

Election complaint #4

Improper conduct on the parts of the poll-clerks

This complaint stems from various problems that arose regarding the conduct of the poll clerks on the Richmond campus. These violations occurred on both polling days, January 18-19, 2006, and are all involving the poll clerks.

(1)

The first violation of protocol occurred when the poll clerks constantly allowed students to walk away from the voting stations and allowed them to fill out their ballots in plain view of other students. This, of course, is against regulations as it allows students and candidates to unfairly influence voters. I saw one particular student actually point out to others who to vote for. Obviously, this has a material impact on the results of the election due to people being unfairly influenced while voting. Moreover, the people who stayed near the voting station to fill out their ballots had no privacy while filling out said ballots and were forced to fill them out right next to other students. This is obviously an encroachment on a students right to fill out their ballots privately and free of interference. It is due to these circumstances that the ballots integrity is questionable, and it is therefore due to these circumstances that the election results are called into question. Therefore the election itself is invalid, should be thrown out and a new one called.

(2)

This violation is regarding the Richmond poll-clerks conduct with the ballot boxes themselves. During Wednesday, January 18, 2006, R.A. Scott and myself noticed that the poll clerk had opened up the ballot box and had stuck his hand inside. This alarmed us for obvious reasons. There is no valid reason why the poll clerk should open up the ballot box during voting periods and be interacting with the contents in any way. This casts a huge shadow of doubt on the whole proceedings, as the integrity of the ballot box

had been compromised and therefore the results of the election are of dubious validity at best. Furthermore, the fact that the poll clerks had keys to open the ballot boxes is somewhat questionable. Therefore the election itself is invalid, should be thrown out and a new one called.

(3)

This next complaint is regarding the transportation of the ballot boxes from the campus' to the CRO. The poll clerks, having keys to the ballot boxes is questionable enough, but the fact that they were allowed to transport the ballot boxes alone while they had the ability to open them severely compromises the validity of the election result. Obviously, nobody except the CRO should be left alone with the ballots and have access to them. It would be too easy for the votes to be tampered with otherwise. It is extremely inappropriate and it is due to this reason that the election should be declared invalid and a new one held.

There were many problems with the conduct of the poll clerks at Richmond this election. Each problem cast serious doubt on the integrity of the results of the election. A new election should be called with stricter guidelines for the poll-clerks to follow.