

TROUBLING REPORTS OF MISSING BALLOTS

REPORTS OF BALLOTS MISSING BUT LATER FOUND IN DULUTH, OLMSTED COUNTY, ROBBINSDALE

Duluth: 74 Ballots Went Missing, Later Found In A Warehouse. On Saturday, Northland News reported, “Yesterday in St. Louis County ballot counters discovered 74 ballots missing from Duluth’s Precinct 12. The missing ballots were later found in a locked counting machine inside a locked west end warehouse.” The Star Tribune and Associated Press reported, “All the ballots, some for Franken and some for Coleman, were there; campaign observers said they were satisfied it was an honest mistake, and none of the votes was challenged.” [Northland News Center, [11/22/08](#); Star Tribune/Associated Press, [11/21/08](#)]

Olmsted County: 40 Ballots Went Missing, Later Found. On Thursday, the Rochester Post-Bulletin reported, “But those long, paint-drying periods of the recount could be broken up by moments of hair-raising tension, as when election officials became aware that 40 ballots were missing from one precinct. Suddenly, a clutch of tense expressions and worried looks -- as well as county election officials and Coleman and Franken representatives -- gathered around the unlucky table, as if a bad bet had been placed on a roulette wheel. Eventually, the missing ballots were found. They had been ‘write-in ballots’ separated from the main pile, put in a supply box, and locked up in the elections room at the city-county Government Center, where they were later retrieved, officials said. Krupski attributed the mistake to simple human error on election night.” [Rochester Post-Bulletin, [11/20/08](#)]

Non-Partisan Watchdog Group Reported 243 Ballots Went Missing; Were Later Found In Robbinsdale. On Thursday, the Center for Election Integrity MN reported, “The observer reports that Ward 1 in Robbinsdale is a couple hundred ballots short. It appears Franken is missing about 143 votes and Coleman is missing about 100 votes. Officials are not sure of the reason. Possible theories include that a box was mislabeled or that there are missing absentee ballots. Officials are working to solve the issue.” Later, CEIM reported, “The observer reports that the ballots have been located. The observer reports that the ballots were in a secure location in the building, in a box mark ‘unvoted ballots’; the missing ballots are reported to have been on top of a pile of unvoted ballots.” [CEIM Blog, [11/20/08](#); CEIM Blog, [11/20/08](#)]

... The Only Problem: Unused Ballots Had Gotten Mixed In With The Used Ballots And Were Sorted Out BEFORE The Box Was Brought To The Counting Table; Count Only Came “Very Close To The Election Night Numbers.” Later in the day on Thursday, CEIM added to their report on the missing Robbinsdale Ballots, writing, “The observer reports that the officials then looked in the vault and found a box labeled ‘unused ballots’. The observer learned the following through a secondary source: the box had some unused ballots as well as the missing Ward 1 ballots. By the time the ballots were brought to the counting room, the unused ballots had already been removed. The count, including the missing box, came up very close to the election night numbers.” [CEIM Blog, [11/20/08](#)]

STATEWIDE REPORTS OF BALLOTS STILL MISSING IN ST. PAUL, DULUTH, COON RAPIDS, HERMANTOWN, CRYSTAL, HOPKINS, BERLIN, APPLE VALLEY AND CHISAGO COUNTY

Star Tribune/Associated Press: Numerous Counties Have Reported Missing Ballots. On Friday, the Star Tribune and Associated Press reported, “The wear and tear of the state’s U.S. Senate recount began to show Friday, as some counties reported missing ballots and a rising number of challenged ballots frayed nerves among counters and monitors alike.” [Star Tribune/Associated Press, [11/21/08](#)]

St. Paul: Seven Ballots Missing In A Franken Precinct. On Monday, the Star Tribune's "The Big Question" blog reported "A discrepancy over the number of ballots in a box and the number recorded on a computer tape from Election Day prompted a bit of controversy in Ramsey County. There were seven fewer ballots in the box from St. Paul's Ward Five/Precinct Eight than recorded on Nov. 4. Election judges counted the ballots three times before resealing the box amid protests from the Franken observers. Ramsey County Elections Manager Joe Mansky said it's possible election judges in the precinct, located on the northern edge of St. Paul bordering Maplewood, might have inadvertently run some ballots through twice. Franken won the precinct, so his forces lodged a protest. Mansky said they can only count what is in the box, and suggested Franken officials take the matter to court if they think something unfair has occurred." [Star Tribune, "The Big Question," [11/24/08](#)]

Duluth: "Several Duplicate Ballots Were Discovered Missing." On Saturday, the Star Tribune reported, "Several duplicate ballots were discovered missing Saturday from envelopes turned in by Duluth's Precinct 18. Officials decided to delay completing the count until all other Duluth precincts were counted, to see if the paperwork turns up." On Monday, the Star Tribune's "The Big Question" blog added, "The precinct's packet had originals, but not enough corresponding duplicates. Paul Tynjala, the county's director of elections, said he checked with Duluth election officials and learned that the busy, downtown-area precinct was short-handed on election night, and things got even more hectic when one of the harried election judges left early. St. Louis County officials decided to delay completing the count of the precinct until all other Duluth precincts are counted, to see if any of the missing paperwork turns up. If it doesn't, the best discernable totals from the precinct will be submitted to the Secretary of State along with 'incident reports' of the irregularities and what was thought to have caused them." [Star Tribune, [11/22/08](#); Star Tribune, "The Big Question," [11/24/08](#)]

Coon Rapids: Three Franken Ballots Turned Up Missing. On Saturday, the Star Tribune reported, "There were tense moments Friday in Anoka County and the Duluth area, as election officials went in search of ballots that had disappeared. Anoka County officials discovered that a Coon Rapids precinct had three fewer ballots than the voting machine printout said should be in the box. The Coon Rapids city clerk and representatives from both campaigns drove to City Hall but didn't find them. The machine printout and the hand-count of the ballots indicated that the three ballots were votes for Franken." [Star Tribune, [11/22/08](#)]

Hermantown: Four Ballots Turned Up Missing. On Saturday, the Star Tribune reported, "In St. Louis County's recount Friday morning, four ballots -- three for Coleman and one for Franken -- could not be found in a packet delivered by Hermantown's Precinct 3. County Election Director Paul Tynjala said it was hard to know why the machine count didn't match the hand-count." [Star Tribune, [11/22/08](#)]

Crystal: Two Ballots Went Missing. On Wednesday, the Star Tribune reported, "Two hours into the recount at Crystal Hall, Janet Lewis, the city clerk, spoke into a microphone about the results of the recount in Ward 4, Precinct 2. 453 votes for Sen. Norm Coleman. 629 for Al Franken. 265 ballots for other candidates or for no one at all. 'And there are two missing ballots,' she said ... Lewis speculated that the mystery might actually be the result of election judges running one or both ballots through the machines twice on Election Day, presumably because they jammed the first time. They're not supposed to do that, but it happens, Lewis said." [Star Tribune, [11/19/08](#)]

Non-Partisan Watchdog Group Reported 3 Missing Ballots In Chisago County (2 For Franken 1 For Coleman). On Wednesday, an observer for the Center for Election Integrity MN reported that in Chisago County. "One precinct has 3 ballots missing. The observer reports that the precinct is 2 votes down for Franken and 1 vote down for Coleman. After recounting everything, the 3 ballots were not

found. Officials believe the missing ballots are in another precinct that is stored in the same ballot box.” [CEIM Blog, [11/19/08](#)]

Non-Partisan Watchdog Group Reported 3 Duplicate Ballots Missing In Hopkins. On Thursday, an observer for the Center for Election Integrity MN reported that in Hopkins, “There was a dispute about what to do about 3 duplicate ballots that could not be found in Precinct 1—the election official speculated that it was because the election official forgot to mark the ballot as ‘duplicate.’ The election official is going to send the 3 ballots to the Canvassing Board with a note of explanation.” [CEIM Blog, [11/20/08](#)]

Non-Partisan Watchdog Group Reported A Missing Ballot In Berlin Township. On Thursday, an observer for the Center for Election Integrity MN reported, “Officials have finished counting five precincts. Berlin Township came up one vote short - ballots are being recounted and checked.” [CEIM Blog, [11/20/08](#)]

Non-Partisan Watchdog Group: Franken Campaign Had To Challenge All Of The Absentee Ballots In One Apple Valley Precinct Because There Were Missing Duplicates. On Thursday, the Center for Election MN reported, “The observer reports 45 challenges in Dakota today, 16 in one precinct (Apply Valley P-15). In this precinct, the officials could not find all of the absentee originals and there was confusion about the duplicates, so the Franken campaign challenged all the absentee ballots.” [CEIM Blog, [11/20/08](#)]

Non-Partisan Watchdog Group: “Glitch” Involving Mis-Matched Duplicate Ballots “Led To Challenges And A Lot Of Lost Time” In Ramsey County. On Friday, the Center for Election Integrity MN reported, “The observer reported one glitch involving duplicate ballots: the original and duplicate ballots could not always be matched. This led to challenges and a lot of lost time in searching through piles of ballots. The election manager and two partisan spokespersons agreed among themselves how to treat mismatches that could not be reconciled.” [CEIM Blog, [11/21/08](#)]

COLEMAN CAMPAIGN: BALLOTS MISSING

Coleman Campaign Knows Ballots Are Turning Up Missing In Various Counties And Has Said They’re Monitoring Them. On Friday, the Associated Press reported that Coleman Campaign Manager Cullen “Sheehan said they’re monitoring instances of ‘missing’ or ‘found’ ballots, where the final precinct counts don’t match the number of ballots run through the machines on Election Day.” [Associated Press, 11/21/08]