



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County

## Electoral Board

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**Eric L. Spicer**  
General Registrar/  
Director of Elections

## Central Absentee Precinct Memorandum

**To:** Eric L. Spicer, General Registrar / Director of Elections  
**CC:** Fairfax County Electoral Board  
Beth Methfessel, Clerk to the Electoral Board  
**From:** Sean T. Stewart, Deputy Registrar – Absentee Voting *STS*  
**Date:** March 8, 2024  
**RE:** Absentee by Mail Ballot Data Processing on election night for the  
March 5, 2024 Democratic and Republican Presidential Primary Elections

On election day, Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 7:40 pm, our IT team encountered a data export anomaly while processing thumb drives from the Central Absentee Precinct's DS850.

While uploading the final thumb drive containing "Election Night By Mail" ballot information, the process stopped prematurely. Electionware indicated that the drive contained information from only 1,575 ballots, while CAP tracking records indicated an expected total of 2,438.

IT manager Cord Whitehouse and I agreed to pause all CAP data processing while we investigated the issue. CAP operations supervisors and members of the scan team reviewed the machine certification log and batch tracking log to reconfirm the accuracy of the drive's ballot count. I also reviewed the machine count on the DS850. All records and count confirmed the accuracy of the expected total.

After consulting with Cord and out of an abundance of caution, all absentee by mail ballot information was cleared from our Electionware system. We completed a clean export of all "Election Night By Mail" ballot information from the DS850 onto a new thumb drive and reinitiated the upload process. At approximately 8:45 pm, Electionware indicated the upload was complete, matching the expected total of 24,056 ballots between both presidential primary elections.

All absentee by mail results reported from our Electionware system were validated against machine reports and matched. At no time were inaccurate or incomplete absentee by mail results reported on our office website or the state's election night reporting site.

All available evidence indicates that this issue was restricted to the specific thumb drive. This drive has been removed from service and will no longer be used in the data export process.

Voter Services  
Phone: 703-222-0776  
Fax: 703-324-2205  
TTY: 711 (Virginia Relay)  
Email: [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Election Administration  
Phone: 703-324-4735  
Fax: 703-324-4706  
TTY: 711 (Virginia Relay)  
Email: [elect@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:elect@fairfaxcounty.gov)

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