

Affidavit of Sharon Benson

State of Alaska)
) ss.
City and Borough of Juneau)

Sharon Benson, being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and states as follows under penalty of perjury:


1. I am over the age of eighteen years, of sound mind, and competent to testify to the following facts based on personal knowledge.
2. I left Anchorage on November 9, 2010 at 11:35am to Juneau to observe ballots for Joe Miller, Senate candidate.
3. I Arrived in Juneau approximately 1 pm and was taken to hotel then to the Joe Miller campaign office at the Nugget Mall for a meeting. We were assigned our duties—some to go to Division of elections office at the Mendenhall Mall and others to 101 Mill St. (Ak. Litho Bldg.) to the observe the ballots being challenged by both camps.
4. On 11-10-10, I went to the Mendenhall Mall in the morning. I had to sign in and wear my “Republican observer” badge. I did not see any Murkowski people at this location. I was escorted by an employee to the coat rack where I had to leave my coat, purse, cell phone and lunch then to a room where they were checking information on the outside of the ballot envelope with a computer list of information such as drivers license #, social security #'s, name, dob, address, etc. I was told I had to be escorted in and out and could not wander around and sign out when I left. I worked at a table with 2 women--Connie and Carolee. There were 3 tables checking this information. I was given a computer printout but I did not have the personal info such as driver’s license #, etc. My list had the name, mailing address, physical address, district and a code such as “J” for address change I believe. I questioned the fact that some of the addresses did were not the same –physical vs. mail addresses-- as Kenai/Soldotna, Nikiski/Ninilchik/Kalifonisky and other small towns in that area –They were assumed to be OK since they were all in the same district. (IE: the way folks here assume Palmer-Wasilla is one in the same) There was also an official State of Ak. list on the wall of items for the employees to check as they reviewed the envelopes. Most of the time I was there, we had observers at each of the three tables. There was a room next to this room where a group of perhaps 6 or more women were sitting around 2 tables doing their work which at the time I did not know what that was. “Stu” was appeared to be the supervisor of the groups and I was impressed with her vigilance of the process. The next day, I was observing the group of women in the next room. I sat away from the table while they were handed ballot envelopes. One of the women would take off the perforated side, pass it to the next woman who would take it out of the envelope, then to the next women who would take it out of the sleeve the ballot was in then pass the ballot to the next women who would unfold the ballot then to the next women who would put the ballots in a sealed envelope . If a ballot was received that was a copy (I was told this happens when they run out of original ballots in the voting district) one of the women would read all the ballot information to another women who would transcribe it to a new original ballot so it would go through the voting machine. (Dist. 35J?)(I could not clearly see the transcription from my view—this process could also

have defects) I felt this process was monitored by the women at the table and also by Stu and another lady, ___?___ Thompson? who would go from table to table answering questions and reviewing the process. I felt this process went very smoothly and the ladies were well organized as many had done this before. They answered any question I had as well. I did this for a few days then started to work at the Mill Ave. location.

5. Note: One of our observers, ___?___ Bettine, bought donuts for us & the election workers and brought them in to the office. This was not allowed by Stu and had to be taken out. I felt this office was most vigilant and did their job well!
6. On 11-11-10 did the same work and watched the election workers feed ballots into the voting machine and obtained a copy of the tally of the counts.
7. On 11-12-10, I went to the Mill Ave. location and mostly observed what was going on before I started writing on the table report.
8. On 11-13-10, I worked with Carol Whelan & Dorothy Burnett from elections and Don Bremner from the Murkowski camp at table 2. I reviewed Dist. 06688-Tok, 06685-Tanana and Early Voters from Dist. 31. The Tok district had an optical scan and Dist. 31 was 1 off of the totals. I then worked with Dorothy Brevak and Kathy Baxter at table 1 on 06537, 06550, 06560, 06575, 06593-Kenny Lk. 06610-McGrath, 06625-Nickolai and 06630-Nulato. The Murkowski observer was Tor Wallen.
9. On 11-14-10, I worked with election workers Carol Whelan and Dorothy Burnett and Don Bremner from the Murkowski camp at table 2. Dist. 39-900---Alakanuk-- I made a note that some signatures looked the same. I was told by the election workers that the hand count board says poll workers are allowed to help at villages due to problems with language translation, etc. There was also 1 touch screen ballot.
10. I also reviewed questioned ballots from district 10, 2J, 2S, 93-900-Dist. 8, 8J partial, N, Dist. 18-A32, Dist. 19N and Dist. 27J. Dist. 27 J had 1 fax vote.
11. On 11-15-10, I worked with Janet O'Malley and Carol Whelan at table 2 with Murkowski observer Don Bremner. This is the day I started keeping track of various spellings of Lisa Murkowski. The following is the list I kept: Lesa, Liza, Murkonski, Muckowski, Menkooskey, Muirkooski, Menkooky, Murkaski, Murkouiski, Murkoski, Murkowsiki, Murkooki, Marhooski, 4 Murkooski, Mirkowski, Murkoski, Murkowski!. Murkaoki, and at the top of one page stating "Vote for Murkowski". I also saw Sarah Murkowski and McCowshit at one of the tables. There was also an Elsa Murkowski from Dist. 24-Anch, which I think was counted. I asked Gail if pencil was allowed and was told yes. I saw some ballots which were written in pencil, then erased and then the person voted for another individual. The absentees in Dist. 7A, 93-900-Fairbanks had Fax copies included. They were numbered consecutively and were in "Original" envelopes. I also saw "Special Advance" ballots with no candidates names printed but with a space for a write-in.
12. My other comments are:
 - a. The 5 boxes on each table were numbered 1 thru 5 or 5 thru 1. Not consistent. If you worked at another table, this could be confusing!
 - b. I was told the Review Board at the Div. of Elections was meeting on Monday to review absentee ballots but no one seemed to know when or where. My concern was if no one was there, if correct spelling was enforced.
 - c. Cameras, cell phones, drinks were not allowed in the Mill Ave. building the first few days then were allowed. Not consistent!
 - d. I observed a ballot from Dist. 12 in the envelope from Dist. 35.

Further affiant sayeth naught.

Dated this 17th day of November, 2010 in Juneau, Alaska.



Sharon Benson

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public in and for the State of Alaska this 18
day of November, 2010.



exp date 02/14/2013

