



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

Detroit officials say absentee ballot counting was transparent and accurate

Various statements released by Detroit officials and election advisors make clear that absentee ballot counting was observed by hundreds of Republicans and Democrats, as well as independent media, and that only ballots received by 8 p.m. on Election Day were counted,

- As David Fink, lead counsel for City Defendants in *Constantino, et al v City of Detroit, et al*, has stated, "This is yet another belated lawsuit, raising baseless allegations, trying to undermine confidence in a well-run election. Like two previous lawsuits, this case is not based upon actual evidence of any election fraud or misconduct. It is based upon various conspiracy theories, which have already been debunked. We are confident that this case, like the others filed last week, will be dismissed.

"There were more than 200 Republican challengers in the room at the TCF Center, but only five such people have come forward to support these claims, which actually tells us how well the process was run. In their rush to file this lawsuit, it does not even appear that the supposed witnesses read their affidavits; one witness couldn't even get his own name right. Everything done here was done for good reason with one goal in mind—to be sure that every vote is counted."

- Detroit officials also stated that even after some challengers left, there were always challengers from both parties in the room. Dozens of reporters were in the room as well. Further, some windows were covered to stop those outside from filming the people and private information in the counting board, while other windows were left uncovered to ensure additional transparency.
- As was stated by Chris Thomas, who as a contractor for the Detroit City Clerk's Office served as an advisor on the execution of this election and led challenger relations, and who is the former Michigan Director of Elections, who served under both Republican and Democrat Secretaries of State during his 40-year-tenure with the Bureau of Elections, no ballots were backdated. Rather, a clerical error was made when some ballot envelopes were received in Detroit satellite offices. Although employees stamped a date of receipt on the envelopes, an employee failed to complete the transaction for receiving the ballot by saving that date in the Qualified Voter File. Therefore, at the absent voter counting board, after discussion with Republican challengers who chose not to challenge the process, staff was instructed to enter that date stamped on the envelope ensuring that no voters were disenfranchised by the clerical error.
- Finally, video of a man pulling a wagon into the TCF Center early on Nov. 4 has been found to be of a WXYZ-TV photographer bringing camera equipment into the building.