

## King County Elections

---

**From:** Egan, Bobbie

**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2006 9:29 AM

**To:** Coppersmith, Megan; Jones, Natasha

Megan, you're right, the headline does not fit the story.

The Seattle Times article is unbalanced and failed to explain why the canvassing board ultimately ruled unanimously to count these ballots. Makes you wonder if the paper purposefully omitted parts of the story. The CB ruled to count these absentee ballots dropped off at the polls because the chain of custody was documented and verified and the bags have been secure since they were handed over to King County Elections on Nov.7. Guess that part would have make the story less appealing. I think we can expect Sharon at today's canvassing board meeting and at all other meetings since only issues/anomalies are referred to the Canvassing Board and we could expect every story she writes will result in similar stories and headlines.

Perhaps our reports to the canvassing board need to include the tremendous successes and improvements we are making before any other issues are reported. I think it is also important for the canvassing board to clarify this article and their decisions. This reporter is new and unfortunately turned down several offers and suggestions to attend poll worker training. In our business every time we speak we have an chance to educate someone about the complex process and my recommendation is that we use the Canvassing Board as a forum to correct misinformation and unbalanced reporting.

I am inclined to send this email to the OSOS who is reviewing King County in this election and it is important they learn the facts since Sheryl Moss did not at the meeting.

Feel free to talk me down...

Bobbie

## Another glitch reported in handling absentee ballots in King County

By [Sharon Pian Chan](#)

Seattle Times staff reporter

King County election workers discovered at least 485 absentee ballots that were improperly stored in supply bags on election night, officials reported at a canvassing board meeting Wednesday.

At the end of Election Day, poll workers are supposed to place into blue bags all the absentee ballots that voters drop off. The blue bags are then locked with numbered security seals to ensure that ballots cannot be added after 8 p.m.

Because more voters dropped off ballots than the office had expected, all the ballots could not fit inside the

bags. Earlier this week, officials said 116 of about 550 blue bags were not properly sealed, affecting about 13,400 ballots.

On Wednesday, election officials said an additional 485 absentee ballots had been improperly returned in black supply bags, which are supposed to be used to return poll supplies such as pens and tape. Those bags, 509 of which were returned, are not locked with security seals. Not all of the returned black bags contained ballots.

The black bags were turned in to the department on election night after the polls closed and employees discovered the ballots the day after, when they opened the supply bags.

The King County Canvassing Board, which certifies the election, voted to process the ballots.

"I don't see a reason to be concerned about the timeliness or the chain of custody," said Dan Satterberg, a board member and chief of staff of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. The elections department will verify signatures on the envelopes before the ballots are counted.

*Sharon Pian Chan: 206-464-2958 or [schan@seattletimes.com](mailto:schan@seattletimes.com)*