

PRESS RELEASE

7-19-2024

Brown County election officials have identified and are addressing a processing error where some mail ballot voters received balloting materials with mismatched outgoing and signature envelopes for the August 13 State Primary Election.

Upon learning of this error, Brown County Election officials immediately contacted the print vendor to begin an investigation to identify the cause of the error and notified the Minnesota Secretary of State's office.

Prior to the print vendor mailing the original mail balloting materials, a correction was made to the ballot file and re-sent to the printer. It was determined that the original production file loaded to print the signature envelope was not cleared out, resulting in a mismatch between some outgoing and signature envelopes due to differing presort sequencing. All ballots were correctly issued.

Out of an abundance of caution, it was decided to direct our print vendor to send replacement balloting materials to all mail ballot voters to preserve data integrity and ensure a fair election.

Mail ballot voters have been instructed to discard original balloting materials and only use replacement balloting materials. Any ballots received using original materials **WILL NOT BE COUNTED**, including any ballots that were returned prior to receiving notification and the replacement ballots. It is imperative that every vote counts, so we have set up a process for the absentee ballot board to notify any voter returning an original mail ballot reminding them that their ballot was not counted, and that they can re-vote using the replacement balloting materials.

Mail ballot voters must use the replacement ballot, signature envelope and return envelope and return their ballot to the Brown County Auditor-Treasurer's office by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, for their vote to count.

Brown County has 13 mail ballot precincts that includes the cities of Cobden, Evan and Hanska, and the townships of Albin, Cottonwood, Home, Lake Hanska, Linden, Mulligan, Prairieville, Sigel, Stark and Stately.

Brown County sincerely apologizes to the voters who have been impacted.

Kelly Hotovec
BROWN COUNTY ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR