

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2022

On the evening of Tuesday May 3rd, 2022, while in the process of uploading final primary election result data to the State of Indiana, staff in the Wayne County Clerk's office noticed a discrepancy between voting data in the various reports produced by Wayne County's new vote counting systems. In tracking that discrepancy down, we discovered that one of the vote centers had turned in the wrong storage device that was supposed to contain vote counts. As a result, when that device was read into the central vote counting system, zero votes from that vote center were registered. Due to the way the vote counting system reported its activity and because vote totals included non-zero counts from all expected voter precincts, the zero vote count from that particular vote center was not immediately apparent or noticed.

On Wednesday May 4th, 2022 in the presence of the County Election Board and a representative from the election hardware vendor, the Clerk's staff retrieved the storage device containing counts from an additional 92 ballots cast at that vote center, and added those votes into the total vote counts. The changes did not alter the outcome of any contested race, nor did they change the selection of state convention delegates. This was confirmed through an additional final review of voting data, where no additional discrepancies were found.

While we are relieved that the outcome of the election remains unchanged and are confident that the integrity of the election is not in question, we will be taking steps to ensure that this kind of discrepancy and oversight does not occur in the future. These steps may include additional training for vote center workers, additional verification steps of the storage devices being received by the Clerk's office at the conclusion of voting, working with the vote counting hardware vendor to make software improvements, and reviewing reports that would have identified the discrepancy earlier in the vote counting and verification process.

The vote counts released to the public on election day are always considered unofficial results, to allow for this kind of post-election review. The official vote counts will be certified as final within 10 days of the election.

If any voters have questions about the process for receiving, counting and certifying votes, please contact the Wayne County Clerk's office at (765) 973-9304.

Signed,

Debra Berry
James C. Hardie
J. Clayton Miller
Members of the Wayne County Election Board