



COUNTY OF ELBERT

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Press Release – For Immediate Release – July 6, 2018

Re: 2018 Primary Election Results

According to Colorado State Statutes and Rules issued by the Colorado Secretary of State governing elections, the Elbert County Clerk and Recorder's Office completed the tabulation of all ballots received by statutory deadlines. This includes all ballots that had "signature cures" and overseas and military ballots. There will be no more ballots accepted in the 2018 Primary Election.

The Republican Primary contest for Commissioner in District Two, was the only race that was left to be determined after all ballots had been tabulated. The results were razor thin with Rick Pettitt leading Anthony Hartsook by a single vote; 2,994 to 2,993. These are still UNOFFICIAL RESULTS.

Beginning July 6, 2018, the Clerk and Recorder's Office will be conducting a Risk Limiting Audit (RLA). The RLA Board (administered by Election Judges and the Appointed Audit Board) pulls a sampling of specific ballots ordered by the Secretary of State's Office to verify that our equipment is functioning properly. The Secretary of State sets the parameters for the RLA. If you would like a more thorough explanation of a Risk Limiting Audit, please view the video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysG4pFFmQ-E&t=1160s>

The RLA may extend past the first round for a variety of reasons, not all of which are dependent on our RLA in Elbert County. This creates a fluid situation where we cannot know the exact date at which the RLA will be concluded.

After the RLA is complete, we move on to the Canvass of the Election. At this point in the Election cycle, the appointed Canvass Board is given access to the various reports of ballots received, counted, etc... and after they are satisfied that the Election was accurately accounted for, they will certify the Election, along with the Clerk and Recorder. The Audit Board and Canvass is comprised of one Democrat and one Republican from each of the respective party's Executive Board.

Once again, dates are fluid, except that the RLA must be complete by the 17th and the Canvass by the 18th of July. The one vote margin in the Commissioner results fall within the threshold to be a mandatory recount. We will then schedule the recount and notify both candidates of that date. The recount must be completed by July 31st 2018, although, the Clerk's office anticipates a much earlier time frame to complete the recount.

Expectations in the tabulation room include keeping politics out of the discussion and the goal is that every single ballot returned is accounted for at the end of the election. The judges deserve high praise for doing exactly that; every single ballot received is accounted for and there are no anomalies which resulted in a 100 % balanced election.

Leading up to this Election, the Clerk and Recorder invited each candidate by mail to attend the candidate information night and/or the public Logic and Accuracy testing of the voting equipment. Candidate Norton attended the candidate information night and Candidates Pettitt, Hewlett and Murphy attended portions of the Logic and Accuracy testing. The purpose of these meetings and personal invitations is for the candidates unfamiliar with the election process to fully understand what happens throughout the election cycle and to foster a working relationship with each candidate so they are comfortable asking questions and are confident in the system.

The Clerk and Recorder gives high praise to the excellent work done by the Election Department Staff in working with candidates, the attention to detail in preparing the Election and unwavering dedication to the process to make sure each voice is heard and reflected in the results.

The Clerk and Recorder also gives high praise to the excellent work done by the Election Judges in the tabulation room and their dedication to the process and desire to do everything perfectly, which they did.

Elbert County should be proud of the dedicated individuals (judges and staff) who serve in the area of Elections as the guardians of each individual's right to vote. They do a spectacular job.

Please stay tuned to the County website and the Clerks twitter account (@ElbertCoClerk) for additional information.