

2023 MAY 26 AM 9:45

FILED

*K. MORRIS*

**MONTANA EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CASCADE COUNTY**

<p>GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Petitioner,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">vs.</p> <p>SANDRA MERCHANT, in her official capacity as CASCADE COUNTY CLERK &amp; RECORDER and CASCADE COUNTY,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Respondent.</p>	<p>Cause No.: DV-23-222 Hon. Brenda R. Gilbert</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MONITOR'S REPORT</b></p>
---	---

May 24, 2023, 10:15am

Present: I, Sandra, Dev Biddick, Pat Coley, Sveltiana Pinnoch (new election hire), Carol Robinson-volunteer at the ballot drop box

10:18am- Asked Sandra for the reports I requested, and she responded with she is working on them.

10:26am-Dev was working on cancelling out a deceased voter that the ballot sent back to the election office. I asked how the process was done but she stopped working on the issue after I had asked how the process worked.

10:51am- Robert Koostra (asked for permission to use his name) came into the office to see why he didn't receive his ballot when his daughter had already received hers. When I asked Robert permission to use his name and before I could explain why and what I was doing, Pat

*29*

Coley let him know why I was asking him his name and what I was doing and that he would have to be a witness in court when the judge sees the report. So, I went to Sandra and let her know what happened and that it was my place to let the voter know what I was doing. She did not respond to the issue. Pat then immediately got on the phone to the VA Clinic asking to talk to a lawyer as the Court appointed and that this issue was causing his PTSD to spike or flare up.

11:12am- Peter Russette (asked permission to use his name) came into the elections office with 6 ballots that were delivered to his address and the people are not residents at his address and he did not receive his Library ballot at his home address. He brought in his voter registration card to prove that he did live at the address. He said he changed his address in May 2022 and received his voter registration card in the mail in June. Sandra took the 6 ballots from him and said she would have to call the SOS to rectify the situation. She then looked up Peter in the voter database and told him he wasn't a registered voter at that address and proceeded to blame the previous administration and staff for this issue. He filled out a voter registration application to be a registered voter and he wanted to be on the absentee list and wanted to vote his ballot now. As of 2:15 pm don't know if the issue on the 6 ballots were resolved.

1:05pm- A newly registered voter came into to register, and Dev was assisting him. After Dev got him registered, she told him he would have to go to Exhibition Hall on election day June 6,2023, to vote. She didn't explain to this voter the late registration process and he should have received an absentee ballot now since he is considered a late registrant.

2:15pm- As of this time I haven't received any reports that were requested on Tuesday May 23,2023. Also, Sandra if they would be working after hours. She responded I would need to call the office before 5:00 pm.

4:47pm- I called the elections office and Dev answered and I asked if they would be working after hours. She put me on hold to ask Sandra and came back with Sandra would be there until 5:30 pm and Pat would be there until 6:30 pm.

8:23 pm- I was driving past the Annex (elections office located) and Pat Coley's vehicle was still in the parking lot and Julie Bass (election judge volunteer) were still working in the elections office!

EMAILED

Judge Gilbert  
Raph Graybill

Lilla Lund  
Nancy McCracken