



**Pennsylvania  
Election  
Integrity  
Task Force**  
PAFairElections.com

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# Precinct Reconciliation

**One Ballot for One Qualified Elector**

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## **§ 1222. SURE SYSTEM** (EXCERPTS)

**(c) Requirements.**-The SURE system shall be developed as a single, uniform integrated computer system...The SURE system shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:

- (1) Contain a database of all registered electors in this Commonwealth.
- 13) Permit the **timely printing and transmission by commissions of district registers** and all other information contained in the system as may be necessary for the operation of the polling places on election days.

**(20) Identify registered electors who vote in an election and the method by which their ballots were cast.**

**(e) Implementation.**-The department shall implement the SURE system as soon as possible. Upon being connected, **each commission shall be required to use the SURE system as its general register**.

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**SURE System** = Statewide, Every County

**General Register** = All Registered Voters

**District** = Precinct

**District Register** = Precinct Poll Book

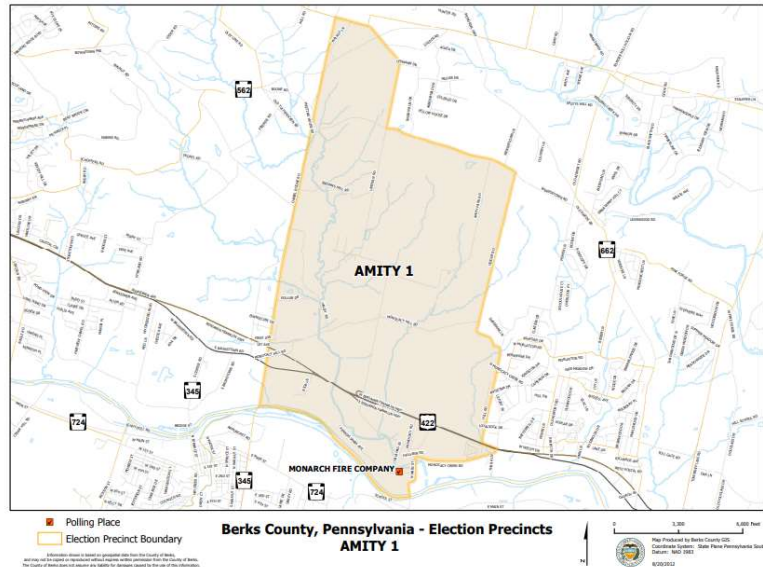
**Commission** = County Board of Elections

**§1222. SURE (computer system) must identify registered voters who vote in an election and the method by which their ballots were cast**

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## A Precinct is a Geographic Area

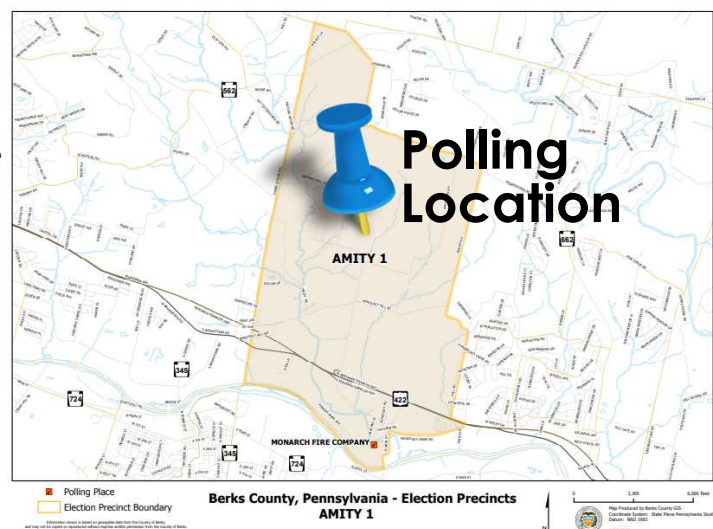
Every registered voter is assigned a precinct based on their **residential address**.



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## A Precinct is a Geographic Area

Most precincts have one polling location. But some precincts are split into more than one polling location. Smaller precincts might be combined into a single polling location.



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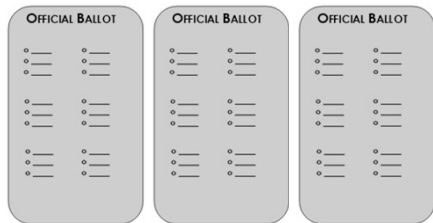
**§ 3154 ~ COMPUTATION OF RETURNS AND CERTIFICATION**

\*If, upon consideration by said return board of the returns before it from **any election district** and the certificates aforesaid, it shall appear that **the total vote returned** for any candidate or candidates for the same office ...exceeds the number of registered or enrolled electors in said election district or **exceeds the total number of persons who voted in said election district ... such excess shall be deemed a discrepancy and palpable error**, and shall be investigated by the return board, and no votes shall be recorded from such district until such investigation shall be had...

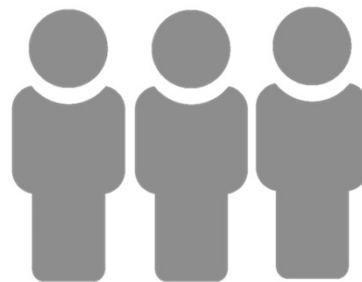
\*Excerpt – Full Section Available Online or In Supplemental Document

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**THE NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST  
CANNOT EXCEED  
THE NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO VOTED**



**Ballots Cast** are recorded on Official Results



**Voters who voted** are recorded in SURE System

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§ 3154

# PA Law Requires Precinct Reconciliation

## Example: Precinct A

500 Registered Voters

How many **ballots cast** in Precinct A?

How many **voters voted** in Precinct A?

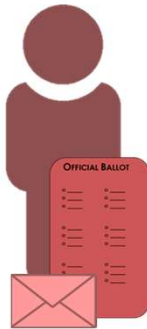
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## In Pennsylvania, there are 4 methods of voting.

In-Person



Provisional



Absentee



Mail



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## Voters in Precinct A Vote by Various Methods

The infographic illustrates four voting methods: In-Person (blue), Provisional (red), Absentee (green), and Mail (yellow). Each method is represented by a stylized voter icon holding a ballot and a corresponding pushpin. A central map of Precinct A shows the distribution of these pushpins across the neighborhood streets, including Los Alamos Ct, E Charles St, E Madison St, E Blue Sage Rd, E Hoover St, and E 1st St.

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## In-Person Ballots

On Election Day, **200 people from Precinct A chose to vote in person** at the polling place. These voters sign the poll book, and their names are recorded on the Numbered List of Voters.

The illustration shows eight blue silhouettes of people, each holding a blue ballot labeled "OFFICIAL BALLOT".

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# Election Day In-Person Voting

When the polling place in **Precinct A** closes, the election officials reconcile the in-person voters and in-person ballots by comparing:

**Signatures in  
Poll Books**



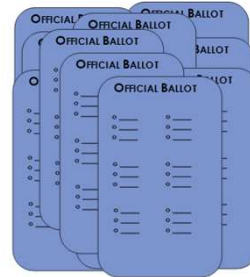
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**Numbered  
List of Voters**

Numbered List	
1. Name	17. Name
2. Name	18. Name
3. Name	19. Name
4. Name	20. Name
5. Name	21. Name
6. Name	22. Name
7. Name	23. Name
8. Name	24. Name
9. Name	25. Name
10. Name	26. Name
11. Name	27. Name
12. Name	28. Name
13. Name	29. Name
14. Name	30. Name
15. Name	31. Name
16. Name	32. Name

=

**Ballots Cast**



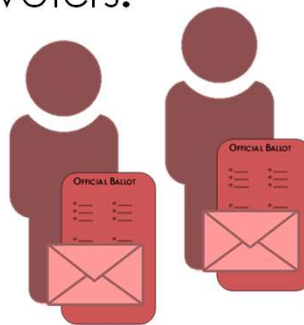
**§3031.13** Requires polling place Election Day Reconciliation

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## Provisional Ballots

On Election Day, 2 people from Precinct A had to cast a provisional ballot that will be reviewed by the Board of Elections prior to certification.

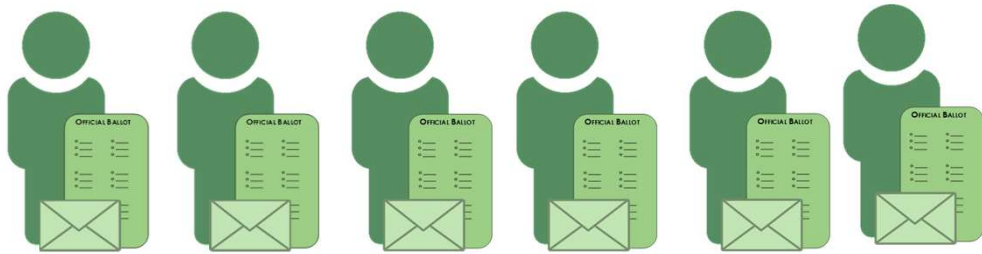
These voters did not sign the Poll Book and are not on the Numbered List of Voters.



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## Absentee Ballots

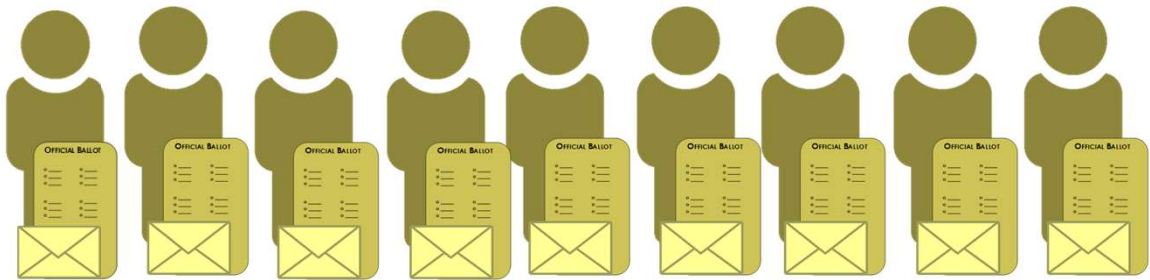
During the voting period, **24 absentee ballots** from Precinct A are returned to the county.



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## Mail Ballots

During the voting period, **175 no excuse mail ballots** from Precinct A are returned to the county.



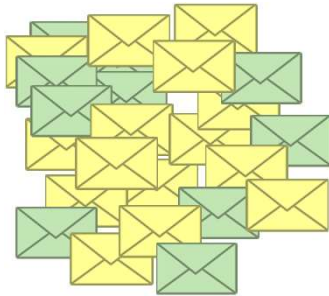
23



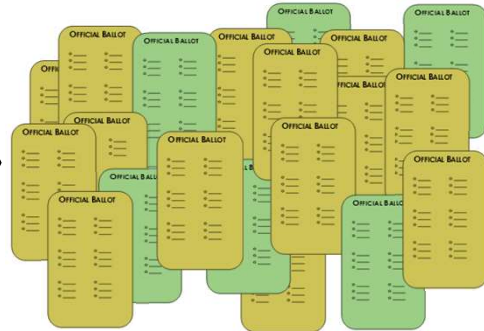
# Central Tabulation

Envelope Barcodes Scanned into SURE Prior to Opening and Removing the Ballots

Ballots Tabulated on Central Tabulators with other AB and MB throughout the day



Ballots are removed from envelopes and cannot be linked back to a voter



Envelopes have voter info

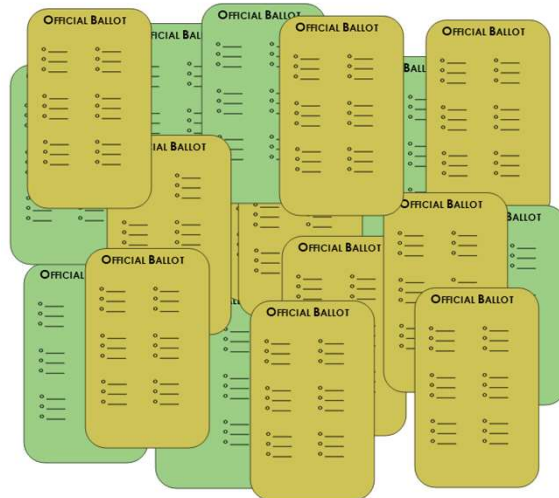
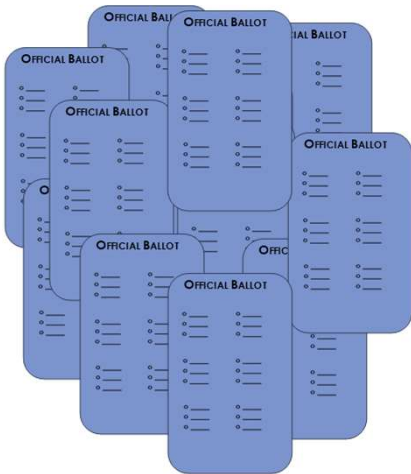
Ballots have no voter info

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# Once Cast – All Ballots are Anonymous

Tabulated/Counted In the Polling Place with Voter Present

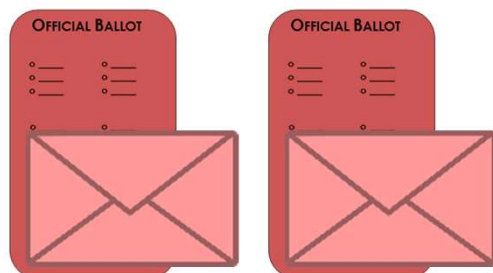
Tabulated/Counted Outside of the Polling Place – No Voters Present



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## Provisional Ballots

The Board of Elections must examine all Provisional Ballots and determine if the ballots will be counted. They must be certain that the voter did not vote by any other method. One vote for one qualified elector.

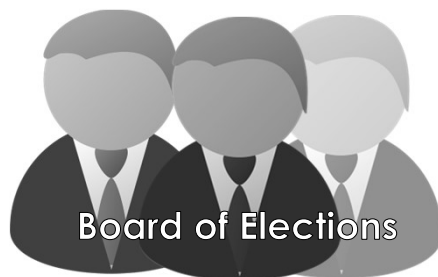


How can they do this?

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## Voter ID: 12345 Name: John Smith

John Smith put his **Absentee Ballot** in a USPS mailbox only a few days before the election. He was concerned that maybe it wouldn't arrive on time, so Bob went to Precinct A and voted on a **Provisional Ballot**.



**BOE Checks the SURE System to see if John Smith #12345 returned another ballot**



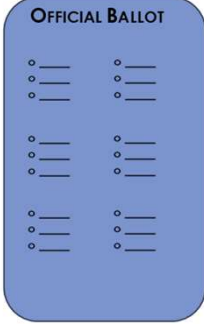
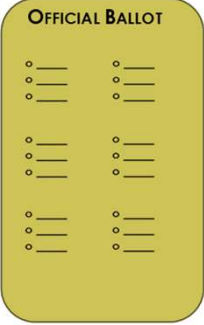
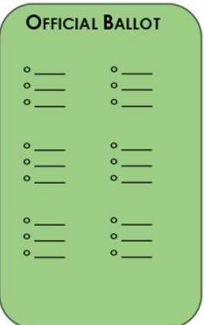
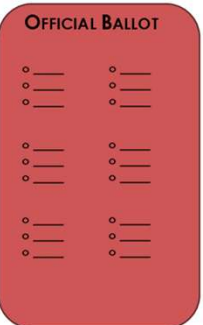
**John's Absentee Ballot was received and tabulated. So, the Provisional Ballot will be rejected.**

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## Official Canvass




County election board or Board of Elections reviews and reconciles the unofficial elections results for each individual precinct.

**Precinct A  
400 Ballots  
Cast**

			
<b>200</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>



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## With my checking account, there are three ways I can spend money.

		
<b>Paper Checks</b>	<b>Debit Card</b>	<b>Electronic Transfer</b>



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**I have \$300 in my checking account.**

	<p><b>Debit Card Transactions</b> \$24.00</p>	<p><b>Balance: \$300.00</b>  <span style="color: orange;">-\$175.00</span>  <span style="color: green;">-\$24.00</span></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
	<p><b>Electronic Transfers</b> \$175.00</p>	<p><b>If this is my spending, what is my account balance?</b></p>

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**I have \$300 in my checking account.**

	<p><b>Check #101</b> 75.00</p>	<p><b>Balance: \$300.00</b>  <span style="color: blue;">-\$75.00</span>  <span style="color: blue;">-\$28.00</span></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
	<p><b>Check #102</b> \$28.00</p>	<p><b>If this is my spending, what is my account balance?</b></p>

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But I only have  
one account.  
I only have \$300.  
At some point, I  
have to reconcile  
all three types of  
spending together.



Starting Balance: \$300.00

Electronic -\$175.00

Debit Card -\$24.00

Check -\$75.00

Check -\$28.00

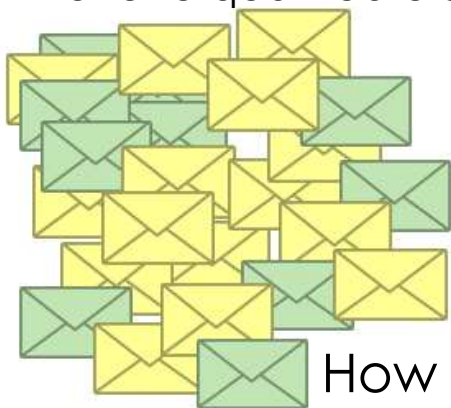
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Overdrawn -2.00

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## Precinct Reconciliation

The Board of Elections must reconcile the **ballots cast** to the number of **voters who voted**. One vote for one qualified elector.



How do we know how many  
**voters voted** in the precinct?

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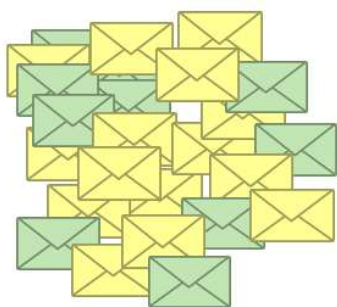


GUIDANCE CONCERNING EXAMINATION OF ABSENTEE AND  
MAIL-IN BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPES

Date: September 11, 2020

Version: 1.0

<https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/>



“County boards of elections should record the receipt of absentee and mail ballots **daily in the SURE system**. To record a ballot as returned, the staff should scan the correspondence ID barcode on the outside of the envelope.”

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## § 1402(F) EXAMINATION

**Immediately** following each election, the commission shall cause each **district register** to be examined.



Paper Poll Books and ePoll Books should have record of every person who voted in person

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## §1222. SURE (computer system) must identify registered voters who vote in an election and the method by which their ballots were cast

**Mail** and **Absentee** Ballots MUST be scanned into the SURE System before the envelope can even be opened. So, **ALL Mail and Absentee Voters** must have a vote method in **SURE** before a ballot was even accepted from the voter.

**In-Person voters** MUST sign the **poll book** before they cast a ballot. Poll books must be examined immediately (§ 1402(f)) following an election. Paper poll books need to be “binked” into **SURE**.

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## Precinct Reconciliation

At some point, they must reconcile all voters in one list together.

**All Vote Methods**  
**All Voters who Voted**



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## Paper Poll Book Binking Delays

Some counties say that they cannot get all poll book signatures binked into SURE prior to final canvass and certification.

As an alternative to the General Register, the Election Director could **provide the Commissioners with a printed list of the name and voter ID number of every person who voted from each precinct** – sorted alphabetically. The commissioners can review the number of unique people on the alphabetical list and compare that to the number of ballots cast in each precinct. The alphabetical sorting will allow them to identify any names that appear more than one time. Any discrepancies can be investigated prior to certification.

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## No System is Perfect

**Precinct Reconciliation helps to ensure one ballot for one qualified elector.**



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## Must Be Prior to Certification

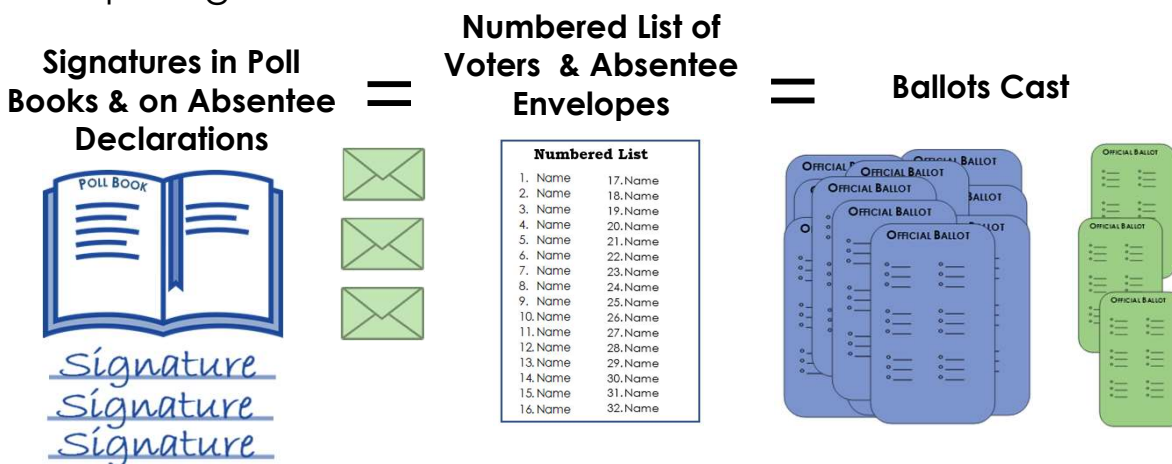
BoE cannot wait until December or January because §3154 says:

If the total number of ballots cast exceeds the total number of persons who voted in a precinct ... *“such excess shall be deemed a discrepancy and palpable error, and **shall be investigated** by the return board, and **no votes shall be recorded** from such district until such investigation shall be had”*

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## This is an issue created by Act 77

Prior to Act 77, when polling place in **Precinct A** closed, the election officials reconciled the voters and ballots by comparing:



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## Counties Cannot Ignore the Problem


Must reconcile every precinct using the General Register which is the SURE System

**OR**

Produce a printed, paper list of every unique person and voter ID who participated.  
Commissioners can and should request this prior to certification.

**§3154 Requires Precinct Reconciliation prior to Certification**

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THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 21, 2020

**Former Philadelphia Judge of Elections Convicted of Conspiring to Violate Civil Rights and Bribery**

A former Judge of Elections has been convicted for his role in accepting bribes to cast fraudulent ballots and certifying false voting results during the 2014, 2015, and 2016 primary elections in Philadelphia.

Domenick J. Demuro, 73, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty during a sealed proceeding on March 16, 2020, before U.S. District Judge Paul S. Diamond to conspiring to deprive persons of civil rights, and using interstate facilities in aid of bribery. The court unsealed the matter today. Sentencing is scheduled for June 30, 2020.

During his guilty plea hearing, Demuro admitted that while serving as an elected municipal Judge of Elections, he accepted bribes in the form of money and other things of value in exchange for adding ballots to increase the vote totals for certain candidates on the voting machines in his jurisdiction and for certifying tallies of all the ballots, including the fraudulent ballots. Demuro further admitted that a local political consultant gave him directions and paid him money to add votes for candidates supported by the consultant, including candidates for judicial office whose campaigns actually hired the consultant, and other candidates for various federal, state and local elective offices preferred by that consultant for a variety of reasons. Demuro also admitted that the votes he added in exchange for payments by the political consultant increased the number of votes fraudulently recorded and tallied for the consultant's clients and preferred candidates, thereby diluting the ballots cast by actual voters.

Reconciliation  
is the only  
way to ensure  
one and only  
one vote for  
every legal  
voter

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## Counties Cannot Ignore the Problem

Precinct Reconciliation Ensures:

- All voters who participate are given credit for the participation
- Commissioners do not certify results from a precinct with **more ballots than voters**
- No voters are incorrectly marked as inactive.

**It will give the public confidence that the Commissioners addressed the issues concerning more ballots than voters in the general register.**