



Secretary of State Jason Kander
**Preliminary
Election Review**
April 8, 2016

St. Louis County – 2016 Municipal Election

Background

During the 2016 municipal election, the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners (Board) failed to provide a sufficient number of ballots at their polling places, which affected approximately 63 precincts. This resulted in some voters in the affected polling places being unable to cast a

ballot at their designated polling locations on Election Day. St. Louis County election officials have taken full responsibility for the situation and cooperated in this review.

Preliminary Review and Next Steps

The Missouri Secretary of State's office immediately contacted the Board to determine what caused the insufficient number of ballots at the affected polling places on Election Day. The Board confirmed the ballot shortage occurred in polling places with precincts requiring more than one type of ballot. Such polling places may require a different number of ballots per ballot type for these precincts. For example, a polling place may require 20 ballots for one precinct and 200 for another precinct. The Board confirmed that the number and type of ballots provided to these polling places for these precincts was reversed, resulting in there being too many ballots in one style and not a sufficient amount in another style. This error did not occur in every

polling place that had multiple types of ballots.

The Board used their electronic voting machines during the March 2016 Presidential Preference Primary. Due to the proximity of time between the Presidential Preference Primary and the municipal election, the Board decided to provide paper ballots to voters in the municipal election.

On Election Day, once the Board identified the insufficient number of ballots, they contacted the vendor who provided the ballots. The vendor provided any ballot print overruns and printed additional ballots. The Board began using their on demand ballot printers. They also issued a press release

attempting to notify voters of the issue and that they could go to the Board's central voting location or return to their designated polling place once the ballots were provided.

This ballot shortage resulted in the Board seeking an order to keep the polls open. The Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, issued an order extending the voting for two hours until 9 p.m. at the affected precincts and to make provisional voting available to those qualified voters that orally affirmed that they tried to vote during regular voting hours.

Under Missouri law, Section 115.115, RSMo., the local election authority designates the polling places for each precinct within which a voter is entitled

to vote. Missouri law, Section 115.247, RSMo., further states that each local election authority is required to provide all ballots for every election within its jurisdiction.

The Board has confirmed that they are reviewing their internal process to determine what caused insufficient numbers of ballots in the affected polling places.

In the coming weeks, the Secretary of State's Office will remain in contact with the Board to monitor the progress of their internal review. Once the Board has determined the cause, the Secretary of State's Office will work with the Board to identify the steps necessary for them to implement to ensure that they do not allow this to happen again.