election races within the 584 Vote Margin of Error

BALLOT ITEM	OPTIONS	VOTE	MARGIN
Proposition 3 Lindale	Yes	1020	36
	No	1056	
Proposition 4 Lindale	Yes	1422	290
	No	1132	
Proposition 5 Lindale	Yes	1490	421
	No	1069	
Council, Place #1 Overton	Hill	33	23
	Freeman	10	
Council, Place #3 Overton	Schurbon	16	5
	Hall	21	
	Wood	18	
Councilmember, District 4 Tyler	Wynne	2216	103
	Pesina	2113	
Proposition A Troup	For	585	193
	Against	778	

Additional Recommendation

Beyond the initial scope of this project



FACT:

- ✓ **Any election process which cannot be PROVEN will generate challenges.**
- ✓ **Paper ballot systems - like Absentee - can be audited and reconciled.**
- ✓ **In-person voting results are difficult, if not impossible, to validate.**

**GAWTP is on a state-wide Election Integrity Team whose goal is:
Dramatically improve the ACCURACY, TRANSPARANCY
AND ACCOUNTABILITY of Texas Elections**

GAWTP will partner with Smith County officials to notify them of - and advocate for - strong Election Integrity bills, especially for Senator Hall's proposals for *fully auditable end-to-end processes and hand-marked paper ballots.*