

For Release 6/21/11

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County Ensuring Accuracy of Elections & Registrations

Kootenai County Clerk Cliff Hayes is adding further scrutiny to all aspects of the Elections process. Hayes personally recounted one highway district race on the May 17 ballot with an election worker, to be certain of accuracy. Hayes said “the close tallies in some races made me want to confirm the accuracy of the ballot counting machines.” No recount requests were received from any of the candidates however, and the legal deadline for challenging has passed without incident.

12 voters have been sent letters to re-register after a spot-check found they had listed the Elections office as their residence. “These 12 people were originally following a directive from the Secretary of State to register at an address which is a County facility”, said Hayes, “because they were either serving in the military or traveling overseas. The Secretary of State’s directive has changed. Our letters told them that, and asked them to re-register at their actual residence. However, if they are still in the military but expect to return here, they were asked to provide us with their last known Kootenai County address.”

Voters registered at an address on streets which are primarily commercial are also being verified. “I asked some unpaid volunteers to review these voter registrations based on location; they identified approximately 65 names which need further research. Elections staff members are now verifying that these are indeed legal residences”, said Hayes. Some addresses originally considered suspect but confirmed as legal include voters residing at assisted living facilities and retirement homes.

“Voters and candidates deserve complete confidence in our accuracy” said Hayes. “In my opinion, we can’t be too careful.”

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