Montana Election Observation Initiative Issues Preliminary Findings on Missoula County's Primary Election

June 10, 2024

In a preliminary statement released todaythe Montana Election Observation Initiative (MEOI) announced the successful conclusion of a pilot program to observe Missoula County's June 4, 2024, primary election process. aun + \ è e Ù ô Ù Í 2-î1Ù:ôe⁻: 2ề Pôô2

MEOI's nonpartisan election observers monitored the testing of voting equipmetions in the state of Montana," sa processing, tabulation, and in-person voting onelection day in Missoula County it should be stated forms to gather standardized information. The report covers observations from 19 out 21 voting seneral election locations in the county gathered by 22 MEOI observers.

The program's objective was to test observation methodologies and approaches and approaches and approaches and approaches and approaches are publicly posted. 2 U e • : U + : è Í e : 2 \ ß Ù a (i I

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> transparent environment that was we said MEOI CoChair Geraldine Custe }: $e \circ X \dot{U} \dot{e} : 2 \pm \hat{i} \circ 2 \dot{e} \circ \dot{U} \dot{I} 2 \hat{i} \dot{U}$

> MEOI election observation around th tabulation of provisional ballots on Ju

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For any media enquiries: X Ù e : Ù X ô W j ô \ e Ù Í 2 Ù 2 e ô X } ô • Ù • e Ù V ô plèase 2 Í 2 Ù : X Ù @ contact: montana@cartercenter.org

Montana Election Observation Initiative

Key Findings and Observations of In-Person Voting on Election Day

MEOI observers reported thatri-person voting on June 4 was generally wetbonducted. Observers noted some minor procedural irregularities –but nothing undermining the overall integrity of the election process. Polls openedon time, and v: e 2 $\dot{U} \cdot \dot{I} \cdot \dot{U}$: X î ô X + ... $\dot{U} \cdot \dot{I} 2 \hat{I} \cdot \dot{U} \hat{o}^-$ è ô 2 e. The election environment was free of harassmentintimidation, attempted interference, and manipulation. MEOI observers eported that established electoral procedures were by and large respected

MEOlobservers noted that election judges in some voting locations provided inconsistent guidance to previously unregistered voters who wished to register to vote and cast a ballot in a voting location on election day. In some places, voters were told they could complete a voter registration form in the voting location and vote provisionally ln others, they were told that they would need to register $\hat{I} \in \hat{U} = \hat{O} \hat{U}$: $j 2 e \dots \hat{U} (+ \hat{O} \hat{e} e) : 2 \setminus \hat{U} i^{-} \hat{e} \hat{O} \hat{B}$

For future elections, MEOI recommends that a \\:j+ĺÙ :j2e...Ùô+ôèe : 20 kelaterè ĺ+\ÙU+ĺèô emphasis 2Ùe ô XÙU:++Ù•:X'ô XÙïÙô equôesteons 2a bb \$btjhowî tol protectes vatets on

2 Ùô e ô XÙ e : Ù Xô \e ô XÙ e : belectes ô tolay: OX to epotatel the tolay: OX to epotatel the tolay: ... ùô+ôèe : 2Ù:⁻ è ĺ+\Ù\ :j+îÙensure that election judges are able to protecte and consistent guidance to both categories of voters.

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Opening of Polls

ô X ô Ù : æ \ ô X } ô X \ Ù \ U ô è ± è Í + + ... Ù X ô U : X e ô î Ù U : e ô 2 e Í + Ù \ \ j ô \ Ù • e Ù U X ô of the location should also be reviewed as a high priority.

" $\hat{0}$ \hat{U} 1 : \e \hat{U} 2 ± \hat{e} $\hat{1}$ 2 e \hat{U} \\j $\hat{0}$ \hat{U} e $\hat{1}$ e \hat{U} a (i I \hat{U} : æ \ $\hat{0}$ X \ \hat{U} X $\hat{0}$ U : X efform \hat{U} related to incons election judges to previously unregistered voters who wished to register to voter and cast a ballot in the voting location the same day. In some voting locations, previously unregistered voters were told that they could only complete their registration at the Missoula : j 2 e ... \hat{U} (+ $\hat{0}$ \hat{e} : 2 $\hat{0}$ th \hat{U} e $\hat{0}$ $\hat{0}$ \hat{U} In voting locations, previously unregistered voters were allowed to complete a voter registration form in the voting location and cast aprovisional ballot. In at least one voting location, MEOI observers X $\hat{0}$ U : X e $\hat{0}$ $\hat{1}$ \hat{U} $\hat{0}$ + $\hat{0}$ \hat{e} : 2 \hat{U} S $\hat{1}$ $\hat{0}$ \hat{U} U X : } $\hat{1}$ $\hat{0}$ $\hat{1}$ \hat{U} : 2 $\hat{0}$ \hat{U} 2 \expression X $\hat{0}$ \hat{U} : A $\hat{0}$ $\hat{U} \in P$ d $\hat{1}$ $\hat{0}$

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1 Í X ' ô î Ù \ U : + ô î Ù æ Í + + : e \ Ù Í 2 î Ù X ô **é**rốm2vô îeờ ballôts. Èlovet/érXdbsêrver. reports suggest that the process for retaining spoiled ballots may have varied across voting locations. In Lolo Elementary School, the observer reported that election judges placed spoiled ballots in the

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None of Montana's registered political parties (Democratic, Green, Libertarian, No Labels, and Republican) sent political party observers or poll watchers to the voting locations where MEOI observed. The only other individuals observing who were seen by MEOI observers were a member of the media at Target Range School and $\dot{U} + : \dot{e} I + \dot{U}$: $e \circ X \dot{U} I e \dot{U} e \circ \dot{U} > : X 1 \circ X \dot{U} : + \hat{i} \dot{U} < U X 2 \ \dot{U}$ Early Learning Center, who was nonitoring the process on the identication of general sector (a) $\partial y = \partial d \phi$ Any media enquiries can be directed to montana@cartercenter.org