

Incident with Doors at CBE Early Voting Site

Date of incident: February 24, 2024

SUMMARY: There is no evidence that anyone tampered with ballots, cabinets or machinery that was all separately and appropriately secured inside the Board of Elections offices.

8:00 a.m. – Automated doors unlocked at the CBE Early Voting Site when the site was closed. A scheduling error with the host company occurred that caused the doors to unlock.

10:00 a.m. – A concerned citizen notified the Board of Elections Office that the doors were unlocked. A staff member checked, and the doors were unlocked. She notified me, Sharon Main, Elections Director. I immediately notified Rowan County IT Dept. and they contacted the door lock host company to get the doors locked back. In the meantime, I instructed staff to set the manual locking feature on the doors, but it would not work. The staff member stayed in the early voting site and monitored the doors. She confirmed everything was secure and nothing was missing.

12:01 noon - The doors were locked.

Staff had followed daily procedures to secure equipment and ballots at closing on Friday, which included locking interior doors, locking cabinets, and securing machinery with tamper-proof seal.

- Ballots were all stored and locked in cabinets. All cabinets were still locked. The room with ballots was still locked. There was no indication that anyone had tampered with ballots, cabinets, or machinery.
- Laptops were logged off and require two passwords to access. There were no indications of any tampering with computers. A check of the voter system confirmed no voter records were made on any machine on Saturday.
- The DS200 tabulator had been locked and sealed. Sharon was present at opening Monday morning. The DS200 total was 1473 on Friday at closing and I was able to confirm that it was still 1473 at opening.

The CBE Early Voting site is equipped with a security camera. Sunday, February 25, 2024 security footage was reviewed and the following reported:

- No activity was detected prior to 9:05 a.m.
- At 9:05 a.m., someone was at the front door and opened it, but did NOT enter.
- At 9:29 a.m., someone approached the front door, opened it, but did NOT enter.
- At 9:55 a.m., someone approached the front door, opened it, took a step in, and then immediately exited.
- At 9:57 a.m., someone approached the front door, opened it, but did NOT enter.
- At 10:02 a.m., staff member from the Board of Elections entered the door and then checked the other door from inside and proceeded to try locking the doors manually.

The doors remained locked until Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. when the site re-opened for business.

I am thankful we have good citizens that realized the area was not staffed and lights were off and acted and responded appropriately. It was a citizen who came to the main office and reported the open doors at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. The door schedule has been checked for accuracy for the remainder of this election and no further issues will occur.