

For Immediate Release 11/8/12

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## **Election Results Delay Explained; More Detailed Results Posted Today**

County Clerk Cliff Hayes elaborated on the Elections results reporting delay that happened late Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning.

“All three of our vote counting machines worked fine all night,” Hayes said. “The problems were in the way we posted the machine counts online” using an elections reporting software program.

Around 1:30AM, elections management saw online results were not adjusting correctly as each incremental posting of the machine counts was uploaded. They began investigating the problem and trying different input methods. When a solution hadn’t been found after more than two hours of attempts, the results that had been posted were taken down, and a notice saying “Due to technical difficulties we are unable to post Election results now. As soon as we have accurate numbers they will be posted here” put up about 4:30AM. In addition, notification was made to the Idaho Secretary of State’s office and the media. The notice was up until about 6:30AM, when the results reporting problem was identified and a solution tested out accurately.

“Some people think stopping the online results posting was the wrong thing to do”, Hayes said. “I always believe that accuracy is more important than speed.”

While the results posting issue was being remedied, the vote counting machines continued operating. Shortly before 7AM, the County was able to post final unofficial results, reflecting votes from all 73 precincts (including 3 absentee precincts).

By-precinct results and individual write-in candidate breakdowns will be posted today. In addition, 109 absentee votes counted Wednesday morning will also be uploaded to the unofficial results today. These were ballots that were torn or stained, and could not be read by the optical scan ballot counting machines when the rest of absentee votes were run Tuesday night. They had to be manually

duplicated before they could successfully register; and by the time they were duplicated, by-precinct ballots were being run on all three optical scan machines. Therefore, these duplicate absentee ballots were counted last.

“One other item the public should be aware of: by law, the election results are ‘unofficial’ until the canvass of the votes is presented to the Board of County Commissioners,” concluded Hayes. “This canvass meeting is scheduled for 8:30AM Friday, November 16, in the Boardroom at the County Admin Building, and the public is welcome to attend.”

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