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### **Voting Errors Today, Clerk Announces**

Kootenai County Clerk Cliff Hayes announced that some errors were made in today's election.

At precinct 28 in Prairie View Elementary School in Post Falls, no regular voter ballots for School Trustee Zone 2 were ordered from the printer. An early-arriving voter who is a teacher brought this error to the poll workers' attention. Poll workers phoned Elections staff, who arrived with absentee ballots within half an hour; these had been printed for another precinct. "Substitution is a standard procedure used when a precinct runs out of ballots", said Hayes.

Hayes was not able to detail how the printing oversight originally occurred – whether it was an error by local Elections staffers in mid-March or an error in the State's reports with which Elections staff double-checked the ballot order at that time. He was able to confirm that the early-arriving voter had, in fact, voted the correct ballot later in the day.

At precinct 40 in Dalton Gardens City Hall, poll workers gave two voters the wrong ballots. A poll worker instructed her colleague to hand out the same ballot that had been given correctly to all of the prior dozen-plus voters who had come in the first hour the polls were open. Both voters completed and deposited their erroneous ballots in the ballot box. When the voters were overheard discussing their ballots, poll workers gave them the correct ballots for their residence address. Both voters completed these ballots and deposited them into the ballot box. Hayes said, "the error in this case was by the poll worker not checking the poll book to issue the correct ballot the first time, something we stressed in their training. It was then compounded by duplicate voting."

"We regret these errors, and I take full responsibility for them", said Hayes.

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