

MY CONSTITUENT CONCERNS ABOUT FINANCIALS CITED AS A REASON TO CLOSE SATELLITE POLLING PLACES

I am of the understanding that the new election consolidation funds (that were derived from existing city revenue sharing funds) were meant to fund the NEW expenses of election consolidation - period. They aren't meant to supplant any funding for existing election work. It seems you are implying that is what the clerk's office is doing by suggesting that the clerk can just take what you spent this year, subtract the FULL amount of new election consolidation funding and then say that property tax funds are paying their fair share. Is that the case?

Is it possible in an odd numbered year with fewer elections that your office could have spent even a fraction of that first installment already? It's my understanding that those funds come in on the state fiscal cycle so this November's city elections will come out of the next fiscal year – please advise if that is not the case. I don't know the details of when state funding is received. Your spreadsheet appeared to indicate that some funding had already been received by the county clerk's office.

Also, I was under the impression that the money the county spent on early satellite voting meant that there was a need for fewer poll workers at the Election Day poll so in fact they really don't cost much extra.

Additionally, if all the people came to the elections office instead of the city halls are you not still going to have to pay more temps since the three full time staff likely won't be enough to cover their important regular duties and deal with early absentee voters?

As to the financial answer in your postscript, is it the position of the County Clerk, then, that neither you nor he had any input or oversight of the spreadsheet that you sent me, and that your office is not responsible for the expenditures and the seeming increases in the "actual" column for FY 2011? That would be confusing to me if true, perhaps you could explain it further.

MY CONSTITUENT CONCERNS ABOUT LOGISTICS OF THE CLOSURE OF THE SATELLITE POLLING PLACES

If the lines at the county elections office are longer because of the closure of satellite voting offices, isn't it likely that people who are unable to stand in a long line will turn away and not vote as a result? Many federal laws cover making polling and elections more accessible, not less, and it seems this new policy could well run afoul of those efforts.

MY CONSTITUENT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROCESS WHEREBY THE COUNTY CLERK CHALLENGES VOTER REGISTRATION WITH VOLUNTEERS

I have the highest regard for the four people you mention in your list – they are the best of the best. I believe that all may live in Post Falls, though (where you and Cliff also reside if my memory serves) and thus they may not be familiar with all the addresses in other cities where your press release mentioned that the volunteers would be working and your office would commence a challenge to the voter registration. Is there some statutory authority under which

you have involved volunteers to review voter registrations and question them – regardless of the exceptional reputations they may have?

Additionally on this topic, is it your position that the County Clerk's office has had no consultation with or volunteer assistance from any other citizens who were involved with the election lawsuit that is still pending before the Idaho Supreme Court in these efforts to review and/or target for challenge selected voter registrations?

CLOSING

Since yesterday's email I have been contacted by elected officials in four different municipalities/taxing districts who share the same concerns that I do. I believe these issues are very serious and are being watched closely.

Thank you for your help and responses on this issue. Voter rights are one of the most sacred things we have in our democratic republic and something I take very seriously on behalf of my constituents. As always, I invite County Clerk Cliff Hayes to weigh in on this topic at any time if he is available to do so, considering it was his decision to close the satellite polling locations and challenge voter eligibility, two items that are of greatest concern.