

Senate Majority Leader and Chair Rob Wagner and Rules Committee Members,

I oppose SB249 and SB251

Thank you for hearing from me to offer testimony from a different point of view, that as of an elections observer. I have observed elections since 2008 in Multnomah County.

I am not complaining about any election directors or their work in processing ballots. I thank them for their service to our counties and state. Instead I want to point out that there is no reason to subject ballot to mischief or disclosure ahead of election day.

In 2008, I was present in the Multnomah County prior to election day when ballots were being processed. I noted that election workers had one color of lanyards, contracts had a different color and observers still had another color. I observed a contractor in all black uniform carrying a duffel bag with a box impressing an impression of the same size into the cloth bag. The box was the same size as the boxes that were used to store ballots. He was in the basement near the "green room". He was not required to have a minder with him. Instead he was free to roam around the building. I asked minder who and why he was in the basement. The answer was that he was a window washer. I did not observe any window washing equipment in his possession. There were no windows in the basement that I could see. He was headed toward the open door of the green room that stored the ballots. There was no guard present. I was told everything was ok, nothing was amiss. My complain went unanswered.

I wanted to point out that though the election workers are doing every thing correctly that there are people who would like to manipulate our election. There is no reason worth putting our ballots at risk to be manipulated by being changed out for some other ballot or for early disclosure. Once ballots are out of the envelopes they are much more vulnerable.

My second experience was in 2010. I wanted to relate was that while on my way to the basement where the election board members were processing ballots. The minder I was assigned to watch me told me that though he was not supposed to tell me who was winning the Governors race, that a doctor not a basketball player would be winning the election. While that is not an actual tally of the election it is very common for these workers to have a good idea of who is winning and to communicate information, despite their oath not to do so. The results are highly sought information to have in the election process. When you have over a hundred people who have that kind of information, good luck on keeping it secret even though they are under contract. The minder didn't think he was technically compromising his oath. But he was eager to tell me that he had the information though I did not ask for nor solicit the information in any way. In fact i thought I can't believe you are really telling me this information when I am hear to see that you are following the law.

I reported both of these experiences at the time to Christopher Sample, whom I was charged to address my complaints. Mr. Sample reports directly to Tim Scott.

Please do not subject our ballot to additional opportunity for manipulation or disclosure by opening that envelopes and processing these ballot earlier than what is already in the law. The 7 days in the law already are far to long to allow mischief to occur.

Thank you,
Janice Dysinger