



OCTOBER 26, 2021 FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL ELECTION CONCERNS OVERVIEW

For such a small election (7,400 votes), the October 26, 2021 Franklin, Tennessee municipal election had a number of problems calling into question the integrity of the election process in Williamson County.

The scarcity of information from election officials regarding the follow-up investigation further raises concerns that public officials have not taken this matter seriously, or are purposefully obscuring known problems in hopes the public will move on from this issue. [Tennessee Voters for Election Integrity](#) has uncovered a number of concerns and questions at the heart of election integrity in Williamson County that have yet to be addressed despite being directed to the various election-related entities and officials. They include:

- **Machines running unknown software:** After-the-fact learned 19 of 20 election tabulators (in early, absentee, election-day voting) were running different software than version demonstrated to candidates during machine inspection September 28, 2021. In our judgement, this rendered the inspection meaningless. To date, no explanation has been offered as to how, why, or by whom this occurred, despite repeated questions to Williamson County and state election officials. Some details:
 - The equipment showed one software; Would not open machines; Connectivity? No answer given.
 - WCEC scanner tapes affirm there was a mixture of two software in an integrated system.
 - WCEC certified election on 11/9 despite knowing we had a critical question in writing urging delay.
- **Election machines stopped counting votes during election day:** In three Franklin vote centers, both scanner/tabulator machines produced end-of-day tape reconciliation reports that seriously undercounted the number of ballots actually cast. To date, no explanation has been offered as to how or why this occurred, despite repeated questions to Williamson County and state election officials. Some details:
 - Election artifacts moved 11/9 from WCEC to Nashville by TN Election Coord to provide cover WCEC.
 - WCEC lawyer placed a gag order on WCEC election officials in talking with us.
 - Despite open records requests, Election Coord ignoring our questions about this situation.
 - Nothing has been said or done; < 3 months before new election in Williamson County.
- **Poor quality of election officer reconciliation reports:** Our group uncovered multiple, blatant, serious errors and discrepancies in election officer reconciliation reports that were signed off on by WCEC election officials, with no explanation documenting the mistakes. These are official election documents that back up electronics and should be easily readable, understandable and mathematically and factually correct. To date, no explanation has been offered as to how or why this occurred, nor has any remediation strategy been discussed for future elections. Some details:
 - Most machine certification reports, BMD/Spoiled ballots forms report inaccurate numbers.
 - No report re: applications to vote & no report of this discrepancy despite TCA 2-7-114(c)(2).
 - Totals don't agree; some forms unsigned, unexplainable; addition errors, bad math.
 - Yet all approved by Williamson County election officials as acceptable.
- **Incomplete open records request responses:** Our group has engaged both the Williamson County Election Commission (WCEC) and the Tennessee Secretary of State offices for answers to a litany of questions raised by the issues noted above, as well as several other significant mechanical and chain-of-custody concerns. This has resulted in incomplete responses requiring considerable follow-up. In many cases, we are still awaiting answers that appear not to be forthcoming. Some details:
 - Not given chain of custody documents to unsealed scanner ballot bins identified at start of audit.
 - Inspection also confirmed the Results, Tally & Reporting system is, indeed, a huge concern. Per Dominion manual and WCEC employ confirmation, system allows for mass changing of votes by hand

- downstream from precinct. Plus has internet connectivity. Have informed WCEC, TN State Election Commission, Hargett and Goins multiple times – No commitment to review or take action.
- No answer about clarifying TCA 2-8-108 retention of paper, electronic artifacts; Asked multiple times.
 - Ignoring questions that should concern election officials; no curiosity from them or legislators.
- **Lack of transparency:** Our group has engaged WCEC since election night. Since November 9, 2021, the investigation triggered by these problems has been delegated to a nebulous state “task force” for which neither the WCEC nor Secretary of State will provide information. No answers given about this task force, its participants, their selection, their mission, process, reports, findings, etc. Some details:
 - Both WCEC and SoS have refused some documents and almost all questions about these problems.
 - Requested: Poll worker glitch assessment documents; Dominion written report about the problems.
 - If we can't get answers from these highest state/county officials, where can we turn?

Imagine if this had been a presidential or Congressional election? The results would be disastrous.

Our group and other Williamson County citizens are increasingly concerned the issues noted with equipment, processes, people and training have not been considered, much less addressed by appointed government officials. This sense of concern is growing exponentially as we approach county primary elections beginning in two months. We believe it imperative that appropriate and satisfactory remediation strategies be developed, explained and implemented with citizen involvement immediately in a transparent manner so as to return citizen trust in Williamson County elections.

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