

2023 MAY 30 AM 9:54

FILED  
BY: K. MORRIS

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

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

Petitioner,

vs.

SANDRA MERCHANT, in her official  
capacity as CASCADE COUNTY CLERK  
& RECORDER and CASCADE COUNTY,

Respondent.

Cause No.: DV-23-222  
Hon. Brenda R. Gilbert

**MONITORS REPORT**

May 26, 2023 10:18am

Present: I, Pat Coley, Svetlana Pinocchi, Dev Biddick and Sandra Merchant

10:20am- I asked Sandra for the reports that I have requested. She finally had the information printed.

10:30am- Beth Cooper a volunteer for Ballot Box drop box.

10:38am- Voter came into get a ballot and was not an absentee voter. She also wanted to check her husband's status as, she thought, he was on the absentee list to receive his in the mail. Dev was hesitant to check his status as he was not present. She eventually checked his status, and he

was not on the absentee list. So, the wife took two absentee applications to be signed up for future elections and will go to the polls on election day to vote.

10:47am- Voter came in checking on wife's absentee status as she was in the hospital and not going to make it to the polls on election day. She was not on the absentee list. So, I asked Dev if I could make a suggestion. She immediately went to Sandra to let her know the issue and I wanted to make a suggestion. Sandra responded to Dev with if she had looked at the laws pertaining to absentee voters. Dev told her she didn't find anything in the law pertaining to this issue. I asked Sandra if I could make a suggestion and she said OK. I told them both in the law that with a voter being absentee from the polling place the voter could request a one-time ballot for this election. Also, on the Absentee Ballot Application there is a option on the bottom of the app to designate someone to pick up the ballot. This form is on the MT SOS's page. Dev gave the form to the elector and gave his instructions on how to fill it out and return and she would issue the ballot. He did return with the form and was issued the ballot for his wife.

10:58am- Gregg Rydquist (gave permission to use his name) came into the office and received two ballots in his absentee packet and his mother-in-law (Dorothy Pitcock) never received hers in the mail and she is on the absentee list. Pat told Gregg the system must have issued him two ballots. That's untrue as, the system cannot issue two ballots at the same time. Pat looked up Dorothy's name and her ballot came back as undeliverable and the address on her label is the correct address. I suggested the same information to Pat that he could give Gregg the Absentee Ballot Application and have Dorothy fill out the designated person option and Gregg could pick her ballot up for her. Gregg did come back with absentee application and picked up the ballot.

11:15am- Voter came into update his address and he does have a picture ID. Pat was asking him for a second form of ID. He shouldn't have to show a second form of ID if he has a picture ID. Pat had him fill out a voter registration card so he could update his address and he printed him a voter confirmation card but did not issue a ballot to him. He shouldn't have been able to print to the voter ID if the voter was registered correctly as a late registrant.

1:14pm- Voter came with hers and husband voter registration cards to update their mailing addresses as they both are to receive ballots in the mail. Pat looked them up in the system and it showed that both ballots were sent. He told her to come back on Tuesday May 30,2023 to get a ballot. Pat could have updated the wife's address and reissue her ballot but not the husband's as he needs to come in person with ID to receive his ballot.

2:55pm- Asked Sandra if they would be working after hours and she responded with no one is working this weekend.

EMAILED

Judge Gilbert  
Raph Graybill  
Lilla Lund  
Nancy McCracken