



ANN ARBOR POLLWATCHER

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Future Elections:

<u>DATE</u> <u>(DAY)</u>	<u>TYPE OF</u> <u>ELECTION</u>	<u>START TO</u> <u>COMMIT ON</u>
2011		

Aug. 2 (Tue.)	City Primary	Jun. 3 (Fri.)
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Nov. 8 (Tue.)	City General	Sep. 9 (Fri.)
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Next Up: City Primary

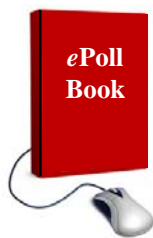
The next election will be the City Primary on **Tuesday, August 2, 2011**. Individuals may begin offering their "firm commitment" to work the City Primary on **Friday, June 3**. The August Primary will be for Wards 2, 3 and 5, but all election inspectors are encouraged to work the Primary.

As the great Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard once quipped, "*Repetition is the reality and the seriousness of life.*" So let's get serious and make plans to work at the City Primary on August 2!

ePollBook

If you worked the polls on May 3, you should have noticed a survey among your supplies. The survey pertained to an Electronic Poll Book – commonly referred to as EPB or the more trendy, ePollBook. Jackie requested election inspectors at each precinct to look over the booklet about Electronic Poll Books and complete a very brief survey during a quiet time at your precinct. The survey gave poll workers (YOU) the means to voice your opinion/concerns about a procedure that would directly affect you at the polling place.

Jackie is looking forward to reading the returned surveys in the leisurely confines of her living room over a hot cup of cocoa and a blazing fire in her hearth – *yeah, yeah, it's called artistic license!* Anyway, stay tuned for more about ePollBooks.



It's the Law! by Jackie Beaudry

Q: What's this I hear that you were an election observer in Kazakhstan for their Presidential Election?

A: That's right. I was in Kazakhstan for about ten days in early April as part of a team of about 400 international election observers sent by the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe). I was deployed to South Kazakhstan for Election Day with my assigned partner, who was from Russia.



While there appeared to be many similarities between our election and the election in Kazakhstan, there were also some obvious differences. The first distinction was the date. Kazakhstan's election was held on Sunday, April 3, not a Tuesday! Sunday is actually a very common election day in Europe and other parts of the world. On a first glance, everything else was very similar – polling places were in elementary schools and other public buildings, lots of voting booths, 5-6 poll workers per precinct, and, of course, a ballot box. However, there were no tabulators or AutoMARKs! All ballots were hand-counted. Another interesting distinction was the ballot box itself. Because the ballots were hand-counted at the close of the polls, all of the boxes were see-through for added transparency. One of our duties as observers was to visually inspect the boxes at the sites we visited, checking for clumps of ballots folded together or other evidence that might suggest "ballot box stuffing."

I could go on and on about this amazing experience, but with limited space for this article and the fact that the subject is "It's the Law," I'll just mention one more interesting distinction between our Election Day laws and those in Kazakhstan. As you know, any member of the public in Michigan is considered a "poll watcher" and we designate an area of the polling

place for the public or "poll watchers" to observe the process from the opening of the polls to the final closing paperwork. In Kazakhstan, the general public and voters are only allowed in the polling places for the time it takes to vote. Voters may not stay and observe or even linger around for a minute or two to chat with neighbors and poll workers. However, candidates and political parties are allowed to have representatives in the polling place, similar to the official "challenger" status that we have in Michigan. Initially, the exclusion of the public from the process seemed completely contrary to what I would expect in a democratic election, but in Kazakhstan, "*It's the Law!*"

The Lament of the AVCB

Main motivator, pest & artistic director:

Sheila Graziano

Chief collaborators:

Jeff Micale & Jan Hack

Doo-wop assistance from:

rest of AVCB inspectors

(if only in the form of groans and rolling eyeballs)

The caller ID spelled out "Howard"
I knew I should not be a coward
More elections to work?
I am not such a jerk
I ignored it and felt quite empowered!

(but then.....)

On the fourth floor of the Justice Center
At 8 a.m. we all did enter
Neat office supplies
And twinkling eyes
With Jeff ready to be our mentor

We sat down to work right at 8
Frightening clear was our fate
They brought in the ballots
All loaded on pallets
Why is my heart filled with hate?!

The ballots are piled on the table
We really don't think we'll be able
To get a good count
The tension does mount
I hope no one here is unstable!

(note to self: all weapons checked at entrance - pshew!)

We matched ballot numbers and names
This was the hard part - no games!

One counter replaced
We kept up our pace
All thanks to five men and eight dames
(many hours later....)

There was knitting, crochet and sudoku
 When all of the ballots we'd gone through
 We wrote down some limericks
 And got in some good kicks
 As we sat there so long that our hair grew
 (deep breath)
 The last of the ballots came late
 We knew they'd not be here 'til eight
 More ripping and tearing
 Gnashing and swearing
 We once thought our lives would be great.
 (sigh)

But now we have clearly surmised
 Elections will be our demise
 The AVCB
 And no TLC
 Just makes all our blood pressure rise!
 We spent the day locked in a room
 Never succumbing to gloom
 And tho civic duty
 Could make us all moody
 The pride made our hearts go boom boom!

We ended the night right on time
 Lights off forty-five after nine
 'Twas not four a.m.
 We all said AMEN!
 And now we have finished this rhyme.

Refrain from the Clerk's Office:

By gosh and by golly, it's clear
 That the AV count board, we fear
 Is paid way too little
 For such high class riddle
 They're vying for doughnuts next year!

Glad It Wasn't Us!

We're not sure if you have heard, but the statewide recount of the Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice contest is not yet complete. Supreme Court Justice David Prosser and Assistant Attorney General JoAnne Kloppenburg have been dueling it out since their April 5 election. Currently, 71 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have been certified but Waukesha County – where County Clerk Kathy Nickolaus has been under attack for election practices, irregularities and misconduct stemming from the City of Brookfield mishap – has been granted an extension until May 26. But that is not why we have included this article. Please read on ...



Questions were raised about the very first bag of ballots to be counted from the Town of Brookfield – not to be confused with the infamous City of Brookfield. As recount officials compared a seal on a ballot bag with the number recorded by a town election inspector who prepared the paperwork (i.e., Poll Book) on election night, the numbers didn't match. Does this sound familiar?

"What a great way to start," bemoaned one recount official. Fortunately, observers from the campaigns of Prosser and Kloppenburg both agreed that the error seemed to be in the inspector miswriting a "2" instead of a "3." Luckily, the numbers on the attached ballot bag certificate and the seal used on the bag did match. Happily, both sides and the Board of Canvassers agreed that the bag should be opened and the votes counted.

Now, do you see why Howard and Jackie stress that ALL inspectors need to be involved at closing? Hopefully, one of the five or so inspectors will catch a typo like this. We're just glad it didn't happen to us in such a landmark election!

Unemployed Poll Workers

According to the *Baxter Bulletin*, the Baxter County [Arkansas] Election Commission grappled with the issue of unemployment status after six claims for unemployment compensation were filed with the state using employment as a poll worker as the basis for their claims. Commission Chairman Robert Bodenhamer objected to the claims because, he said, the nature of the work as a poll worker is temporary and none were hired with any expectation for continued employment. Kimberly Friedman, a spokesman for the Arkansas Department of Workforce Security, hastened to add that individuals seeking unemployment compensation on the basis of poll work is a futile effort. We're confident our poll workers are a bit more sensible than Arkansas'.

The Official Canvass

Nearly 11,400 ballots were cast at City of Ann Arbor precincts during the WISD special election on May 3. With 95,823 registered voters in the City, turnout was just under 12% – the best school-related election turnout since June 1993 when 12,180 ballots were cast.

Aside from the AVCBs, Slauson Middle School [5-04,05] was the busiest precinct based on ballots cast per worker and total ballots cast (646). The average time precincts returned

May 3 WISD Election						
	Ballots	Poll Wrks.	Ballots/ Wrk.	End Time	City Precincts	
Pct. AV #1	753	4.0	188.3	9:35 PM	Justice Center Building	
Pct. AV #2	749	4.0	187.3	9:26 PM	Justice Center Building	
Pct. AV #3	439	4.0	109.8	9:11 PM	Justice Center Building	
5-04,05	646	6.0	107.7	9:47 PM	Slauson Middle School	
3-04,07	556	6.0	92.7	9:55 PM	Allen School	
3-03	532	6.0	88.7	9:37 PM	Tappan Middle School	
1-09,2-06	530	6.0	88.3	9:48 PM	Clague Middle School	
5-11	489	6.0	81.5	8:50 PM	Forsythe Middle School	
2-03,04	406	5.0	81.2	9:17 PM	Angell School	
5-06	318	4.0	79.5	9:02 PM	Eberw hite School	
5-02	317	4.0	79.3	9:40 PM	Bach School	
4-07,5-07	466	6.0	77.7	10:00 PM	Dickens School	
5-09	387	5.0	77.4	10:36 PM	Haisley School	
1-08	322	5.0	64.4	9:26 PM	Skyline High School	
4-04,08	381	6.0	63.5	9:15 PM	Pioneer High School	
4-09	352	6.0	58.7	9:18 PM	Law ton School	
3-06,09	290	5.0	58.0	9:04 PM	Scarlett Middle School	
3-08	287	5.0	57.4	9:00 PM	Pittsfield School	
2-09	284	5.0	56.8	10:15 PM	Thurston School	
2-05	279	5.0	55.8	10:07 PM	Ann Arbor Assembly of God	
4-06	271	5.0	54.2	9:42 PM	Cobblestone Farm	
1-10	265	5.0	53.0	9:45 PM	Arrowood Hills Community Ctr.	
5-10	299	6.0	49.8	9:13 PM	Abbot School	
2-08	216	5.0	43.2	9:14 PM	St. Paul's Lutheran School	
1-05,06	249	6.0	41.5	9:00 PM	Northside School	
5-08	199	5.0	39.8	9:44 PM	Lakewood School	
5-03	146	4.0	36.5	9:34 PM	Second Baptist Church	
2-07	207	6.0	34.5	9:18 PM	King School	
4-03	157	5.0	31.4	9:56 PM	U-M Coliseum	
4-05	153	5.0	30.6	9:40 PM	Temple Beth Emeth/St.Clare Church	
3-05	126	5.0	25.2	9:54 PM	University Townhouse Center	
1-04	95	5.0	19.0	9:25 PM	Community Center	
2-01	74	5.0	14.8	9:29 PM	Northwood Community Center	
3-01,02	55	5.0	11.0	9:51 PM	Michigan League	
5-01	34	4.0	8.5	9:10 PM	Ann Arbor Distric Library - Mair	
4-02	14	4.0	3.5	9:15 PM	Mary Street Polling Place	
1-01,02	15	5.0	3.0	8:59 PM	Michigan Union	
1-03	12	5.0	2.4	9:31 PM	Community High School	
1-07	12	5.0	2.4	9:30 PM	Pierpont Commons	
4-01	6	4.0	1.5	9:05 PM	Michigan Union	
2-02	1	5.0	0.2	9:51 PM	Palmer Commons	
CITY	11,389	207	55.0	9:31 PM		

their documents to City Hall was just after 9:30PM – apparently an early night to bed for all ☺! The AVCBs really improved their processing technique. Considering AVCB #1 and #2 processed the most ballots (even per worker), they finished their day well before some of the smallest precincts. Way to go AVCB ☺!

WISD Millage (City voters)			
Yes	10,096	88.7	
No	1,286	11.3	
WISD Millage (County minus City)			
Yes	17,166	71.3	
No	6,917	28.7	

On the Lighter Side . . .

