

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2015

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Lancaster County Electoral Board Press Release

Our Optical Scan (OS) machine failed during the election in Precinct 401 and during that time all voted, but uncounted ballots were deposited into a secure side panel designed for such purpose, until such time as the machine was put back into operation. After the polls were closed, the uncounted ballots were removed from the secure compartment and scanned through the OS machine to be counted. A results tape was run on the machine for the final results tally at that time. Because of the machine malfunction and election official uncertainty regarding the vote tally, the Registrar's office contacted the Virginia State Board of Elections on election night for guidance. The Virginia State Board of Elections advised us to perform a manual hand count the next morning to resolve our issues. We were instructed to contact the parties and the candidates involved for witness verification. Our position was that full disclosure was prudent and necessary.

During the hand count the following morning, November 4, 2015, the Virginia State Board of Elections called the Lancaster Registrar's office and instructed us to "freeze" the hand count, secure all the ballots and results, and turn them over to the Electoral Board for canvass. The Electoral Board was instructed to conduct the canvass based upon the paperwork submitted by the election officials of that precinct on election night. The State Board of Elections further advised that once canvass was over and the Electoral Board determined the results, any recount would be up to the courts or candidates.