

LAWFARE

AND THE WEAPONIZATION

OF THE MISSOURI

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE



Whither Goeth the Law

"Utilitarian law is the law of the State, of order, of business, of war, contract and crime - the law of ruthlessness, retribution and punishment. In the last 200 years, this law has uniquely dominated the Western world. It has swallowed the humane justice of humanitarian law, creating State monopolization of law-making."

"Thus, the inquisitorial or enquiry technique is gone, the adversary or accusatory procedure alone applies in our courts. The search for truth is replaced by the classification of issues and the refinement of combat. Lawfare replaces warfare and the duel is with words rather than swords."

John Carlson and Neville Yeomans, published 1975, posted 2000 at <https://www.laceweb.org.au/whi.htm>



"If they will do this to me, they will do it to you"

I have heard these words spoken by so many people who have been or are being politically persecuted, that I am not sure who to credit for the quote.

For those of us who feel we are just 'regular' people and not important enough to draw attention to ourselves, I can tell you this quote will play over and over in your mind when you find your name on a list, or on papers seeking criminal charges against you, as was my experience. I believe for anyone fighting the 'establishment' to seek the truth, it is a matter of when, not if.

Using information obtained through open records requests, and putting together the pieces of a detailed timeline, I now understand how many months, how many people, and how much effort has been put into punishing and/or silencing me and others.

There is no one too insignificant or unknown who will not be silenced, cancelled, or persecuted, if you are deemed a threat or even a nuisance.

Is the Missouri Secretary of State's Office being weaponized to use LAWFARE against citizen activists?

This document will present three scenarios which I believe illustrate the weaponization of the Missouri Secretary of State's office using lawfare. The first scenario is the longest, because it is my story and the one for which I have the most evidence. I believe the second and third scenarios are also examples of lawfare. The women¹ at the center of those two scenarios have far more information to share about their cases, so I am providing a brief synopsis of each.

The three scenarios are not hypothetical ... they are actual and validated by evidence. That evidence is attached to this document in an Appendix (begins on page 18) and is cross-referenced to each statement or allegation made herein.

This report is compiled on July 31, 2024. Jay Ashcroft is the current Secretary of State of Missouri.

Three Scenarios of Alleged Lawfare

First Scenario: If the Missouri Secretary of State seeks the criminal prosecution of a citizen activist who previously stated in writing to the SOS that she perceived a letter from them to her contained a “thinly veiled threat,” and, if the grounds the SOS is using for criminal charges is based on election complaints from two members of an opposing political party, and, if the total ‘evidence’ collected by the SOS is deficient and/or false, could this be the weaponization of the Secretary of State’s office? What if the charges sought against the citizen activist are the same as a 2022 complaint against a different person,² and the Secretary of State determined these similar charges in 2022 were “not an election offense”?³ (This scenario begins on page 3)

Second Scenario: If the Missouri Secretary of State coordinated with county officials to file a lawsuit against citizens who exercised their rights for open records requests, could this be lawfare by the Secretary of State and other elected officials against citizens? (This scenario synopsis is on page 16)

Third Scenario: If a citizen activist has the courage to research and collect proof of election violations, to carry the burden of taking the fight to the courts, to sacrifice time and treasure for the sake of securing elections, only to learn that the primary gatekeeper blocking this case from getting into court is the chief election officer for the state, could this be lawfare by the Secretary of State? (This scenario synopsis is on page 17)

¹ An odd coincidence, if you believe in coincidences, that all three scenarios are about women.

² See Appendix, Doc 2; Monroe County Clerk complaint against staff member dated 8/3/2022

³ See Appendix, Doc 5; SOS to Monroe Clerk with determination of “no offense” dated 10/5/2022

First Scenario: Seeking Criminal Charges

I am Linda Rantz, a citizen activist focused on election security and returning our elections to hand counted paper ballots. The First Scenario is related to me, so it is the one of which I have the most knowledge and can provide the most details.

Near the end of 2022, I spent time reading the Missouri statutes and developed a process for hand counting ballots based on Missouri's laws.⁴

For the April 4, 2023, municipal election, I volunteered to assist the county clerk in Osage County, Missouri, with training and preparations for a hand counted election. We were successful in training all the people needed to hand count the election.

The result of my involvement, however, was an effort by the Missouri Secretary of State to have **criminal charges filed against me**. Why seek criminal charges if there was not a single claim made that the hand-counted results of the election were wrong? Because the “elections world” wants humans taken out of the ballot counting process.⁵ My belief is that the plan is to do whatever it takes to discredit hand counting ballots.

Quick summary of my First Scenario explanation

- The election complaints I filed with the Secretary of State and the Osage County Sheriff (pg 4), seem to be the **catalyst of the subsequent events**
- What I perceived as a **threat of lawfare** from the Secretary of State (pg 4) and my reply, which may be the trigger for the actions taken by the Secretary of State
- Timeline of Secretary of State's actions and the **coincidence of election complaints** filed against me three months after the election; I do not believe in coincidences (pg 5)
- My alleged crimes, the **Probable Cause Statement**, and the penalties for these crimes (pg 6)
- An attempt at due diligence by the Secretary of State's office (pg 6). After 127 days, **how much evidence did they muster** (pg 7)? The **apparent ‘smoking gun’ image** (pg 8).
- What the Secretary of State **missed or omitted**: Facts, False Statements, Omissions, Lack of Due Diligence (pg 9)
- Was there any **due diligence concerning the accusers**? Any possibility of political or personal motivations? Any personal connections with Secretary of State staff? (pg 9)
- Was there any **due diligence concerning the ‘scene of the crime’**? (pg 11)
- Was there any **due diligence about my alleged role** on the “film crew”? (pg 11)
- Are there any **false statements or omissions about permissions** given to me on election day? (pg 12)
- The biggest omission: the **REAL “smoking gun” image. No marked ballots were filmed or shown on Lindell TV**. Filming was done when election judges were between batches, so no cast ballots were anywhere in sight. (pg 13)
- The final omission: **silencing the accused** and weaponization through lawfare. (pg 15)

⁴ Download “Missouri Elections: Return to Hand Counting” at <https://handcounting.com/eManual>

⁵ From interview with Chrissy Peters by Detective Pappas, 3:45 min. mark, audio available at <https://handcounting.com/ChrissyPeters>

Probable Catalysts: My Complaints about the April 4, 2023, election

The County Clerk and the Secretary of State wanted to “prove or disprove the accuracy of the hand count.” For this reason, after the election, hand counted ballots were unsealed by the County Clerk, Nicci Kammerich, and the Front Desk Clerk, Brooke Dudenhoeffer, and run through a Dominion tabulator.⁶ This was NOT done in the presence of a bipartisan team, as required by law.

There was also a complete recount of every ballot to ensure that the hand count teams were “accurate,” as stated by one of the election judges who recounted the ballots.⁷

According to Dudenhoeffer, everything done post-election was either under the “guidance” or “instructions” of the “Secretary of State’s Office.”

On April 27, 2023, I gave a presentation to our county commissioners⁸ about the issues. On May 1, 2023, I filed an election complaint with the Missouri Secretary of State.⁹ As the election was municipal, jurisdiction for the election lies with the county sheriff. On May 4, 2023, I gave a statement to the Osage County Sheriff, a Detective, and a Deputy explaining my complaint.

A Perceived Threat from the Secretary of State’s Office

Why do I believe there is weaponization by the Secretary of State’s Office? In **8 days** after filing my election complaint, the Secretary of State’s Office already made their determination of my claims. Their average response time is **23 days**.¹⁰ The draft of their letter to me detailing their determination, ended with the statement in the screenshot below, which I perceived to be a threat of lawfare:¹¹

In conclusion, we do not find that any violation of election law has occurred in this case and are closing your complaint without further action. Likewise, although you swore or affirmed in your complaint that the allegations you alleged were true to the best of your knowledge, a review of your complaint demonstrates they were not. I recommend you be more careful next time you file an election complaint with this office. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

¹ Excerpt from SOS determination letter with 'perceived' threat to Rantz, dated 5/9/2023

Although a more ‘toned-down’ version was subsequently sent to me,¹² my 40+ years of experience working for lawyers gives me an understanding of threats written in legalese.

I have many contacts in the legal and law enforcement fields. Those with whom I shared the reply letter from the Secretary of State agreed that it was an apparent threat. **The threat was LAWFARE.**

In my reply to the Secretary of State’s determination letter, I called out his attorney on what I perceived as a “thinly veiled threat meant to intimidate and silence.” I warned that if he corresponded with me again and used similar language, I would file a professional conduct complaint against him with the Missouri State Bar Association.¹³

⁶ See Appendix, Doc 50: from Synopsis of Detective’s Interview with Brooke Dudenhoeffer

⁷ See Appendix, Doc 65: from Synopsis of Detective’s Interview with Pat Nilges

⁸ See Appendix, Doc 35; newspaper article of County Commissioner presentation

⁹ See Appendix, Doc 32; Rantz Election Complaint to the Missouri Secretary of State

¹⁰ Calculated by reviewing about 100 election complaints from 2022 and 2023 sent to me in response to an open records request.

¹¹ See Appendix, Doc 36 (pg 3); Draft of SOS response to Rantz 5/9/2023

¹² See Appendix, Doc 37 (pg 2); SOS Response to Rantz 5/11/2023

¹³ See Appendix, Doc 41; Rantz reply to SOS, also calling out ‘threat’ 6/20/2023

I Do Not Believe in Coincidences

40 Days of Silence

Prior to sending my June 20th letter, there were 40 days of silence from the Secretary of State's Office, counting from the date of their May 11th determination letter to me.

Then, after sending my June 20th response, the silence was broken.

Complaints filed against me 9 Days Later and almost 3 months after the April 4th election

Nine days after sending my June 20th response, the Chair of the Osage County Democratic Committee, Larry Hunt, signed an election complaint¹⁴ against me. Three days later, Cheryl Linhardt, a member of the Osage County Democratic Committee, also filed an election complaint against me.¹⁵

Both complaints are based on a video on the Lindell-TV network that showed live coverage of the April 4th hand counted election in Osage County.¹⁶

All words matter, so I find it interesting that both Hunt and Linhardt state that they “viewed” or “watched” a video, not that they ‘came across’ or ‘found’ the video. Like how a person would tell a friend, ‘I found a video you should watch,’ compared to ‘I watched the video you sent me.’

1. *How were Hunt and Linhardt made aware of the Lindell-TV video? Who sent them the link?*

2. *And why does this come up 3 months after the election (but 9 days after my June 20th letter)?*

WITH THE FILING OF THESE ELECTION COMPLAINTS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS NOW ABLE TO OPEN AN INVESTIGATION AND PURSUE CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST ME.

If it is not a coincidence, it is certainly convenient

Unbeknownst to me, the Secretary of State launched an investigation based on these two complaints. I was unaware (until November 2023) that the complaints had even been filed.

61 Days of Silence

Documents received via open records request show that the Secretary of State's office was taking some actions during July 2023, on their ‘investigation.’ But, once again, things get quiet around the first of August and stay quiet through the end of September – about 61 days.

The only real investigative activity that was taking place during this time was a thorough investigation by the county sheriff's office – they worked for seven months investigating the election complaint I submitted in May (compared to eight days of investigation by the Secretary of State).

On October 4, 2023, Detective Nick Pappas conducted a phone interview with Chrissy Peters,¹⁷ Director of Elections at the Secretary of State's Office, to ask questions about my complaint.¹⁸

¹⁴ See Appendix, Doc 43; Larry Hunt election complaint against Linda Rantz dated 6/29/2023

¹⁵ See Appendix, Doc 44; Cheryl Linhardt election complaint against Linda Rantz dated 7/2/2023

¹⁶ <https://frankspeech.com/Search?q=mike-mar-lago-and-osage-county-mo-votes-paper-ballots>

¹⁷ See Appendix, Doc 53; Detective's synopsis of Interview with Chrissy Peters 10/4/2023

¹⁸ Audio recording of the Chrissy Peters interview available at <https://handcounting.com/ChrissyPeters>

SOS Action in 7 Days following the Detective's interview of Chrissy Peters

Within 7 days of Peters' interview with the detective, on October 11, 2023, the Secretary of State submitted a Probable Cause Statement¹⁹ to the Osage County Prosecuting Attorney, based on the "belief" that I violated statutes 115.409²⁰ and 115.637(13)²¹ and that criminal charges should be considered.

3. *Did the scheduling of the Peters interview 'motivate' the Secretary of State's Office to 'jump back into action' on the complaints against me?*

Any Personal Motivations?

I know it is possible that the timing of the Secretary of State's various actions relative to these complaints against me may just be how they played out. I was completely unaware of them as they occurred but viewing them in hindsight,²² it seems like each time something happens that "pokes the bear," there is a reactive response from the Secretary of State's Office.

My Alleged Crimes

There are three issues listed on the Probable Cause Statement: 1) that I allowed a film crew to enter a polling place without the permission of the County Clerk or the election judges assigned to the polling location; 2) that I was part of the film crew and narrated the filming of the election judges as they were hand counting ballots; and, 3) that by allowing the film crew (who allegedly were not authorized to be there) to film the hand count, I 'furnished' the crew with details of the state of the count prior to polls closing.

What are the Penalties for these Alleged Crimes?

Penalties range from no criminal penalty to punishment by imprisonment of not more than one year or by a fine of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars or by both.

THE TOTALITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S INVESTIGATION

What is the Due Diligence Required of SOS in Referring this matter to a Prosecuting Attorney?

From the Secretary of State's own Probable Cause Statement: "... knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law ..." the Secretary of State's attorney declares that the facts contained in the Probable Cause Statement are true.

What "facts" (or evidence) are submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney by the Secretary of State with the Probable Cause Statement?

None.

No evidence was submitted by the Secretary of State to the Osage County Prosecuting Attorney when the Probable Cause Statement is submitted on October 11, 2023.

¹⁹ See Appendix, Doc 58; Probable Cause Statement of SOS against Linda Rantz dated 10/11/2023

²⁰ <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=115.409>

²¹ <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=115.637>

²² Hindsight based on review of documents obtained by open records requests

The Secretary of State spent **100 days** supposedly ‘investigating’ the complaints by Hunt and Linhardt. They filed a Probable Cause Document seeking criminal charges against me but provide no evidence.

20 Days Later

The Osage County Prosecuting Attorney writes to the Secretary of State stating she is waiting for the case file which should include “reports, witness statements, video evidence, etc.”²³

127 Days since the filing of Election Complaints against me, ‘evidence’ is finally submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney.

With 127 days in which to investigate, what evidence does the Secretary of State’s Office finally provide to the Prosecuting Attorney?²⁴ According to his cover letter, copies of the complaints and emails regarding the issue (my estimate: about 18 pages of documentation, if you don’t include copies of forms from the hand counting process I authored).²⁵

What about video evidence?

Apparently, unable to provide the link to the video in question, the Secretary of State’s attorney promises to send the video link at a future date.

What about witness statements, as requested by the Prosecuting Attorney?

Based on documents obtained, it does not appear that the Accusers, **Larry Hunt and Cheryl Linhardt**, were ever interviewed by the Secretary of State. My guess is because they did not **witness** anything. Neither of them was physically present during filming on election day. They **viewed** the video three months after the election. If, in fact, they were interviewed, NO witness statements were submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney.

During my investigation I also contacted both the Republican and Democratic poll judge assigned to the Linn Methodist Church on April 4, 2023. While neither observed Ms. Rantz filming at their location, both indicated to me that they did not give Ms. Rantz permission to film inside the polling location which is required by statute.

2 Excerpt from Doc 63, Secretary of State’s cover letter to the Prosecuting Attorney without signed witness statements

The Secretary of State’s attorney includes anecdotal details (as shown in image 2 above) in his cover letter about his conversations with **two (2) election judges** assigned to the Linn Methodist Church polling place on April 4th. He states that “both indicated to me that they did not give Ms. Rantz permission to film inside the location which is required by statute.”²⁶

4. Does the Secretary of State’s attorney feel that putting anecdotal comments about witness statements in his cover letter suffices as actual witness statements?

²³ See Appendix, Doc 62; Prosecuting Attorney Letter to Secretary of State dated 10/31/2023

²⁴ See Appendix, Doc 63; Secretary of State Letter to Prosecuting Attorney with ‘evidence’ dated 11/7/2023

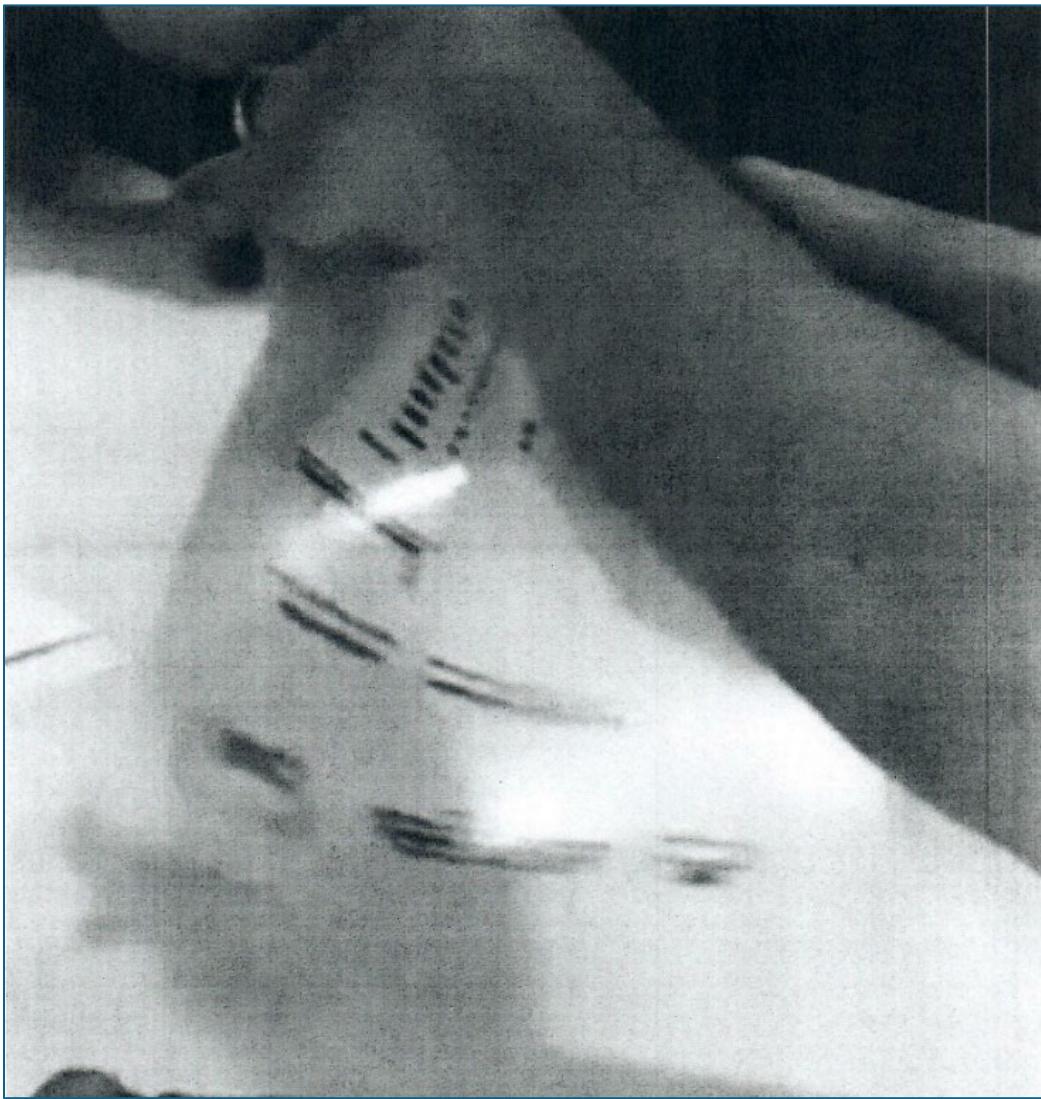
²⁵ See Appendix, Doc 47; County Clerk replies to investigation questions from SOS dated 7/21/2023

²⁶ Note that no statute is referenced to support the statement a “poll judge” must grant permission for media to enter a polling location.

The “Smoking Gun” - cropped

Both Hunt and Linhardt state in their complaints that it is possible to grab a screenshot, enlarge it, and see ballots marked by a voter. The ‘smoking gun’ is apparently the image below (image 3),²⁷ which was included in the documentation submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney.²⁸

More about the “smoking gun” on page 13.



3 Doc 14, the screenshot from the Lindell TV video which Hunt and Linhardt claim shows markings made by a voter on a cast ballot. Note that this is a cropped image.

End of Evidence from the Secretary of State

And so, this concludes the evidence from the Secretary of State to the Osage County Prosecutor, in the matter of criminal charges against me ... unless something was withheld from an open records request.

²⁷ See Appendix, Doc 14; “Smoking Gun” image in B&W and cropped

²⁸ It is important to note that this is a cropped image.

FACTS, FALSE STATEMENTS, OMISSIONS, LACK OF DUE DILIGENCE

As already pointed out, the first paragraph of the Probable Cause Statement makes clear that making false statements is punishable by law. But what about omissions of facts (possibly deliberate or accidental) or lack of due diligence?

Any Due Diligence concerning the Accusers?

What inquiries or steps did the Secretary of State's Office take regarding the Accusers?

5. *Are they witnesses to events and/or do they have personal knowledge of the alleged crimes?*

6. *Is there the possibility of personal or political motivation for filing the elections complaints against Linda Rantz?*

Do the Accusers have personal knowledge of the events? Did they witness the alleged crime?

Other than the 2 complaints filed by the Accusers, there has never been a claim made that election results were disclosed by anyone prior to the closing of the polls on April 4th.

Hunt and Linhardt state that their complaints are based on watching or viewing the video, and they claim that the video shows me "with a cameraman" recording or videoing at a polling place. Neither claims that they were personally at a polling place while this was taking place, and I never saw them at any polling place where I was that day. Also, there is never a time when a cameraman is visible in the video.

From:	Elections-1 <Elections-1@sos.mo.gov>
To:	<a href="mailto:Peters, Chrissy <chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov>">Peters, Chrissy <chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov>
	<a href="mailto:Czeschin, Gina <Gina.Czeschin@sos.mo.gov>">Czeschin, Gina <Gina.Czeschin@sos.mo.gov>
Date:	7/3/2023 11:47:29 AM
Subject:	FW: Election Complaint/Osage County/att. Trish Vincent
Attachments:	complaint2.pdf

Complaint about videos Linda Rantz took during the April election.

From: Larry Hunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 3, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Elections-1 <Elections-1@sos.mo.gov>
Subject: Election Complaint/Osage County/att. Trish Vincent

CAUTION: This email originated from OUTSIDE of the SOS organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please use Phish Alert to report it.

To Whom It May Concern,
Attached is the complaint concerning the April 4th election held in Osage County.

Larry L. Hunt
Osage County Democratic Chair

4 Excerpt from Doc 63, Secretary of State's cover letter to the Prosecuting Attorney without signed witness statements

Why “cc” Trish Vincent when submitting the complaint?

After reviewing nearly 100 election complaints filed in 2022 and 2023,²⁹ what struck me as odd about Larry Hunt’s complaint is that, when he submitted it by email (see image 4 on previous page), he added Trish Vincent, Deputy Secretary of State, as a “cc” on the email.³⁰ In the almost 100 complaints I reviewed, no one else copied Trish Vincent.

7. *Why would Larry Hunt copy Trish Vincent on the email when he submits his complaint?*

Did anyone at the Secretary of State’s Office ask, “what videos”?

Larry Hunt’s email (see image 4 on previous page) is forwarded to others in the Secretary of State’s office. The internal message added is, “Complaint about the videos Linda Rantz took during the April election.” That does not sound like this is the first instance that the Secretary of State’s staff has heard about the video?

8. *Was the Secretary of State’s staff having conversations with Hunt or Linhardt prior to the filing of their complaints? If so, who initiated those conversations?*

9. *Does “videos Linda Rantz took” mean the Secretary of State’s staff has already decided the I “took” videos, rather than appeared in them?*

Is there a possibility of personal or political motivation in filing the complaints?

If there were any interviews or discussions with Larry Hunt, was the question asked if there might be any personal or political reason, he would want to see charges against me? An email thread from just after the April 4th election would appear to indicate a serious grudge or dislike.³¹

From: [hunt \[REDACTED\]](#)
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Nicci Kammerich <nbhouse_OsageCountyDC@outlook.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting

Yes, I can be there as Chair of County Democratic Committee, as long as Linda Rantz does not come in any capacity such as standing in for Mark Lieneke. I plan to bring a list of poll workers. Thank you.

Larry Hunt

⁵ Excerpt from Doc 30, dated May 1, 2023, which appears to show Larry Hunt has a strong dislike of or grudge against Linda Rantz

10. *For filing very specific election complaints, why would the Secretary of State not have further questions for the Hunt and Linhardt to confirm facts and the source(s) of their information?*

²⁹ In response to the Sunshine request in my June 20th letter to SOS attorney, I received nearly 100 election complaints that had been filed during 2022 and 2023.

³⁰ See Appendix, Doc 45; Larry Hunt email submitting his election complaint dated July 3, 2023

³¹ See Appendix, Doc 30; email thread between county clerk and Larry Hunt, Chair of the Osage County Democratic Committee, which gives the appearance Hunt’s dislike of or grudge towards Rantz

Any Due Diligence concerning the ‘Scene of the Crime’?

Both Accusers identify the polling place referred to as “Linn 2” (the Linn Methodist Church) as the veritable ‘scene of the crime’ where I am accused of “narrating” hand counting while being filmed at 6pm on April 4th, prior to polls closing. The Secretary of State based their investigation on those circumstances, even asking the Osage County Clerk to provide a floor plan³² of the Linn 2 polling place. Why? I don’t know, maybe to try to determine camera angle.

As mentioned previously, the Secretary of State’s attorney provides as “facts” that he personally spoke with the two (2) election judges assigned to the Linn 2 polling place and “neither observed Ms. Rantz filming at their location ...”

The fact is, I was not at the Linn 2 polling place being filmed at 6pm on April 4th.

I could provide witnesses to corroborate my statement: at a minimum, **the four (4) other election judges who were assigned to the Linn 2 polling place**. There were six (6) total judges assigned to the polling place. They have different duties – some check-in voters, some were counting ballots. But they have equal authority as election judges, including giving permission for media to be in the polling place.³³

11. *How did the Secretary of State’s Office not know that there were six (6) election judges assigned to the Linn 2 polling place?*

12. *If they knew there were 6 election judges, why did the Secretary of State only interview 2 election judges when any of the 6 could have given permission for media to be present in the polling place?*

13. *If they knew there were 6 election judges, did the Secretary of State purposely omit this information from the evidence they sent to the Prosecuting Attorney?*

14. *Why did the Secretary of State not confirm they had the correct location? Did they even consider it?*

Any Due Diligence about the “film crew” and my alleged role?

The Secretary of State contends in their Probable Cause Statement that I was part of the “film crew.” I confirmed just 3 weeks ago with the producer from Lindell TV that no one from the Secretary of State’s office or Osage County has ever contacted them with questions about April 4th.

15. *Why is this not confirmed before making an accusation based on a claim whether I am part of the “film crew”?*

If it was true that election results were released prior to the polls closing, who would be responsible? The cameraman taking the video, the producer, the broadcast company, or the person being interviewed? Apparently, the Secretary of State has decided it is the person being interviewed.

16. *Why did the Secretary of State not ask for any information about any person or company affiliated with the “film crew”?*

³² See Appendix, Doc 64; floor plan of polling place “Linn 2” hand drawn by County Clerk

³³ The Osage County Clerk does not have established guidelines for media in the polling place.

Are there false statements and/or omissions about permission given to the "film crew" on April 4th?

In the initial list of 6 questions sent by the Secretary of State's Office to the Osage County Clerk, question #2 asked if the clerk had given permission for media to be in polling places. The Clerk replies, "No," and continues with an explanation.³⁴

I contend that this is a false statement on the part of the County Clerk.

In my presence, the Osage County Clerk received credentials³⁵ from the cameraman, which were signed by Brannon Howse, when the cameraman first arrived in the county, and prior to going to any polling place.

If the County Clerk gave false or inaccurate information to the Secretary of State's Office, how else would they know that the cameraman had permission to be in the polling place(s)?

After his October 4th interview of Chrissy Peters,³⁶ Detective Nick Pappas³⁷ recalls details I made about media in my statement to the sheriff's team dated May 4, 2023.

The Detective's email³⁸ (shown in image 6) alerts Peters of my statement which included a reference to "Lindell TV being present and his credentials being reviewed by Nicci."

From: [Nicholas Pappas <nicholas.pappas@osagesheriff.org>](mailto:nicholas.pappas@osagesheriff.org)
To: [Peters, Chrissy <peters.chrissy@osagesheriff.org>](mailto:peters.chrissy@osagesheriff.org)
Date: 10/13/2023 12:47:17 PM
Subject: RE: Return Call
Attachments: [Statement of Linda Rantz 2023.5.4.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from OUTSIDE of the SOS organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please use Phish Alert to report it.

Good Morning Chrissy,

I am not sure if you have seen the statement I. Rantz provided to this office but I noted on page 11 she mentioned some from Lindell TV being present and his credentials being reviewed by Nicci. Not sure if this is relevant to what you have been looking into but wanted to bring it to your attention.

Thanks,

6 Doc 59; Email from Detective Nick Pappas to Director of Elections, Chrissy Peters, calling out details by Rantz made in her statement to the Sheriff's team on May 4, 2023

On October 13, 2023, as an attachment to his email, the Detective sends Peters a copy of my statement.³⁹ My details about media from page 11 of my statement submitted to the Sheriff on May 4, 2023, (shown in image 7) matches the comments I just wrote a few paragraphs above.

³⁴ See Appendix, Doc 47; County Clerk replies to investigation questions from SOS dated 7/21/2023

³⁵ From statute 115.409: "... members of the news media who present identification satisfactory to the election judges ... "

³⁶ Chrissy Peters: Director of Elections for the Secretary of State

³⁷ Detective Nick Pappas of the Osage County Sheriff's Department

³⁸ See Appendix, Doc 59; Email from Detective Pappas to Chrissy Peters of SOS Office dated 10/13/2023

³⁹ Doc 59, The Statement of Linda Rantz to the Osage County Sheriff, may be downloaded at

<https://handcounting.com/RantzSheriffStmt>

Media: Lindell TV

I heard from one of the counting judges (cannot remember which location) that a photographer for the UD had stopped by and taken a couple of pictures. Other than that, the only media that I was aware of that was sending a cameraman and/or reporter was Lindell TV. When the cameraman arrived, I went with him to the Clerk's Office. Kammerich reviewed his credentials letter and said he was approved to go to the polling places. She declined to be interviewed or videotaped.

7 Excerpt from page 11 of Rantz statement to Osage County Sheriff dated May 4, 2023

17. *Upon receiving Detective Pappas' information about my statement on media from May 4th, did Chrissy Peters or anyone in the Secretary of State's Office follow-up on the information?*

Recall that the Secretary of State did not send their case file or "evidence" to the Prosecuting Attorney until November 7th, almost a month after the Detective sent his email with my statement to Peters.

18. *Why did the Secretary of State fail to send the Prosecuting Attorney my statement to the sheriff's department, or the Detective's email with the other documentation related to the complaints against me.*

The Biggest Omissions: The "Smoking Gun"

Image 8 on the right, which I refer to as the "smoking gun," is supposed to show how the video which was broadcast on Lindell-TV⁴⁰ could be enlarged to show votes marked on a ballot. (Larger version is shown in image 3 on page 8, and in the Appendix).

The illustration is not a full screenshot. It is cropped to show only the judge's hand and paper being held.

"Smoking Guns" are best viewed as a full image – not cropped

On the next page is a full screenshot from the Lindell-TV video at the 11:18 minute mark (see image 9). This image is in color and is not cropped.⁴¹ It shows a counting team of election judges that were filmed at the polling place during the election on April 4, 2023.

The Accusers, Hunt and Linhardt, based their complaints on an image which is cropped from this screenshot, showing only the hands holding "paper," which they allege to be marked ballots.⁴² Enlarging and cropping makes the image submitted by Hunt and Linhardt very blurry and difficult to see.

In the uncropped, color version below, it is clearer and easier to see the elements of the image.



8 Doc 14, the screenshot from the Lindell TV video which Hunt and Linhardt claim shows markings made by a voter on a cast ballot. Note that this is a cropped image.

⁴⁰ <https://frankspeech.com/Video/mike-mar-lago-and-osage-county-mo-votes-paper-ballot>

⁴¹ See Appendix, Doc 13; full-size screenshot of the "smoking gun" in color and not cropped

⁴² See Appendix, Doc 14; cropped "smoking gun" image in B&W



9 Doc 13; Screenshot from Lindell-TV video, at the 11:18 minute mark, showing the “smoking gun” in color and NOT cropped

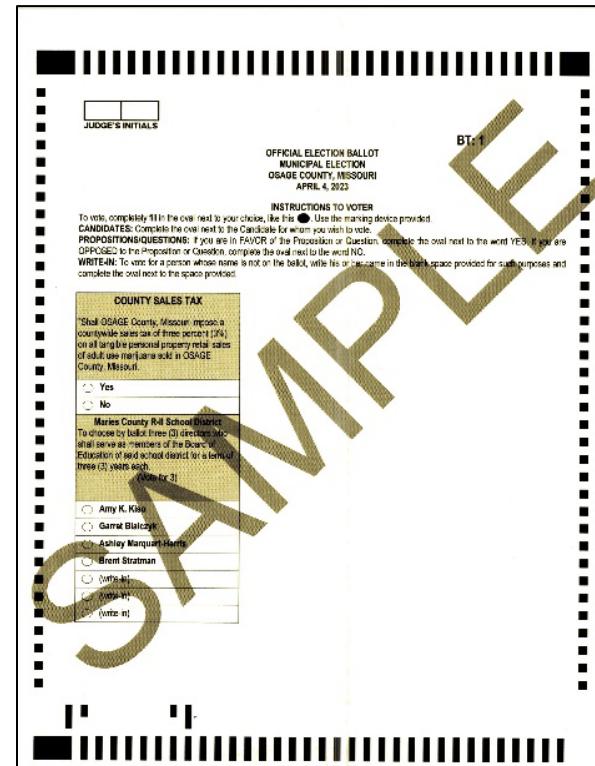
On the right is an image of a sample ballot (see image 10) for the April 4, 2024, municipal election in Osage County.⁴³

Compare the sample ballot, image 10, to the paper being held by the election judge in the image 9 above. Anything blatantly obvious?

There is no ‘dashed’ border around the edges of the paper in image 9 being held by the election judge. Why?

Because the paper being held in image 9 is not an actual ballot. What is being held is a blank sheet of white paper with an “overlay” placed on top (an overlay is a piece of overhead projector film imprinted with candidate ID #'s so judges could quickly count ballots).

No Ballots were filmed or shown on Lindell-TV.



10 Sample ballot from April 2023

⁴³ See Appendix, Doc 69, sample ballot for Osage County for the April 4, 2023, election, downloadable from https://cms5.revize.com/revize/osage/Documents/County%20Clerk/SKM_C36823022111580.pdf

Also notice in image 9 on the previous page, the election judge with her back to the camera, wearing a lavender top, and a tally sheet in front of her. She is holding a purple marker. Any markings on the tally sheet would be purple dots. Enlarge the image and you will see that the tally sheet is blank. Why?

Because filming was done when the judges were between batches. There were no voter-marked ballots, counted or uncounted, on the table or in view of the camera.

If the Secretary of State had interviewed any one of forty-four (44) judges who hand counted the Osage election, they would have quickly learned what overlays are. Any one of those counting judges could have looked at image 9 and stated without doubt that the paper being held was NOT a ballot.

19. *Why did the Secretary of State fail to interview one single election judge who hand counted ballots?*

20. *Who captured the screen image that was submitted by the Secretary of State to the Prosecuting Attorney as proof that voter marked ballots were filmed?*

21. *Who cropped the image?*

22. *Why would the Secretary of State submit an image as evidence that omits the portion that shows the judges were clearly not tallying votes while the camera was rolling?*

23. *Did the Secretary of State review the Lindell-TV video themselves or take the word of the Hunt and Linhardt?*

24. *Did the Secretary of State care about finding the truth, or was it more important to silence a citizen activist?*

FINAL OMISSION – SILENCING THE ACCUSED AND LAWFARE

I have commented in this document that I was unaware that elections complaints had been filed against me in early July 2023, that the Secretary of State's office was investigating the complaints, and that a Probable Cause Statement seeking criminal charges against me had been forwarded to my county prosecuting attorney in mid-October 2023.

It is important to note that most of this transpired without my knowledge, and without the ability to speak for myself, explain the truth, and defend against omissions and false statements. The Secretary of State never contacted me either for questions or comments.

I became aware of what I regard as lawfare in mid-November when the Osage County Sheriff's Department completed their investigation of my election complaint. While the Secretary of State brushed off my complaint in 8 days, the sheriff's investigation worked on it for 7 months and found violations of statutes but could only classify the violations as administrative, not criminal. The most that could be done was to refer their findings to the Secretary of State (as the primary elections officer for the State), and the Missouri Ethics Commission.

Making false claims against an innocent person to silence them is Lawfare.

Nearly 8 months have passed since the Prosecuting Attorney in Osage County received the "file of evidence" for the Probable Cause Statement against me. I have never heard from the Prosecuting Attorney on this matter. My belief is that the Prosecuting Attorney could see the non-existent, and even shoddy, evidence presented and made the decision not to press charges.

Second Scenario: Elected Officials Suing Citizens

Founding Father James Madison once said, “[a] popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or perhaps both.”

From the introduction in the Missouri Attorney General's booklet on the Missouri Sunshine Laws:

“The Sunshine Law, which has been on the books since 1973, declares Missouri’s commitment to openness in government in § 610.011, RSMo: “It is the public policy of this state that meetings, records, votes, actions and deliberations of public governmental bodies be open to the public unless otherwise provided by law. Sections 610.010 to 610.200 shall be liberally construed and their exceptions strictly construed to promote the public policy.”

Innocent and Unsuspecting Citizens simply exercising their right for open records requests

In late summer of 2022, there was a push amongst citizens nationwide concerned about election security to have election results from the 2020 presidential election preserved, and to request reports known as **Cast Vote Records (CVRs)**.

There were Missourians who submitted Sunshine Law requests for CVRs to their county clerks or Boards of Election. In particular, an unknown number⁴⁴ requested CVRs from the Greene County Clerk. Not too many weeks later, the Greene County Clerk, Shane Schoeller, filed a lawsuit against one of these citizens.⁴⁵

There was an outcry about Schoeller’s actions, and he defended his actions contending that he phoned (or visited) the citizen before filing to let her know about it. This is disputed.⁴⁶

Fingerprints of the Secretary of State on the Lawsuit

Because of Sunshine Law Requests, it was revealed that the Missouri Secretary of State was involved in not only the Greene County lawsuit against a citizen, but Camden County was apparently also planning to sue one of their citizens.

An email⁴⁷ from the Greene County Attorney, Austin Fax, to the Secretary of State’s attorney, Jesus Osete, states, “We have discovered that Camden County’s software is potentially different than Greene County’s software. So, we are going to hold off on including Camden County as a Plaintiff for now.”

Contention made that the lawsuits are meant to benefit citizens

For all the negative publicity targeted at Schoeller, why did the Secretary of State, Jay Ashcroft, not step forward and provide an explanation? The SOS is the 3rd highest elected office in the state. Filing lawsuits in multiple counties against citizens is the only way Ashcroft knows how to solve the issue of citizens requesting election materials through Sunshine Requests? **Filing lawsuits against citizens to manipulates laws is Lawfare.**

⁴⁴ But a guess is 5 or 6 citizens

⁴⁵ The lawsuit is available for download at <https://tinyurl.com/PetitionRedacted>

⁴⁶ Read “Shane Schoeller – Show Some Receipts” which has been publicly shared, but never answered by Schoeller; download at <https://tinyurl.com>ShowSomeReceipts>

⁴⁷ See Appendix, Doc 4; Greene County email to Secretary of State, dated 9/8/2022

Third Scenario: Elected Officials as Gatekeepers to Courts

No Synopsis Possible

It is impossible to put all the work done by Ali Graef into a synopsis. Ali has sacrificed time and income in the pursuit of the truth about the lack of certification of voting machines in Missouri. Ali's research proves that the machines we cast our votes on in Missouri have not been legally certified for years now.⁴⁸

Same Story, Other States

If it sounds far-fetched, consider that activists like Ali in other states have uncovered the same "dirty little secret," some of them even being sued by their elected officials. Sound familiar?

Leah Hoopes of Pennsylvania submitted a public records request (our version of a Sunshine Law Request). Leah is being sued by an election official and is fighting in court to obtain the records which belong to the People. Her X post (see image 12) contains copies of some of the pleadings from the lawsuit.⁴⁹

Trying to get her day in Court

Ali filed a case Pro Se (meaning representing herself, because lawyers are intimidated not to take election cases). Her meticulous details have been confirmed by noted cyber and election security experts. But Ali can't get a day in court. Why? According to County Councilman, Joe Brazil, the Secretary of State, Jay Ashcroft, told him that Ali's case "will never see a courtroom."⁵⁰
Blocking access to the Courts is Lawfare.

I, Joe Brazil, do swear that the following statement is true and accurate.

In a conversation between myself, and Secretary of State Ashcroft regarding Ali Graeff's Petition to Contest the St. Charles Co Primary election, he stated to me that "this will never see a courtroom."

13 Excerpt from Joe Brazil's statement about comments made to him by Jay Ashcroft

⁴⁸ Rumble interview on Hick Christian is available at <https://rumble.com/v58b1kt-jy-ashcr-ft-is-using-the-sos-office-to-certify-illegal-elections-and-block-.html>

⁴⁹ Leah Hoopes X post with pleadings https://x.com/hoopes_leah/status/1818455409222410328

⁵⁰ See Appendix, Doc 70; Joe Brazil statement about Jay Ashcroft, 9/7/2022



11 Screenshot from Rumble interview of Ali Graef by Hick Christian



12 Screenshot from X post by Leah Hoopes @hoopes_leah

APPENDIX

Supporting Documentation

The pages which follow contain images of documents referenced in the footnotes of this report, unless a download link was provided for the document or recording.

Links for Sharing

To share this report, use these links:

For the full document, including the Report (17 pages) and the Appendix (50 pages)

<https://handcounting.com/Lawfare>

For the Report only

<https://handcounting/LawfareReport>

For the Appendix only

<https://handcounting.com/LawfareAppendix>

DOC 2 (pg 1) – Monroe County Clerk complaint of staff releasing election results prior to polls closing dated 8/3/2022

The Monroe County Clerk filed this complaint against one of her staff members for allegedly releasing election results prior to the closing of the polls.

Elections Complaint Form Missouri Secretary of State's Office

Note: if you believe you have witnessed a violation of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 for federal elections, please fill out a Title III of HAVA Elections Complaint Form.

Name La Jeana Peterson

Address ██████████

County Monroe

Phone ██████████

Email Lpeterson@monroecounty.mo.org

My complaint pertains to the Election held on August 2, 2022

I have or will file a complaint with (check all that apply):

Missouri Attorney General's Office

Yes No

Missouri Ethics Commission

Yes No

Local Election Authority

Yes No

Local Law Enforcement

Yes No

My complaint is regarding (check one):

- Absentee voting
- Candidate Qualifications
- Voting
- Election Judge Misconduct
- Improper Voter Registration
- Other Election law violation vote tabulation

State the facts of the alleged violation, up to a maximum of 250 words, or attach a separate document. Please include:

- The name and mailing address of the person or persons alleged to have committed the violation; and
- A description of the act or acts you believe to be a violation.

I am the county clerk of Monroe County, and have a complaint with a staff member not following election protocol set by my office and announcing election results before 7p.m. On August 2, 2022 I had emailed the SOS, Kali Dean to confirm the process on the tabulation of my absentee machine. Kathyrne Harper was here visiting and was present when my absentee team came in and we discussed the process to take place. Kaylee Brown my deputy clerk who is my election clerk was given explicit instructions that the absentee machine TM was

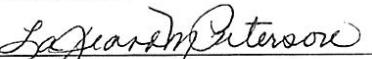
DOC 2 (pg 2) – Monroe County Clerk complaint of staff releasing election results prior to polls closing dated 8/3/2022

The Monroe County Clerk filed this complaint against one of her staff members for allegedly releasing election results prior to the closing of the polls.

(facts cont'd)

not to be loaded into the tabulation laptop until 7pm that night. My absentee team, Kathyrne Harper and Melissa Graupman(my chief deputy clerk) and I where all in the room when this was discussed. When my Adkins rep came at 4:30pm I reminded Kaylee Brown again, that the absentee TM was not to be loaded into the tabulator until 7pm. At 6:30pm I noticed the sealed absentee envelope was open and Kaylee Brown was texting something on her phone over by the laptop. I walked over and grabbed the open envelope and asked them if this was in the laptop, they both said no, we are in a training mode. I knew they were lying, so I called a supervisor at Adkins, and reported this to Laura Schaefer, she told me to go to the laptop and have the rep, Doug pull up the tabulator mode, and if the precinct was listed and said normal they had uploaded and had results. I did this, and the Absentee precinct was up and it said normal. I contacted adkins and Doug's supervisor called him. I confirmed with Laura that I was right, it was loaded. I pulled Doug aside and confirmed with him that this was the case, and I told him that Kaylee Brown was dispersing ballot results before 7pm, that this is illegal and that she is not in charge. Kaylee was very concerned all night about the absentee results and I do not know why.

By my signature I swear or affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided on this form is true.


Signature of person filing complaint

8/3/20

Date

Please be as thorough as possible and attach supporting documentation or additional facts, if any.

Return this signed form by:

Mail: Missouri Secretary of State's Office Email: elections@sos.mo.gov
Attn: Elections Division
600 W Main St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

DOC 2 (pg 3) – Monroe County Clerk complaint of staff releasing election results prior to polls closing dated 8/3/2022

The Monroe County Clerk filed this complaint against one of her staff members for allegedly releasing election results prior to the closing of the polls.

The person is: Kaylee Brown



The violation is releasing ballot results prior to 7pm and not following the State of Missouri election laws, and not following the rules set by the County Clerk, election authority.

DOC 4 – Greene County Attorney to SOS regarding filing of lawsuit against a citizen, dated 9/8/2022

The email included the current draft of the lawsuit for review, and a reference that Camden County will not be included as a plaintiff because their election software is different.

From: [Austin Fax <afax@lowtherjohnson.com>](mailto:afax@lowtherjohnson.com)
To: [Osete, Jesus <Jesus.Osete@sos.mo.gov>](mailto:Jesus.Osete@sos.mo.gov)
Date: 9/8/2022 3:54:34 PM
Subject: Cast Vote Record-- Declaratory Judgment
Attachments: CVR Declaratory Judgment (NAF Final).docx

CAUTION: This email originated from OUTSIDE of the SOS organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please use Phish Alert to report it.

Jesus:

Attached is our draft Petition for Declaratory Judgment on the Cast Vote Record issue. We have discovered that Camden County's software is potentially different than Greene County's software. So, we are going to hold off on including Camden County as a Plaintiff for now. I would love to hear your thoughts or any potential comments you have on the petition prior to filing. Thanks!

N. Austin Fax
Lowther Johnson Attorneys at Law, LLC
901 E. St. Louis Street, 20th Flr.
Springfield, MO 65806
Phone: 417.866.7777 Ext. 253
Fax: 417.866.1752
<http://www.lowtherjohnson.com>

NOTE: The Missouri Bar Disciplinary Counsel requires all Missouri lawyers to notify all recipients of e-mail that (1) e-mail communication is not a secure method of communication, (2) any e-mail that is sent to you or by you may be copied and held by various computers it passes through as it goes from me to you or vice versa, (3) persons not participating in our communication may intercept our communications by improperly accessing your computer or my computer or even some computer unconnected to either of us which the e-mail passed through. I am communicating to you via e-mail because you have consented to receive communications via this medium. If you change your mind and want future communications to be sent in a different fashion, please let me know AT ONCE. The information contained in this electronic message may be attorney-client privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law and is intended only for the use of the individual(s) to whom this electronic message is addressed. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this electronic communication or any attachment thereto is strictly prohibited. If you have received this electronic communication in error, you should immediately return it to us and delete the message from your system. We would also appreciate it if you would telephone us at (417) 866-7777, to advise of the misdirected communication. Thank you.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

**DOC 5 – SOS reply to Monroe County Clerk complaint of determination of
complaint dated 10/5/2022**

The SOS determined that the issue submitted by the clerk “is not an election offense.”



JOHN R. ASHCROFT

SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MISSOURI

ELECTIONS DIVISION
(573) 751-2301

JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK
STATE INFORMATION CENTER
(573) 751-4936

October 5, 2022

La Jeana Peterson
418 Cooper Ave.
Paris, MO 65275

Re: Elections Complaint

Ms. Peterson:

Secretary Ashcroft has asked that I respond to your complaint received by our office.

Let me thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. We are in receipt of your complaint concerning the protocol of announcing the election results of August 2, 2022.

Based on the description of the issue you have listed this is not an election offense. We are not conducting any further investigation and are closing this issue.

If we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Ashcroft".

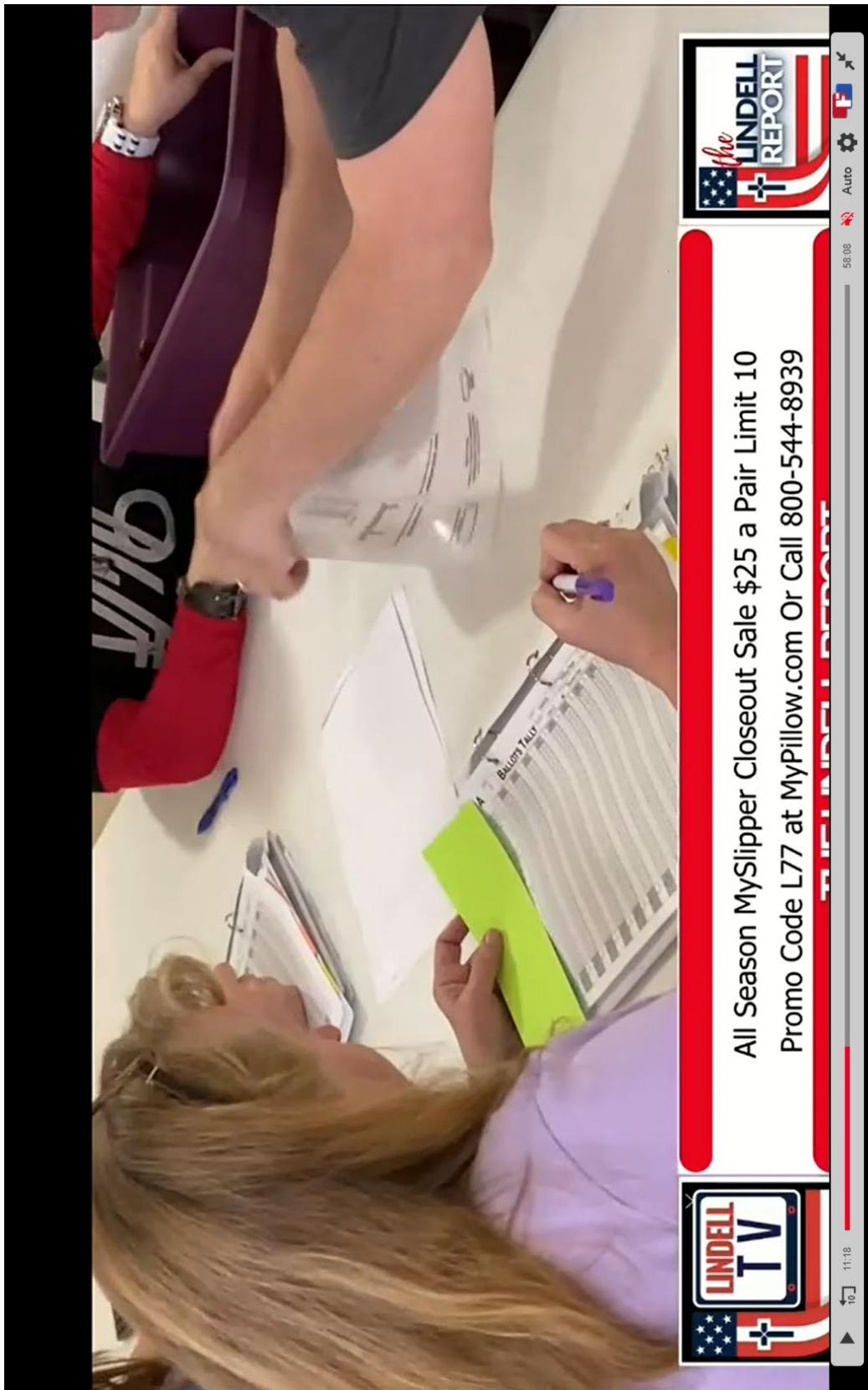
Director of Elections

600 W. MAIN STREET • JEFFERSON CITY 65101

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES • BUSINESS SERVICES • ELECTIONS • PUBLICATIONS • SECURITIES • STATE ARCHIVES • STATE LIBRARY • WOLFNER LIBRARY

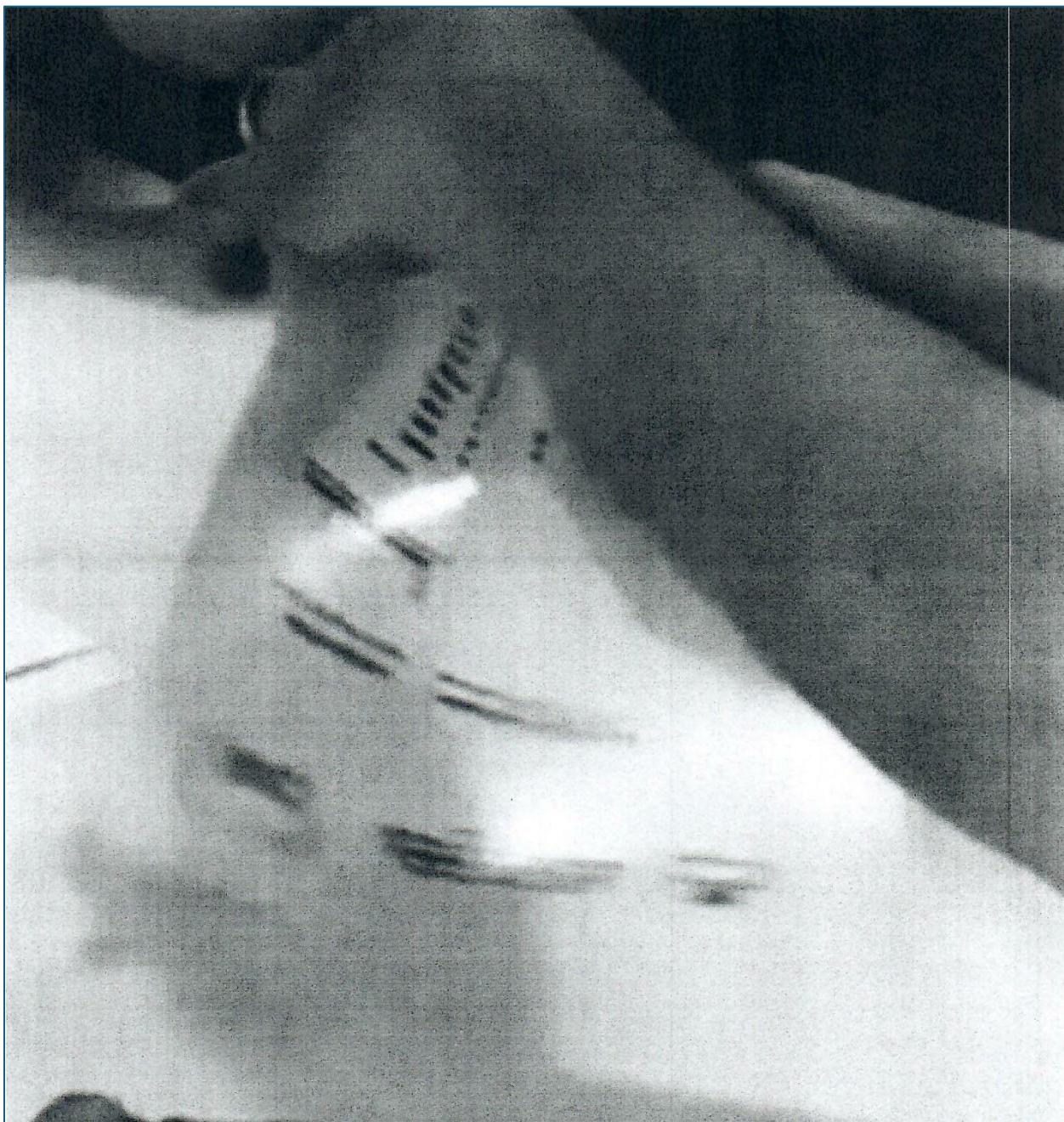
DOC 13 – “Smoking Gun” image, NOT cropped, color

This image is believed to have been provided by the Secretary of State to the Osage County Prosecuting Attorney as proof of voter markings on a ballot being shown on a TV video.



DOC 14 – “Smoking Gun” image, cropped, B&W

This image is believed to have been provided by the Secretary of State to the Osage County Prosecuting Attorney as proof of voter markings on a ballot being shown on a TV video.



DOC 30 (pg 1) – County Clerk / Larry Hunt email thread dated 5/1/2023

This email thread gives the appearance that Larry Hunt, Chair of the Osage County Democratic Committee, has a strong dislike of or grudge against Linda Rantz.

Re: Meeting

hunt [REDACTED]

Mon 5/1/2023 10:51 AM

To:Nicci Kammerich <nbouse_OsageCountyDC@outlook.com>

Thanks.

Sent from my iPad

On May 1, 2023, at 10:43 AM, Nicci Kammerich <nbouse_OsageCountyDC@outlook.com> wrote:

I did tell Mark that I would just like him and you to attend, just the Chairs of the Committees. I will not proceed with the meeting if for any reason it is anyone else but you and Mark as it is not a public meeting. See you then. Thank you!

Nicci Kammerich (Bouse)

Osage County Clerk

Election Authority/Budget Officer

MACCEA Auditing Committee Member, Nominating Committee Member and Scholarship Committee Member

Osage County Administration

205 E. Main Street

PO BOX 826

Linn, MO 65051

P: 573-897-2139

F: 573-897-4741

Osage.County@sos.mo.gov

From: hunt [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 10:29 AM

To: Nicci Kammerich <nbouse_OsageCountyDC@outlook.com>

Subject: Re: Meeting

Yes, I can be there as Chair of County Democratic Committee, as long as Linda Rantz does not come in any capacity such as standing in for Mark Lieneke. I plan to bring a list of poll workers. Thank you.

Larry Hunt

Sent from my iPad

On May 1, 2023, at 7:38 AM, Nicci Kammerich <nbouse_OsageCountyDC@outlook.com> wrote:

I talked with you on April 12th at the verification that I would like us all to work together and go over things that we all can do to make processes better

DOC 30 (pg 2) – County Clerk / Larry Hunt email thread dated 5/1/2023

This email thread gives the appearance that Larry Hunt, Chair of the Osage County Democratic Committee, has a strong dislike of or grudge against Linda Rantz.

for us all in regards to elections. Would Wednesday, May 31st at 10 am work for you to attend?

I am picking that day because final certification for the August Election is May 30th. That way we know if there will be an August election and what all would be on it.

I would just like the Committee Chair's in attendance to meet with me. Please let me know. Thanks

Nicci

DOC 32 (pg 1) – Rantz Election Complaint to MO SOS dated 5/1/2023

This is the election complaint filed with the Missouri Secretary of State.

Elections Complaint Form

Missouri Secretary of State's Office

Note: if you believe you have witnessed a violation of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 for federal elections, please fill out a Title III of HAVA Elections Complaint Form.

Name Linda Rantz

Address [REDACTED]

County Osage

Phone [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

My complaint pertains to the Election held on April 4, 2023

I have or will file a complaint with (check all that apply):

Missouri Attorney General's Office

Yes No Uncertain

Missouri Ethics Commission

Yes No Uncertain

Local Election Authority

Yes No

Local Law Enforcement

Yes No

My complaint is regarding (check one):

Absentee voting
 Candidate Qualifications
 Voting
 Election Judge Misconduct
 Improper Voter Registration
 Other Election law violation Post-election handling of ballots

State the facts of the alleged violation, up to a maximum of 250 words, or attach a separate document. Please include:

- The name and mailing address of the person or persons alleged to have committed the violation; and
- A description of the act or acts you believe to be a violation.

See attachment

DOC 32 (pg 2) – Rantz Election Complaint to MO SOS dated 5/1/2023

This is the election complaint filed with the Missouri Secretary of State.

DOC 32 (pg 3) – Rantz Election Complaint to MO SOS dated 5/1/2023

This is the election complaint filed with the Missouri Secretary of State.

Attachment: Elections Complaint Form

From: Linda Rantz
Role: Duly Appointed Watcher for Republican Party
Re: April 4, 2022, Election, Osage County MO

Background

In lieu of tabulating election results with voting equipment in Osage County, election judges were assigned to all polling locations to hand count the ballots on election day and certify the election results.

As the only duly appointed Watcher for either political party in Osage County, I was at the Clerk's office at the time polls closed. I witnessed election judges returning from all polling locations with election materials, including Tally Books with the statements of returns. Those statements of returns included the certifications for both candidates and questions and were signed by the election judges.

Certifying Election Results at the Polling Place (Hand Counting)

Missouri Statute 115.459 (2) states that after all votes have been tallied, the election judges shall "Certify on two statements of returns the number of votes received by each candidate and for and against each question."

The language in Missouri Statute 115.461 ¶3 (Tally Book – Paper Ballots) states that the election judges "certify" that what they are submitting is a "full and accurate return of all votes cast at this polling place and for and against all questions."

We, the duly qualified and acting Judges of the polling place for _____ precincts, at the general (special, primary) election held on the _____ of _____, 20____, in _____ county (City of St. Louis, Kansas City), Missouri do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full and accurate return of all votes cast at this polling place for all candidates and for and against all questions.

AB

CD Election Judges

EF

XP

Linda Rantz, Attachment to Elections Complaint Form, April 30, 2023 – page 1

DOC 32 (pg 4) – Rantz Election Complaint to MO SOS dated 5/1/2023

This is the election complaint filed with the Missouri Secretary of State.

Missouri Statute 115.463 regarding paper ballots states that after the statements of returns are signed, "the election judges shall enclose the voted ballots, tally books, tally sheets, statements of returns and other election supplies in containers designated by the election authority."

Missouri Statute 115.465 regarding paper ballots provides the instructions for returning the ballots and election materials to the election authority and that the "container shall be sealed."

There are no statutes allowing for post-election audits or recounts of paper ballots that were hand counted. After an election, the Election Authority may still have provisional and UOCAVA ballots to manage, but the hand counted ballots have been sealed, and certification has been completed by the election judges. The final step is Verification of the results.

I. Alleged Violation: 115.493

115.493 – Ballots and records to be kept for twenty-two months, may be inspected, when.

"The election authority shall keep all voted ballots, ... for twenty-two months *after the date of the election.*" [emphasis added]

"During the time that voted ballots, ... are kept by the election authority, it shall not open or inspect them or allow anyone else to do so, except upon order of a legislative body trying an election contest, a court or a grand jury."

On April 12, 2023, I arrived at the Osage County Clerk's office with other members of the Republican party expecting to observe what we had been told by the Clerk would be "just verification and not counting" of the April 4, 2023, election.

Contrary to the Clerk's statement, I witnessed the Clerk approach a table of 4 election judges with a stack of opened envelopes, which I recognized to be the ballot envelopes used during the election for securing counted ballots. The envelopes had been 'sliced' at the top and the ballots were visible inside the envelopes.

The election judges themselves protested and inquired why they were being given opened envelopes of ballots ... that such a thing had never happened before. I heard the Clerk say that the clerk's staff had been counting ballots on the previous day or day(s).

- a. I do not believe that proper authorization was or has been received from a court or legislative body to unseal any ballots in Osage County.

Linda Rantz, Attachment to Elections Complaint Form, April 30, 2023 – page 2

DOC 32 (pg 5) – Rantz Election Complaint to MO SOS dated 5/1/2023

This is the election complaint filed with the Missouri Secretary of State.

- b. I protested to the representative from the Secretary of State's office that unsealing ballots and recounting was not allowed. I was dismissed with a comment that the Clerk could run 'this' in any manner she wanted.
- c. I contend that unsealing of ballots has broken the chain of custody, rendering all such ballots spoiled and no longer viable as evidence in any future potential election cases.

During my presentation to the Osage County Commissioners on April 27, 2023, I pointed out that the ballots were certified and sealed on election night by the election judges and, according to statute 115.493, could not be unsealed without the proper order.

The Clerk's response was that "sealed" did not occur until verification was completed, as confirmed to her by representatives of the Secretary of State's office.

- d. If verification is the qualifier for ballot materials to be considered "sealed" or closed records, then they should be considered open records until such time and subject to Sunshine Requests.

II. Alleged Violation: 15 CSR 30-10-060 (1)(A) and (B)

Unsealing and/or moving of ballots without a bipartisan team present, by the Osage County Election Authority and, purportedly, with representatives of the Secretary of State's office in attendance

As described above, the bipartisan team of election judges were surprised upon receiving envelopes of unsealed ballots. Obviously, they were not present when ballots were unsealed.

- a. During a presentation I gave on April 27, 2023, to the Osage County Commissioners, I addressed this and other violations that I believe occurred post-election day. The response by the Clerk, repeatedly, was that the Secretary of State's Office told her she could do it.
- b. I witnessed the "recount" of ballots from the Loose Creek polling place and became aware that Chamois and Freeburg polling places were also recounted on prior days. I do not know if ballots from any other polling places were opened and/or moved in violation of statute.
- c. As mentioned in the previous section, I contend that any ballots opened and/or moved without the presence of a bipartisan team have chain of custody broken and are spoiled.

III. Alleged Violations: All statutes and regulations pertaining to recounts

It is my contention, given that all statutes relative to recounts have strict requirements regarding who may initiate a recount and how ballot materials will be handled, that any and all statutes for recounts have been violated.

Linda Rantz, Attachment to Elections Complaint Form, April 30, 2023 – page 3

DOC 32 (pg 6) – Rantz Election Complaint to MO SOS dated 5/1/2023

This is the election complaint filed with the Missouri Secretary of State.

IV. Alleged Violation: Missouri Statutes 115.233 and 115.479, and Code of Regulations 15 CSR 30-10-040(7) and 15 CSR 30-10-110

Post-election use of a voting tabulator without pre-election testing (or public notice); without post-election testing (also no public notice); failure to follow testing protocols, including random selection of polling places and races/questions.

While I contend that there are no statutes or regulations permitting a recount of hand-counted ballots or using electronic equipment to verify the results of a hand count, even if the reverse is true, any equipment used should follow statutory procedures.

- a. When the Clerk delivered the ballots to the election judges, she pointed out that the ballots were from Loose Creek polling place, which the election judges had apparently made a specific request to recount. This violates the "random selection" for recounts.

115.479 states that the purpose of testing tabulating equipment is to ascertain that the equipment has correctly counted the votes for all offices and on all questions.

It also specifically states that tabulating equipment is to be tested using the same pre-audited group of ballots as used in pre-election testing.

An email from the President of the Missouri Association of Clerks and Election Authorities, dated March 27, 2023, to all clerks in Missouri stated, "if a county chooses to move forward with a hand count in any future election, it would be well-advised to also use a tabulator to check the results and show the accuracy of the tabulators." *[emphasis not added, matches original email]*

- b. If the intent of a recount of the hand counted results was to "show the accuracy of the tabulators," as stated in the MACCEA memo, then the proper method would be to run a test deck of ballots, as set forth in 115.479.
- c. I contend that the Osage County Clerk was pressured by the MACCEA to take the post-election action of unsealing ballots and running them through a tabulator. This is evidenced by the part of the quote provided, "would be well-advised ..."
- d. Since tabulators did not count ballots on election day, I contend that there was no purpose in unsealing ballots and running them through the tabulator.

V. Alleged Violation: Missouri Statute 115.022

Receipt by the Osage County Election Authority of donation of election software valued at approximately \$14,000, allegedly approved by the Secretary of State's office.

Linda Rantz, Attachment to Elections Complaint Form, April 30, 2023 – page 4

DOC 32 (pg 7) – Rantz Election Complaint to MO SOS dated 5/1/2023

This is the election complaint filed with the Missouri Secretary of State.

I was unaware that the Osage County Clerk had decided to use a tabulator post-election. A few days prior to election day, when I happened to be in the Clerk's office, mention was made of a tabulator being used to receive early votes in the office (which serves as central polling). I asked the Clerk about it, concerned that a tabulator was being used when the plan was for the entire county to be hand counted.

The Clerk explained that only the "trash bin" section of the tabulator was being used. They needed a secured ballot container for collecting/holding early votes, so they decided to use the bottom part of the tabulator which could be locked. I was assured that tabulators were not being used for counting.

Even when I attended the 'verification' on April 12, 2023, and watched hand re-counting of the Loose Creek polling place, I was unaware that a tabulator had been used post-election. I only learned of it from someone else on or about April 25th.

- a. During my presentation on April 27, 2023, to the Osage County Commissioners, with the Clerk in attendance, I asked who paid for the software. The Clerk said that the software vendor gave it to the County for free. I pointed out that I saw this as a violation of 115.022. The Clerk then said that the Secretary of State's Office gave her permission.

VI. Alleged Violation: Missouri Statute 115.430 ¶8

Failure by the Osage County Election Authority to notify the Republican County Chair of the time and location of reviewing or counting provisional ballots, etc.

It is not my intent to speak for the Chair of the Osage County Republican Committee but, as the sole Watcher for Osage County, I confirmed with the Chair that no notification was given as to dates for review or counting of the provisional ballots.

VII. Alleged Violation: Missouri Statute 115.497

Failure by the Osage County Election Authority to properly convene the Verification Board, allegedly under the guidance and approval of the Secretary of State's office.

On election night, April 4, 2023, I asked the Clerk if my name had been submitted for the Verification Board. The Clerk replied she was unsure, so I told her I would check with the Republican Committee Chair.

On April 5, 2023, the Chair of the Osage County Republican Committee submitted my name to be the Republican member of the Verification Board. There was no reply.

On the evening of April 6, 2023, I emailed the Clerk for the day/time that the Verification Board would be meeting.

On the morning of April 7, 2023, (which was Good Friday) the Clerk replied to me and the Republican Committee Chair that we had missed the deadline to submit a name for the

Linda Rantz, Attachment to Elections Complaint Form, April 30, 2023 – page 5

DOC 32 (pg 8) – Rantz Election Complaint to MO SOS dated 5/1/2023

This is the election complaint filed with the Missouri Secretary of State.

Verification Board and that she had already selected the board. The Chair replied to the Clerk that he had never received notification to submit names, as required by statute. The Clerk admitted to “dropping the ball”, did not waiver on allowing me to serve on the Verification Board, and invited anyone to attend as an observer.

Emails between the Republican Chair and the Clerk continued April 8, 2023, about verification vs. certification. The Clerk wrote, “I had talked to 3 different representatives in the secretary of state’s office in the elections division in regards to the verification board. They all three said that the certification and verification board can be one in the same. It also states in statutes 115.430.7.1 ...”.

The Republican Chair pointed out that 115.430 pertains to provisional ballots.

- a. 115.430 ¶7 does allow for counted *Provisional* ballots to be certified and added to the vote tallies by the Verification Board. Nothing in 115.430 speaks to delaying of the certification of other counted ballots until verification.

After completing the “recount” of the Loose Creek ballots on April 12, 2023, the 4 election judges who were recounting were told that they were the Verification Board and needed to review all election results and ‘certify’ them. These election judges protested and refused to do so, saying they did not understand what they were being asked to do and would not certify ballots they did not count.

The Clerk’s reply to the election judges was to assure them their decision was okay, and she would have the Verification Board handle the remaining tasks. They asked who was on the Verification Board and, after a slight pause, the Clerk said my name and that she would get one of the Democrats in the room to join.

- a. The duty of the Verification Board is, in the simplest of terms, to check the math of the election judges.
- b. I have served on a Verification Board in the past.
- c. On the evening prior, I had downloaded all of the unofficial returns, created a spreadsheet, and checked the math of all polling places, absentee and early votes.
- d. The only mistake I found in the unofficial results was made by the election judges serving at the Central Polling location ... the same judges who I observed recounting the Loose Creek ballots. They had transposed the results for a candidate who received 810 votes, showing it as 801 on the unofficial results posted to the website.

Linda Rantz, Attachment to Elections Complaint Form, April 30, 2023 – page 6

DOC 35 (pg 1) – Unterrified Democrat newspaper article dated 5/3/2023

This article reports on the presentation I gave to Osage County Commissioners of the statement violations which I believe occurred following the April 4, 2023, election.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023 ■ PAGE 2

COUNTY COMMISSION NEWS

BY HB DODDS
UD STAFF WRITER

PROCESS, NOT RESULTS, OF THE APRIL 4 ELECTION MAY FACE LEGAL CHALLENGES

OSAGE COUNTY — Linda Rantz of Missouri Canvassers gave a PowerPoint presentation about the April 4 election at the Osage County Commission meeting Thursday, April 27. She's a proponent of hand-counting ballots. Her material provided comprehensive information about the process and how it worked. "I will present about the accuracy of the teams that did that counting that night," she said.

She wanted to explain reports of "irregularities" and "human error" that followed. Every ballot was viewed simultaneously by two election judges. Two others recorded results on a form. Both tally sheets had to match perfectly at all times. When it didn't, the process stopped, and the judges reconciled the differences. Any time such a discrepancy occurred, it qualified as an "irregularity."

On April 4, that happened only seven times at all precincts combined. There were none, though, where discrepancies were not reconciled by all four judges. Of the four, two are Democrats, and two are Republicans. There were no discrepancies when the results were certified and sealed that night. Nor were there any allegations of "irregularities" anywhere in Osage County. "The four election judges who are duly appointed, they're the ones who do the certification," Rantz explained.

She was also enthusiastic about what human election judges can do, as opposed to what no machine can do. She spoke about the Missouri statute enforcing "voter intent." Some voters will mark their ballots so a machine can't scan them but still make preference clear. Not all "distinguishing marks" are scannable. She showed examples of ballots with clear voter intent that no machine can detect. Those ballots were counted April 4, though a machine would have discarded them. "Our counters pay attention to that," she said. "Understanding voter intent is very important."

Osage County Democratic Chairman Larry Hunt was having none of it. "Why are we going backward?" he asked rhetorically. "I would like to know why it's necessary to do something like this when we're moving forward."

Rantz added violations of statutes she claimed to have seen following the election. None of them affected any of the announced election results. She felt machine-counting proponents committed them to cast aspersions on hand counting. In the verification process, she contended some were ballots opened and seals broken in violation of state laws, which call for such an operation to take place only by court order or state legislative action. She said machines used in verification were not tested before the election. She observed some ballots were specifically requested. The law stipulates they be chosen at random. Rantz insisted

Court Records

JUDGE SONYA BRANDT
Spencer J. Baer, Columbia, pleaded guilty to peace disturbance; suspended imposition of sentence, with two years unsupervised probation and community service (80 hours) concurrent with case above.

CIVIL CASES
LVNV Funding, LLC v. Heather L. Hutchinson, Freeburg, suit on file; judgment entered for plaintiff in the amount of \$7,464.85.

DISSOLUTION
Jordan A. Lyons v. Kathleen J. Burns, Springfield, judgment and declaration of paternity entered.

CITY OF LINN V.
Johanna M. Bisges, Columbia, pleaded guilty to defective equipment; fined \$275.

Austin J. Hatfield, Bonneville, pleaded guilty to failure to wear a seatbelt; fined \$10.

Kelli M. Mahoney, Jefferson City, pleaded guilty to speeding (20-25 over); fined \$155.50.

John Landwehr
Cook Vetter Doerhoff & Landwehr, P.C.
Attorneys at Law – Jefferson City
Now meeting with
clients in Linn.

DOC 35 (pg 2) – Unterrified Democrat newspaper article dated 5/3/2023

This article reports on the presentation I gave to Osage County Commissioners of the statement violations which I believe occurred following the April 4, 2023, election.

OSAGE COUNTY
SINCE 1866

Unterrified Democrat

Commission from page 2

she was not being critical of any individual but said she would nevertheless report the violations she observed. "I am pursuing legal options," she said. "By tomorrow, I will have filed complaints."

Osage County Clerk Nicci Kammerich did not take Rantz's assertions lightly. Rantz indicated Kammerich was pressured by the Missouri Secretary of State's Office and the Missouri Association of County Clerks. Kammerich felt otherwise. "I feel like I'm being pressured by you," she asserted. "I had been told I was allowed to do it."

"I'm sorry you're taking it personally," Rantz responded, "because you're getting bad advice."

Rantz believed and made it clear that Kammerich had never done anything without clearing it with representatives of the Secretary of State's office. No one asserts Kammerich ever acted out from under the authority of her chain of command. Should violations ensue, Rantz would expect them to lay at other than Kammerich's feet.

Osage County Eastern District Commissioner John Trenshaw was still happy about the money it would have cost to maintain the aging voting machines, which the county had been using until April 4. He's well aware more people were called and paid to work, but the final reckoning indicated less money spent on balance.

"I want to thank the officials from both parties," he said. "It saved the county quite a bit of money."

ROAD AND BRIDGE

Justin Blankenship of Bink's Trucking and Excavating, Sullivan, presented estimates for roads to be maintained on the 2023 asphalt budget to commissioners. The list includes portions of CRs 532, 621, 303, 620, 501, and 605. All will receive a basic "chip and seal," and some will receive base gravel before being oiled. Commissioners were anxious to ask him about prospects for the steep grade climbing CR 605 toward the Osage County Country Club. His response was to call for some extra rock to be graded onto the roadbed before the asphalt. "I think it would hold up there and do a pretty good job on that hill," Blankenship concluded.

The county would buy the asphalt and

concern is every day, not just court days," explained Brandt. "We can never know when somebody becomes upset."

Security is enhanced when court is in session.

Sheriff Bonham added insights from working in the building into his second term. He also expressed empathy with budgeting issues. "I do think there are some things we can do to upgrade our security without breaking the bank," he said.

Commissioners expressed their gratitude for the visit. They emphasized they now know what it is Courthouse employees are observing. They also promised to modernize electronic security features, including "panic buttons."

Steve Kirby, founder and owner of SecureTech Systems, Inc., Irving, Tex., visited commissioners on Tuesday, April 25. SecureTech installed the panic button system currently in use at the Courthouse about 15 years ago. Since then, first responder radios have been converted from analog to digital technology. That leaves only enough equipment to respond to the analog panic buttons. Should that system fail, no parts are being manufactured to service it. "All this old technology needs to be refreshed," he noted.

Kirby has been working for two years to close a deal. He would update and expand the old system to include the county's other buildings. Commissioners have held off, waiting to complete the new Osage County Health Department (OCHD) building. That's now done.

A good deal of attention is being paid to the county's security needs. Commissioners authorized the initiation of an agreement with Kirby. For his part, Kirby has agreed to stand by the quotes he's been producing since 2021. "I will let you buy off the old pricing," he said.

Commissioners will now take counts on how many buttons, computer and phone links, etc., it will take. Like other one-time expenditures related to the OCHD building, payment comes from ARPA. No dollar amount has been finalized.

ASSESSOR
Osage County Assessor Tina Kammerich

Dr. Pepper Products
16.9-oz Bottles
3/\$11 6-Pk

Pepsi Products
16.9-oz Bottles
3/\$10

12-oz Cans
\$1.099 24-Pk

GROCERIES

Bush's Best Beans Select 15.8 to 16-oz	5/\$5
Nabisco Nilla Wafers, Oreo Cookies or Honey Maid Grahams Select 11 to 15.33-oz	\$3.99
Ranch Style Beans Select 15-oz	4/\$5
Nature Valley Bars or Fiber One Brownies Select 6 ct/5.34-oz	2/\$5
Kellogg's Pop Tarts Toaster Pastries Select 8 ct	2/\$5
Snack Pack Pudding or Juicy Gels Select 4 ct	4/\$5
KELLOGG'S Rice Krispies Tr Nutri-Grain Bars Select 8 ct	
GENERAL MILLS Cereal Select 9 to 10.8-oz/5	
NABISCO Toasted Chips Select 8.1 to 8.8 oz/5	
KEEBLER Sandwich Crack 8 ct	
Kool-Aid Jamm Select 10 ct	
FRITO LAY Lays, Kettle Co Doritos Tortilla	

DOC 36 (pg 1) – SOS Decision on Rantz Complaint (Draft) 5/9/2023

The Secretary of State's office prepared this draft of the conclusion on their investigation into my elections complaint. Note that this decision is draft 8 days after I submitted it.

From: Pauley, Scott <Scott.Pauley@sos.mo.gov>
To: Peters, Chrissy <chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov>
Date: 5/9/2023 1:36:40 PM
Subject: Rantz Letter
Attachments: Draft to Rantz.docx

Here you go

DOC 36 (pg 2) – SOS Decision on Rantz Complaint (Draft) 5/9/2023

The Secretary of State's office prepared this draft of the conclusion on their investigation into my elections complaint. Note that this decision is draft 8 days after I submitted it.



JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK
STATE INFORMATION CENTER
(573) 751-4936

JOHN R. ASHCROFT
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MISSOURI

ELECTIONS DIVISION
(573) 751-2301

May 9, 2023

Linda Rantz
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: Elections Complaint

Dear Ms. Rantz:

Secretary Ashcroft has asked that I respond to your complaint regarding your concerns related to the April 4, 2023 general municipal election in Osage County.

Your first allegation is that under Section 115.493, RSMo., the Osage County Clerk should have sealed all election materials immediately after the election day. However, the duties of the county verification board under Section 115.501, RSMo., require the board to inspect the election returns in order to reconcile the numbers of votes cast to those obtained by the judges on the day of the election. Therefore, the election materials cannot be finally and officially sealed under Section 115.493, RSMo. until after the verification process is complete.

Next, you allege that ballots were removed from storage and handled without a bipartisan team present in violation of 15 CSR 30-10.060 (1) (A) and (B). However, in further discussion with the clerk, she explained that a bipartisan team is employed in her office and oversaw the handling of the ballots at that time.

You allege that based on the above allegations, all statutes pertaining to a potential election recount have been violated due to the handling of ballot materials. While the law is specific as to who may call for a recount, and at what threshold they may do so, the local election authority must first conduct the verification process to ensure accurate election results.

You further allege that the clerk used a tabulating machine without the required pre-election and post-election testing procedures. The clerk informed our office that concerns were raised by the verification board in regards to the process of verifying the tallies obtained by hand counting. To assist in this process, the election authority used one tabulator to make an unofficial count of the votes so that the verification board could review any instances where the hand count may have differed from the machine tally. However, the final verified result of the votes came from the hand counts; no machine tallies were ever certified as an official election return.

600 W. MAIN STREET • JEFFERSON CITY 65101
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DOC 36 (pg 3) – SOS Decision on Rantz Complaint (Draft) 5/9/2023

The Secretary of State's office prepared this draft of the conclusion on their investigation into my elections complaint. Note that this decision is draft 8 days after I submitted it.

In connection with the use of the tabulator, you also allege that the Osage County Clerk received a “donation” of software for use at this election. However, no such donation actually took place. The \$14,000 you cited was the cost assessed by their vendor for operating software for the August 2022 primary and November 2022 general elections (see attached receipts). The clerk did in fact pay for the software services rendered at the April 2023 election, as noted on the enclosed invoice.

You next allege that the clerk violated Section 115.439.8, RSMo., by failing to notify the chair of the county Republican Party committee as to the time and location of the verification board meeting. Please find attached a copy of the notice which was provided to the committee chair as a courtesy. Copies of the notice were also shared on public social media and in the same manner as other notices posted by the county commission.

Finally, you allege that the clerk violated Missouri statutes with regard to the composition and convening of the verification board. Section 115.499, RSMo., states that the election authority shall request, and the committee chair shall provide, names of at least six individuals qualified to serve on the verification board not later than the second Tuesday prior to an election. If either party fails to provide at least six individuals by the aforementioned deadline, then the election authority shall appoint member(s) from the applicable parties; this deadline would have been March 21, 2023 for the April 4, 2023 general municipal election. While the verification board must contain at least the clerk and one election judge from each party, the election authority may appoint additional judges, so long as exactly half of the appointees come from each major party. Therefore, the verification board which consisted of the clerk and the four election judges as you mentioned in your allegations would meet all requirements under this section.

In conclusion, we do not find that any violation of election law has occurred in this case and are closing your complaint without further action. Likewise, although you swore or affirmed in your complaint that the allegations you alleged were true to the best of your knowledge, a review of your complaint demonstrates they were not. I recommend you be more careful next time you file an election complaint with this office. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

Frank Jung
General Counsel

Enclosures

DOC 37 (pg 1) – SOS Decision on Rantz Complaint 5/11/2023

This letter is the SOS conclusion of their investigation into my election complaint. Note that this decision was sent to me 10 days after I submitted my complaint.



JOHN R. ASHCROFT

JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK
STATE INFORMATION CENTER
600 W. MAIN STREET • JEFFERSON CITY
65101

SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MISSOURI

GENERAL COUNSEL
(573) 751-4875
(573) 526-4903 FAX

May 11, 2023

Ms. Linda Rantz
[REDACTED]

Re: Elections Complaint

Dear Ms. Rantz:

Secretary Ashcroft has asked that I respond to your complaint regarding your concerns related to the April 4, 2023 general municipal election in Osage County.

Your first allegation is that under Section 115.493, RSMo., the Osage County Clerk should have sealed all election materials immediately after the election day. However, the duties of the county verification board under Section 115.501, RSMo. require the board to inspect the election returns in order to reconcile the numbers of votes cast to those obtained by the judges on the day of the election. Therefore, the election materials cannot be officially sealed under Section 115.493, RSMo. until after the verification process is complete.

Next, you allege that ballots were removed from storage and handled without a bipartisan team present in violation of 15 CSR 30-10.060 (1) (A) and (B). However, the clerk stated that a bipartisan team was employed by her office and oversaw the handling of the ballots at that time.

You also allege that based on the above allegations, the statutes pertaining to a potential election recount have been violated due to the handling of ballot materials. While the law is specific as to who may call for a recount, and at what threshold they may do so, the local election authority must first conduct the verification process to ensure accurate election results.

You further allege that the clerk used a tabulating machine without the required pre-election and post-election testing procedures. The clerk informed our office that concerns were raised by the verification board in regards to the process of verifying the tallies obtained by hand counting. To assist in this process, the election authority used one tabulator to make an unofficial count of the votes so that the verification board could review any instances where the hand count may have differed from the machine tally. However, the final verified result of the votes came from the hand counts; no machine tallies were ever certified as an official election return.

DOC 37 (pg 2) – SOS Decision on Rantz Complaint 5/11/2023

This letter is the SOS conclusion of their investigation into my election complaint. Note that this decision was sent to me 10 days after I submitted my complaint.

Election Complaint
May 11, 2023
Page 2

In connection with the use of the tabulator, you also allege that the Osage County Clerk received a “donation” of software for use at this election. However, no such donation actually took place. The \$14,000 you cited was the cost assessed by their vendor for operating software for the August 2022 primary and November 2022 general elections (see attached receipts). The clerk did in fact pay for the software services rendered at the April 2023 election, as noted on the enclosed invoice.

You next allege that the clerk violated Section 115.439.8, RSMo., by failing to notify the chair of the county Republican Party committee as to the time and location of the verification board meeting. Records obtained during our review shows there was a courtesy notice provided to the political party chairs, furthermore copies of the notice were also shared on public social media and in the same manner as other notices posted by the county commission. Please note that Section 115.501, RSMo., states that verification board notice shall be given to political parties named on the ballot. During the April 4, 2023 Municipal election there were no partisan races listed on the ballot, therefore Section 115.501, RSMo. does not apply and the notice provided to political parties as a courtesy, and the public notice mentioned above, met the requirements of Missouri election laws.

Finally, you allege that the clerk violated Missouri statutes with regard to the composition and convening of the verification board. Section 115.499, RSMo., states that the election authority shall request, and the committee chair shall provide, names of at least six individuals qualified to serve on the verification board not later than the second Tuesday prior to an election. If either party fails to provide at least six individuals by the aforementioned deadline, then the election authority shall appoint member(s) from the applicable parties. For the April 4, 2023 general municipal election the deadline would have been March 21, 2023. The verification board, at a minimum, had to include the clerk and one election judge from each party. The election authority may appoint additional judges, so long as exactly half of the appointees come from each major party. Therefore, the verification board which consisted of the clerk and the four election judges, as you mentioned in your allegations, would have met all the requirements under this section. Also, documents obtained in the review of your allegations demonstrate your name was provided to the local election authority by the Republican committee chair, and that you also served on the verification board.

In conclusion, we do not find any violation of the election laws in this matter and are closing your complaint without further action. Likewise, although you swore or affirmed in your complaint that the allegations you alleged were true to the best of your knowledge, a review of your complaint demonstrates they were all false. While we always want to learn about concerns regarding elections, we want to urge caution making sure complaints are accurate under the law.

Sincerely,

Frank Jung
General Counsel

Enclosures

DOC 41 (pg 1) – Rantz reply to Secretary of State 6/20/2023

In reply to the SOS letter of May 11, 2023, and including the perceived ‘threat’ made, this is the response to the SOS contention of no statutes violated.

Linda Rantz
[REDACTED]

June 20, 2023

Mr. Frank Jung, General Counsel
Missouri Secretary of State
600 W Main ST
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Re: Response to Elections Complaint

Dear Mr. Jung,

I received your letter dated May 11, 2023, in reply to my Election Complaint form. You have stated that you consider the matter closed, but please note that I do not share that conclusion. Therefore, I have amended my original complaint (attached) to indicate that I will also be filing with the Attorney General and the Missouri Ethics Commission.

One concern is that my complaint contained no less than five examples of statements or assurances made by representatives of the Secretary of State's office to the Osage County Clerk, which, by the Clerk's admissions, gave the Clerk “permission” to take the actions which I contend violated state laws. And yet, your letter has zero mentions as to the influence or conduct of the Secretary of State's representatives regarding Osage County.

It would have been reassuring to the voters had the Secretary of State asked an independent third party to conduct this investigation.

In my opinion, a significant shortcoming of your review is that you had no questions or follow-up for me regarding the details I outlined in my complaint. Also, from what I can tell, not even one person who could have provided statements or observations about the events, outside of county or state employees, appears to have been contacted by the Secretary of State's office.

On the other hand, your May 11th letter mentions at least five instances where you obtained comments or documents from county or state sources. To the average citizen, this is much more like the story of the fox in the henhouse: asking the fox, rather than the hens, what transpired in the henhouse.

I, along with others, have been conducting our own review by gathering witness statements and documents and tracking public comments made by the County Clerk. I have a detailed complaint to submit to the Attorney General, with supporting documentation. Everything we obtained could have been obtained by you or the Secretary of State's office.

That said, there are several statements in your May 11th letter that you may want to revisit, as they appear to be misunderstandings on your part or what I refer to as ‘untruths.’

Why Recount a Hand Counted Election?

At the heart of this issue is why did the County Clerk unseal ballots after election day and do a recount of a hand counted election?

Your letter states and appears to imply that the sole reason for the recount was concern by the Verification Board:

“The clerk informed our office that concerns were raised by the verification board”

Pg. 1

DOC 41 (pg 2) – Rantz reply to Secretary of State 6/20/2023

In reply to the SOS letter of May 11, 2023, and including the perceived ‘threat’ made, this is the response to the SOS contention of no statutes violated.

However, in a published opinion piece, the County Clerk states,

*“When Osage County announced that we were going to try hand count this time, I was asked by **the Secretary of State’s Office** how I was going to make sure the hand count teams had accurate results. ... **They recommended** that I get one tabulation machine to do an internal audit ...”* [emphasis added]

These do not appear to be reconcilable statements. Combined with an email from the President of the Missouri Clerk’s Association which lamented about hand counting and “**strongly encouraged**” any clerk who hand counted the April election to also run ballots through the machines, it seems that the Osage County Clerk was pressured into recounting a hand counted election.

The 5% Audit Rule ... for VOTING MACHINES

The opinion piece published by the County Clerk stated that representatives of the Secretary of State’s office counseled the Clerk to use a voting machine to conduct a post-election recount of hand-counted ballots:

*“**They** [Secretary of State’s office] proceeded to explain to me that **when we use the machines** we do a checks and balances by doing a manual recount of not less than 5% of the polling places to ensure accurate results for certification.”* [emphasis added]

And, while there is a state regulation for a 5% audit, the chapter title in which this regulation appears is **Chapter 10—Voting Machines (Electronic)**. The regulation is not for hand counting, it is for VOTING MACHINES!

This purpose statement is printed right at the beginning of the regulation:

PURPOSE: This rule provides a method for the election authority, the secretary of state and the general public to compare electronically tabulated vote results with manual recounts of selected races and ballot issues in certain election precincts.

This audit rule is intended to give citizens peace of mind about the accuracy of the voting machines.

What is the Verification Board?

At the heart of much of this is the Verification Board. What is it?

Your explanation that the Board has the duty to “inspect election returns” is accurate. However, you seem to imply that the ‘election returns’ to be inspected include **ballots**.

The law you cited explicitly states that the Verification Board shall:

*“...check the addition and figures on all tally sheets and statements of returns and shall compare its record with the returns made by the election judges ... **on the day of the election**.”* [emphasis added]

The word “recount” does not appear in this law. Nothing says that the Verification Board may unseal ballots and conduct a recount.

The word “ballot” only appears in this law to clarify that the law applies to elections with “paper ballots” or if a candidate appears on the “ballot.”

The Verification Board is checking the **math** on tally sheets, not ballots.

Who was appointed to the Verification Board?

While your letter attempts to answer this question in the second to the last paragraph, you include an extended statute quote that can only confuse the reader. The assertion I believe you are attempting to make is that the County Clerk had appointed four election judges to the Verification Board. However, you do not state when the appointments were allegedly made.

DOC 41 (pg 3) – Rantz reply to Secretary of State 6/20/2023

In reply to the SOS letter of May 11, 2023, and including the perceived ‘threat’ made, this is the response to the SOS contention of no statutes violated.

The idea that election judges were already appointed to the Verification Board is, in my opinion, an ‘untruth’ as shown by the following:

- The Clerk admits to “dropping the ball” and missing the March 21st deadline to request names for the Verification Board.
- On election night, April 4th, I asked the Clerk if I had been appointed to the Verification Board, and the reply was that she did not know and would have to check.
- On April 5th, my name was submitted by the Republicans to be on the Verification Board. The submission missed the March 28th deadline.
- On Friday, April 7th, the Clerk denied the Republican’s request for me to serve on the Verification Board, allegedly because of the missed deadline.
- On Friday, April 7th, the Clerk posted a note on Facebook that the Verification Board would meet on Wednesday, April 12th but neglected to list the names of the Verification Board members.
- Important to note for timing is that the Clerk’s Office closed early on Friday, April 7th, in observance of the Easter weekend.
- On Saturday, April 8th, the Clerk sent an email to the Democrat County Chair **requesting names of Democrats for the Verification Board**.

On Wednesday, April 12th, the four election judges whom I believe your letter refers to as those appointed to the Verification Board appeared confused and shocked when asked to verify the election results. They did not know what the Verification Board was nor that they had been ‘appointed’ to it.

THE ELECTION JUDGES REFUSED, in the presence of at least a dozen witnesses (including a representative of the Secretary of State’s office), to serve as or on the Verification Board.

The question of the appointment date of the Verification Board loops us back to the original question at the beginning of this letter: why was a hand counted election recounted? Your letter states that the “verification board” had concerns. **Yet, as of April 12th, no one appears to have been officially appointed to the Verification Board. So, who requested the recount?**

Upon refusal by the election judges to serve on the Verification Board, the question was posed to the Clerk, ‘Who IS on the Verification Board?’ Voila! At that moment, about Noon on April 12th, I was indeed appointed to the Verification Board. The Clerk had answered the question with, “Linda’s on the Verification Board, and I’ll get one of those Democrats.” (I assure you that, as a member of the Verification Board, I did not request a recount of ballots.)

Who has the authority to unseal voted ballots?

I am not a fan of statute 115.493, which I believe is broadly written with the intent to forbid access by the citizens of Missouri to election materials of any kind. I have heard from candidates and citizens in other counties who have attempted to obtain access to election information, even in the days following an election, only to be rebuffed by the strict interpretation of this very statute.

As I am sure you are aware, there are several pending cases in Missouri focused on this statute, including one filed by the Greene County Clerk, Shane Schoeller, against a citizen. I learned from Secretary Ashcroft himself that he had a hand in working with Clerk Schoeller to encourage or initiate this lawsuit.

What I find exciting is the apparent official position of the Secretary of State, as outlined in your May 11th letter, on the issue of when election materials become closed records. While I understood the law to be that “all voted ballots, etc.” must be kept for twenty-two months **from the date of the election**, I prefer your interpretation that they are closed **upon certification of the results by the Verification Board**.

This position would mean that from the day of the election until verification, election records (including ballots) are open records and subject to open records requests. I can only imagine the impact this will have on current legal cases, future contestations, and election complaints. I have and am sharing your May 11th letter with any interested parties in the open legal cases.

I assure you that we will have many citizens ready to Sunshine Request election records in that short timeframe after the election.

Pg. 3

DOC 41 (pg 4) – Rantz reply to Secretary of State 6/20/2023

In reply to the SOS letter of May 11, 2023, and including the perceived ‘threat’ made, this is the response to the SOS contention of no statutes violated.

I continue to contend that ballots in Osage County were sealed on election night when the Election Judges who conducted the counting of the ballots completed the counting, signed the certification documents, and sealed the ballots.

Opening sealed ballots in Osage County, because they had not been tabulated with a voting machine, required a Court Order, legislative action, or a grand jury, per the statute you cite, which was not obtained. And, despite the denial in your letter, we have witness statements verifying that the four election judges, the bipartisan team, admitted that they were being handed unsealed ballots which had not been unsealed in their presence.

We have learned in recent days that not one, but two representatives from the Secretary of State’s office were in the Osage County Clerk’s Office on Monday the 10th and that they, at the very least, witnessed the unsealing of ballots and quite possibly, as the Clerk publicly stated, gave the authorization to do so in the name of the Secretary of State’s office.

We discovered that the Democrat County Chair specifically requested the presence of representatives from the Secretary of State’s office to be in Osage County for post-election activities. Your office will likely receive a demand from the Republican County Chair as to why those representatives not only spent more than one day in Osage County on official business but did so without any notice to the Republican County Chair.

Did the County Clerk Receive an illegal “Donation” of Software?

Your letter states that an invoice shows the software for the voting machine was paid for, but the invoice you referenced is simply a shipping charge. It does not show any charge for the cost of the software.

And the Clerk herself publicly stated in front of no less than 20 witnesses that she was given the software for free because the Secretary of State’s office told her she could. Her statement is recorded on both audio and video.

Sunshine Request #1

At the meeting of the Osage County Commissioners (April 29, 2023), several observers noted that the County Clerk had placed her phone in a way that appeared to allow person(s) on the other end to hear the proceedings and possibly record them. The Clerk also appeared to be typing messages to someone (perhaps by email, SMS, or other messaging tool) as the Commissioners’ meeting progressed.

It has been questioned whether representatives of the Secretary of State’s office were on the receiving end of the phone call and/or the messages from the Clerk during the Commissioners’ meeting.

To determine whether this is true, I request copies of recordings and any messages between the Clerk and the Secretary of State’s office (including any staff) for the month of April 2023, including any recordings of the April 29th Commissioners Meeting.

True and False

In closing this letter, I address the closing of your May 11th letter to me, where you point out that the statements in my election complaint were “alleged” by me to be true to the best of my knowledge, although now determined to be false by you and the Secretary of State. You also wrote that you “urge caution making sure complaints are accurate under the law.”

I see that you were admitted to the bar in 1989. I will share with you that my first job in a law firm was in 1978 and continues to the current date, always in the private sector. Before you passed the bar, I had already held positions as the assistant to a senior partner of a prestigious international law firm, and as a Director of Business Affairs for a studio drafting multi-million-dollar contracts for high-profile Hollywood talent.

I am well-versed in legalese.

I consider your closing statements to be unsolicited legal advice and a thinly veiled threat meant to intimidate and silence.

Pg. 4

DOC 41 (pg 5) – Rantz reply to Secretary of State 6/20/2023

In reply to the SOS letter of May 11, 2023, and including the perceived ‘threat’ made, this is the response to the SOS contention of no statutes violated.

If I receive correspondence from you in the future with similar language, I will file a professional conduct complaint against you with the Missouri State Bar Association.

While you and the Secretary of State's office may consider that you have made a final judgment on my complaint, I know full well that the Courts have the final decision over what is true and what is false.

Sunshine Request #2

It piques my curiosity, though, whether I am the only person who has received such closing language in response to an election complaint. Therefore, I am requesting copies of all election complaints filed with the Secretary of State's office for elections held in 2022 and 2023, along with the responses sent to the complainants, and including any follow-up or additional communications specifically from you to any complainant.

I prefer receiving materials in digital format for my Sunshine Requests. Please advise me when the materials will be forthcoming.

Other than details regarding the Sunshine Requests, I do not require or expect a response from you. As mentioned in the opening of this letter, I will pursue my complaint with the Attorney General, the Missouri Ethics Commission, and pursue any other legal remedies available.

With regards,


✓ Linda Rantz


Enclosure: Amended Election Complaint

cc: Mark Lieneke, Osage County Republican County Chair
Osage County Commissioners c/o Darryl Griffin, Presiding Commissioner

Pg. 5

DOC 43 (pg 1) – Larry Hunt election complaint against Rantz 6/29/2023

Larry Hunt, Chair of the Osage County Democratic Committee, filed an election complaint against Linda Rantz just 9 days following Rantz's response to the SOS attorney.

Elections Complaint Form

Missouri Secretary of State's Office

Note: if you believe you have witnessed a violation of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 for federal elections, please fill out a Title III of HAVA Elections Complaint Form.

Name Larry L. Hunt

Address ██████████

County Osage

Phone ██████████

Email ██████████

My complaint pertains to the Election held on April 4, 2023

I have or will file a complaint with (check all that apply):

Missouri Attorney General's Office

Yes No

Missouri Ethics Commission

Yes No

Local Election Authority

Yes No

Local Law Enforcement

Yes No

My complaint is regarding (check one):

- Absentee voting
- Candidate Qualifications
- Voting
- Election Judge Misconduct
- Improper Voter Registration
- Other Election law violation of Section 115..639(13)

State the facts of the alleged violation, up to a maximum of 250 words, or attach a separate document. Please include:

- The name and mailing address of the person or persons alleged to have committed the violation; and
- A description of the act or acts you believe to be a violation.

Please see attached description and

<https://frankspeech.com/video/mike-mar-lago-and-Osage-County-MO-votes-paper-ballot>

1

(See next page for signature line)

DOC 43 (pg 2) – Larry Hunt election complaint against Rantz 6/29/2023

Larry Hunt, Chair of the Osage County Democratic Committee, filed an election complaint against Linda Rantz just 9 days following Rantz's response to the SOS attorney.

DOC 43 (pg 3) – Larry Hunt election complaint against Rantz 6/29/2023

Larry Hunt, Chair of the Osage County Democratic Committee, filed an election complaint against Linda Rantz just 9 days following Rantz's response to the SOS attorney.

I am filing this complaint regarding the April 4, 2023 municipal election and possible violations of election law. This complaint form has asked for the name and address of the individual that this complaint is being filed against – Linda Rantz, [REDACTED] phone [REDACTED], email [REDACTED] I believe Ms. Rantz has violated the above listed section. I have viewed a video that was dated April 4, 2023 from the "Lindell TV News Network" wherein I saw Ms. Rantz with a cameraman videoing during voting hours of the April 4, 2023 municipal election in Linn, MO at the Methodist Church which is polling precinct Linn II. This video included the showing of counting the cast paper ballots before the closing of the polls and before official results were posted. This video could be enlarged so that anyone could see the information on the voted ballot and on the tally sheets. Also, the video showed the ballot counters in the same room where ballots were being cast.

DOC 44 (pg 1) – Cheryl Linhardt election complaint against Rantz 7/2/2023

Cheryl Linhardt, believed to be the Vice Chair of the Osage County Democratic Committee, filed an election complaint against Linda Rantz nearly 3 months after the April 4th election.

Elections Complaint Form Missouri Secretary of State's Office

Note: if you believe you have witnessed a violation of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 for federal elections, please fill out a Title III of HAVA Elections Complaint Form.

Name CHERYL D. LINHARDT
Address ██████████
County OSAGE
Phone ██████████
Email ██████████
My complaint pertains to the Election held on 04-04-2023 Municipal Election

I have or will file a complaint with (check all that apply):

Missouri Attorney General's Office
Missouri Ethics Commission
Local Election Authority
Local Law Enforcement

Yes No
 Yes No
 Yes No
 Yes No

RECEIVED
JUL 06 2023
MO. SECRETARY OF STATE

My complaint is regarding (check one):

Absentee voting
 Candidate Qualifications
 Voting
 Election Judge Misconduct
 Improper Voter Registration
 Other Election law violation of ██████████

State the facts of the alleged violation, up to a maximum of 250 words, or attach a separate document. Please include:

- The name and mailing address of the person or persons alleged to have committed the violation; and
- A description of the act or acts you believe to be a violation.

I watched a video dated 04-04-2023 on Lindell TV News Network showing Linda Rantz
██████████

with a camera person recording at a polling in Osage County (Linn Methodist Church - Linn 2) during hours when the poll was open.

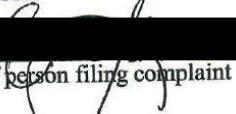
DOC 44 (pg 2) – Cheryl Linhardt election complaint against Rantz 7/2/2023

Cheryl Linhardt, believed to be the Vice Chair of the Osage County Democratic Committee, filed an election complaint against Linda Rantz nearly 3 months after the April 4th election.

(facts cont'd) My concerns are:

- Seeing ballots that had been voted. If the video frames of ballot counters counting ballots were stopped and enlarged you could see specific voted ballots. Also, pictures were taken at the County Clerks Office on the date of verification and certification by the above named person.
- Ballot counters counting ballots was not done in a private place/area. Persons entering the poll to vote could hear them.
- Integrity of the election – intent of the voter. Hand counters decided what the voter intended to vote. The tabulator would have rejected the ballot and the voter given a new ballot with the opportunity to vote correctly.
- Security of ballots when returned to County Clerks Office.
- Procedure of training of hand counters. Was procedure used for training an approved method from the state election authority (SOS office)?

By my signature I swear or affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided on this form is true.


Signature of person filing complaint


Date

Please be as thorough as possible and attach supporting documentation or additional facts, if any.

Return this signed form by:

Mail: Missouri Secretary of State's Office
Attn: Elections Division
600 W Main St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Email: elections@sos.mo.gov

DOC 45 – Larry Hunt email submitting his election complaint 7/3/2023

Unlike nearly 100 other election complaints submitted, Larry Hunt cc'ed Trish Vincent, Deputy Secretary of State, when he submitted his complaint against Linda Rantz.

From: [Elections-1 <Elections-1@sos.mo.gov>](mailto:Elections-1@sos.mo.gov)
To: [Peters, Chrissy <chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov>](mailto:Chrissy.Peters@sos.mo.gov)
[Czeschin, Gina <Gina.Czeschin@sos.mo.gov>](mailto:Gina.Czeschin@sos.mo.gov)
Date: 7/3/2023 11:47:29 AM
Subject: FW: Election Complaint/Osage County/att. Trish Vincent
Attachments: complaint2.pdf

Complaint about videos Linda Rantz took during the April election.

From: Larry Hunt <huntl52@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 3, 2023 10:19 AM
To: Elections-1 <Elections-1@sos.mo.gov>
Subject: Election Complaint/Osage County/att. Trish Vincent

CAUTION: This email originated from OUTSIDE of the SOS organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please use Phish Alert to report it.

To Whom It May Concern,
Attached is the complaint concerning the April 4th election held in Osage County.

Larry L. Hunt
Osage County Democratic Chair

DOC 47 (pg 1) –Clerk replies to initial SOS investigation questions 7/21/2023

Initially, the Secretary of State's Office had six (6) questions/document requests for the Osage County Clerk. This email has the Clerk's replies.

From: Nicci Kammerich <nbouse_OsageCountyDC@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Peters, Chrissy <chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov>
Subject: Re: Information gathering for Elections Complaint

5.98 MB 6 files attached1 embedded image

image001.jpg
3.79 KB

Attachment 1.pdf
238.63 KB

Attachment 2.pdf
4.22 MB

Attachment 3.pdf
940.89 KB

Attachment 4.pdf
259.03 KB

Attachment 5.pdf
60.08 KB

Attachment 6.pdf
301.83 KB

DOC 47 (pg 2) –Clerk replies to initial SOS investigation questions 7/21/2023

Initially, the Secretary of State's Office had six (6) questions/document requests for the Osage County Clerk. This email has the Clerk's replies.

I am attaching all documents needed with explanation on questions below.

1. Any and all communications and/or official documents signed by Linda Rantz and/or the political party that was filed with your office that indicates her permission to be in polling locations on election day (April 4, 2023).

Attachment 1

2. RSMo 115.409 defines who may be admitted to polling places. Specifically, it allows members of the news media who present identification satisfactory to the election judges and who are present only for the purpose of bona fide news coverage as long as such coverage does not disclose how any voter cast the voter's ballot on any question or candidate. Did you or your election judges approve or allow bona fide news coverage by a member of the news media at the Linn Methodist Church – Linn 2 or any other polling location on April 4, 2023?

No, I did not approve any media coverage in any polling places nor was I aware of any going into polling locations on the day of the April Election. It was after the election that I had found out about news media being present in a polling place. From what I can remember, Linda did come by my office with a gentleman on election day and introduced him to me and she did not ask but stated she was going to do an interview with him over the hand count process she had showed me but I was never told they were going into polling locations for this purpose. I had 2 poll workers working at this polling place. Janet [REDACTED] and Reta [REDACTED]. After reaching out to both poll workers in regards to this, Reta [REDACTED] said she was not aware of anyone recording or asking to record or specifying they are news media. Janet [REDACTED] refused to speak with me on this as she had someone with her and she stated, "This is a political call and I have someone with me and can't talk right now." If you would like Janet's number to call her in regards to this, I am happy to give her number to you.

3. Any information and/or training and/or procedures in regards to training and communication for the hand-counting teams for the April election.

Attachments 2 and 3 were used for training the hand-counting teams. Attachment 2 is the information provided to me from Linda and Craig Rantz for use as hand count sheets. I had reviewed these forms and Linda and Craig had showed my staff and I how these forms work by doing a mock hand count. I had approved these forms to be used for the hand counters. These forms were put in a binder for the hand counters to use on election day. Attachment 3 is the statutes/procedures in regards to hand counting that were provided to the hand counters supply materials.

The materials in the binder along with the statutes were used and authorized for hand count training. I told Linda that I do not have the time to do all of this for hand count so if her, as a committee-woman, and the Republican Committee can get ahold of the Democratic Committee and arrange trainings if they can get enough hand counters to work the election then I would be happy to try hand counting out. I gave Linda a list of all poll workers I had along with Democratic Committee Members to work together on this. I was never aware that Linda had put one of the trainings in the name of Cause of America, I believe it was the March 11th Training at the Library in Linn. Linda did ask if she could put an ad in the paper asking for hand counters to come forward and learn the hand count process but that is all that was asked and all that I

DOC 47 (pg 3) –Clerk replies to initial SOS investigation questions 7/21/2023

Initially, the Secretary of State's Office had six (6) questions/document requests for the Osage County Clerk. This email has the Clerk's replies.

had approved. I set up the March 25th Training in the County Clerk's name at the Library. See Attachment 4 last page. I did approve an ad in the paper for the March 25th training and I did approve to Gina Kroeger that they could put RSVP to the County Clerk's office in that ad but I was never given a proof of the ad to approve before it was put in the paper. See Attachment 4. One thing I did not approve nor was asked was a letter sent to every poll worker by Linda Rantz. I was not aware of the letter until after the letter was sent out. I was only aware of the letter when Linda had emailed it to me and told me she had mailed these out. See Attachment 4. After the hand count training on March 25th, I had a list of hand counters and poll worker applications of individuals wanting to work, my deputy had sent out official mailings to those individuals to work as a hand counter at specific place, time and political party they would be serving on per their poll worker application affiliation selected. My deputy did not make copies of those letters she had sent out but I am sure if you need one, we can reach out to someone if they still have it.

4. Please explain the Linn Methodist Church - Linn2 layout of the polling location provided to your office for use as a polling place for the April election.

Attachment 5, I apologize for it being hand drawn but I think this is the best way for you to see the layout. If you would like something different, please let me know.

5. Please provide any sunshine requests from Linda Rantz filed with the Osage County Clerk specific to the April election.

Attachment 6

6. Did you authorize the use of capturing photos at the polling locations by hand-counters to record the unofficial hand-count tally sheets prior to delivery of those tally sheets to your office on election night?

I did not authorize the use of capturing photos of the unofficial hand count tally sheets prior to delivery to anyone. Nor did I authorize any capturing of any types of photos in the polling places to anyone.

Nicci Kammerich (Bouse)

Osage County Clerk

Election Authority/Budget Officer

MACCEA Auditing Committee Member, Nominating Committee Member and Scholarship Committee Member

Osage County Administration

205 E. Main Street

PO BOX 826

Linn, MO 65051

P: 573-897-2139

F: 573-897-4741

DOC 50 – Synopsis of Detective's Interview with Brooke Dudenhoeffer

This investigation by the Osage County Sheriff is based on a complaint filed by Linda Rantz with the Sheriff's office. It is the same complaint Rantz filed with the Secretary of State's office.

	OSAGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE -... SHERIFF MICHAEL BONHAM		Supplement
106 EAST MAIN STREET LINN, MISSOURI 65051		Incident #	Page 1 23-2399
Title Interview of B. Dudenhoeffer			
Reported 09/14/2023 13:05 Thursday			
<p><i>About 1305, September 14, 2023, I interviewed Brooke Dudenhoeffer, Front Desk Clerk, Osage County Clerk's Office, 205 E. Main Street, Linn, MO. Brooke was identified by Nicci Kammerich as assisting in the ballot processing after the April 4th election was done. Brooke stated when she entered the back room, which she stated was locked, she and Nicci opened the ballots and then ran them through the tabulator. Brooke stated this was done with guidance from the Secretary of State's Office and it was done to compare the hand count versus the tabulator. Brooke stated Nicci and the Secretary of State's Office wanted to prove or disprove the accuracy of the hand count. I asked Brooke if there was any intent to change the outcome of the election and she stated there was not. Brooke stated there was concern among the bi-partisan team about the accuracy of the hand count. Brooke stated she did not know if the ballots were sealed when they were provided to the bi-partisan team and the board hand counted every ballot again. According to Brooke's understanding, Nicci was instructed by the Secretary of State's Office to conduct the hand count. Brooke stated Nicci contacted Elkins-Swyers for the programming for the machine and the numbers tabulated by the machine was not used in the final count for the election. According to Brooke, as the election process began and through the actual election, Linda Rantz kept having issues with something the Clerk's did.</i></p> <p><i>Note: The above narrative is a synopsis of the interview. The interview was recorded using a department issued digital voice recorder. For full details refer to the recording.</i></p> <p>E.O.R. N. Pappas, #808</p>			
Officer ID PAPPAS, NICK	Agency NP808	Reviewed By Capt. Travis Shaffer	Date 10/17/2023
Printed By/On: AR803 / 10/23/2023 13:04:16 CrimeStar® Law Enforcement Records Management System			

DOC 53 (pg 1) – Synopsis of Detective's Interview with Chrissy Peters

This investigation by the Osage County Sheriff is based on a complaint filed by Linda Rantz with the Sheriff's office. It is the same complaint Rantz filed with the Secretary of State's office.

	OSAGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE -... SHERIFF MICHAEL BONHAM 106 EAST MAIN STREET LINN, MISSOURI 65051	Supplement Page 1 Incident # 23-2399				
Title Chrissy Peters (SoS) Reported 10/04/2023 08:05 Wednesday						
<p><i>About 0805, October 4, 2023, I was contacted by Chrissy Peters, Director of Elections, Missouri Secretary of State Office (SoS), Jefferson City, MO. I was driving when she contacted me, so it took a moment for me to find a safe location to stop.</i></p> <p><i>Once stopped, I explained to Chrissy the reason for my call was for my investigation into the opening of the ballots after they left the polling precincts and ensuring there was no effort to tamper with the outcome of the election. Chrissy stated the election law that has been called into question was written in the 1970's as it relates to hand counting and was prior to the technology being available. Chrissy stated there was a group in Osage County that spoke to Nicci (Nicci Kammerich, Osage County Clerk) about doing an "old school" hand count and Nicci entertained the idea. Chrissy stated Nicci had training conducted but Nicci had contacted the SoS as she wanted to have something in place to ensure the accuracy of the count. Chrissy stated even in a hand count, the ballots are still opened when returned to the Election Official and the count prior to the ballots being returned to the election official is the unofficial results. She stated Nicci had one tabulator programmed to ensure the accuracy of the count but she (Nicci) still had the bi-partisan team for the verification board. Chrissy stated the bi-partisan team was very apprehensive about verifying the tally sheets as they did not know who had counted them. She also stated concerns were brought to the SoS regarding people from outside of Osage County coming into the county to assist in the election. Chrissy stated the verification board was not used to conducting a hand count as they have used a tabulator for so long. Chrissy stated there are historical documents that have discussed the influence of humans and how that influence can sway them into changing the outcome of an election. She stated that is where tabulators became important as they removed the human aspect from the counting of the ballots. Chrissy stated all the administrative processes required after an election were performed by Nicci and Nicci went "above and beyond" in ensuring the accuracy of the count. Chrissy stated it is absolutely the duty of the election official to ensure the accuracy of the count and this is where Nicci went above and beyond.</i></p> <p><i>I also spoke to Chrissy about the alleged in-kind donation received by Nicci's office. I explained that I had spoke with Cory Niebert from Elkins Swyers and he explained that since there were so many issues with the hand count, he did not charge Nicci for the programming and he only charged her for the freight. I told Chrissy that upon reviewing the statute, I did not see any benefit for Cory in not charging and he actually took a loss by not charging Osage County for the programming. Chrissy stated the statute I am referring to is actually a newer statute and it considers the influence organizations such as non-profits, not-for-profit and personal interest groups could have on an election. She stated the statute was written to keep these type of organizations and individuals from influencing an election. She concurred with my finding that by providing the programming there was no violation as it relates to in-kind donations.</i></p> <p><i>Chrissy added the SoS was actively investigating L. Rantz for having a camera in a polling location and recording the counters hand counting the ballots. Chrissy stated this was not allowed and as a designated watcher, L. Rantz was not authorized to allow this. Chrissy also stated she would provide the response to L. Rantz's complaint filed with their office.</i></p> <p><i>On October 5, 2023, I received the complaint filed by L. Rant and the reply by the Missouri Secretary of State Office. They have been attached to this report.</i></p> <p>E.O.R.</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>Officer ID PAPPAS, NICK</td><td>Agency OCSO</td><td>Reviewed By Capt. Travis Shaffer</td><td>Date 10/17/2023</td></tr></table> <p>Printed By/On: AR803 / 10/23/2023 13:04:25 PrimaStamp Case Enhancement Records Management System</p>			Officer ID PAPPAS, NICK	Agency OCSO	Reviewed By Capt. Travis Shaffer	Date 10/17/2023
Officer ID PAPPAS, NICK	Agency OCSO	Reviewed By Capt. Travis Shaffer	Date 10/17/2023			

DOC 53 (pg 2) – Synopsis of Detective's Interview with Chrissy Peters

This investigation by the Osage County Sheriff is based on a complaint filed by Linda Rantz with the Sheriff's office. It is the same complaint Rantz filed with the Secretary of State's office.

	OSAGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE -... SHERIFF MICHAEL BONHAM 106 EAST MAIN STREET LINN, MISSOURI 65051	Supplement Page 2 Incident # 23-2399
Title Chrissy Peters (SoS)		Reported 10/04/2023 08:05 Wednesday
<i>N. Pappas, #808</i>		
Officer ID PAPPAS, NICK	Agency OCSO	Reviewed By Capt. Travis Shaffer
Printed By/On: AR803 / 10/23/2023 13:04:26 CrimeSentry Law Enforcement Reports Management System		Date 10/17/2023

DOC 58 – Probable Cause Statement filed by Secretary of State

This statement was sent to the Osage County Prosecutor's Office on October 11, 2023. It arrived with NO supporting documentation.



SECRETARY OF STATE STATE OF MISSOURI

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

October 11, 2023

I, Frank A. Jung, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

I have probable cause to believe that Linda Rantz violated Section 115.409, RSMo., by unlawfully filming at a polling location on April 4, 2023 and, Section 115.637 (13), RSMo., by furnishing, as a party watcher, information tending to show the state of the count prior to the closing of the polls.

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

1. That Ms. Rantz, as a party watcher, allowed a film crew to enter a polling place without the permission of the County Clerk or the election judges assigned to the polling location.
2. That Ms. Rantz was also part of the unauthorized film crew when she narrated the filming of counting and recording judges who were hand counting of ballots as she discussed the process being conducted by those workers.
3. That by allowing the film crew to film the hand count Ms. Rantz furnished the camera person, who was not authorized to be at the polling location, information tending to show the state of the count prior to the polls closing by allowing the filming to occur.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank A. Jung".

Frank A. Jung

DOC 59 – Detective email to SOS re Rantz statement about Media

Detective Pappas email to Chrissy Peters at calling out detail in Rantz statement made on May 4, 2023, about media at polling places for April 4, 2023, election.

The attached statement of Linda Rantz may be downloaded at
<https://handcounting.com/RantzSheriffStmt>

From: [Nicholas Pappas <nnpappas@osagesheriff.org>](mailto:nnpappas@osagesheriff.org)
To: [Peters, Chrissy <chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov>](mailto:chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov)
Date: 10/13/2023 12:47:17 PM
Subject: RE: Return Call
Attachments: [_Statement of Linda Rantz 2023.5.4.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from OUTSIDE of the SOS organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please use Phish Alert to report it.

Good Morning Chrissy,
I am not sure if you have seen the statement I. Rantz provided to this office but I noted on page 11 she mentioned some from Lindell TV being present and his credentials being reviewed by Nicci. Not sure if this is relevant to what you have been looking into but wanted to bring it to your attention.

Thanks,

From: Peters, Chrissy <chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 7:59 AM
To: Nicholas Pappas <nnpappas@osagesheriff.org>
Subject: RE: Return Call

Good morning.

As a follow up phone call here is the investigation filed with the SOS office from Linda Rantz. Her complaint and letter in response. Thank you for your time and your service. We will be in touch with an update to our active investigation.

Chrissy Peters | Director of Elections
Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft
600 West Main Street | Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 526-3986 | 1-800-669-8683



From: Nicholas Pappas <nnpappas@osagesheriff.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 7:48 AM
To: Peters, Chrissy <chrissy.peters@sos.mo.gov>
Subject: Return Call

CAUTION: This email originated from OUTSIDE of the SOS organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please use Phish Alert to report it.

Good Morning,
I apologize. I had to stop as I was driving in an area with little to no reception. I will try calling again here shortly.

Thanks,
Nick Pappas

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

DOC 62 – Prosecuting Attorney's Letter to SOS asking for Case File 10/31/2023

The Probable Cause Statement submitted by the Secretary of State to the Osage County Prosecuting Attorney did not include any evidence or attachments. The Prosecuting Attorney had to ask for the case file.

AMANDA L. GRELLNER
Osage County Prosecuting Attorney
P.O. Box 378
Linn, MO 65051
(573) 897-3101 Phone
E Mail: Ellen.Nichols@prosecutors.mo.gov

Ellen Nichols, Office Manager

Susan Fowler, Secretary

October 31, 2023

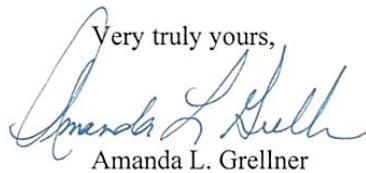
Mr. Frank A. Jung
General Counsel
Missouri Secretary of State
600 W. Main Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Mr. Jung:

I am in receipt of the probable cause statement you have submitted to my office requesting that charges be filed against Linda Rantz. I have been holding on to that probable cause statement as I was anticipating that the case file would be submitted so that I could properly review the case, but I have not yet received the case file.

In order to do my due diligence of course, I would need the entire case file, to include reports, witness statements, video evidence, etc. prior to making a charging decision. Please either submit said case file to my office so that I may properly review the same, or if you could possibly give me a time frame as to when I can expect to receive it, that would also be helpful.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very truly yours,

Amanda L. Grellner

ALG/ean

DOC 63 – SOS letter to Prosecuting Attorney with “evidence” 11/7/2023

The Secretary of State provided “evidence” from their investigation to the Osage County Prosecuting Attorney.



JOHN R. ASHCROFT

SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MISSOURI

GENERAL COUNSEL
(573) 751-4875
(573) 526-4903 FAX

JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK
STATE INFORMATION CENTER
600 W. MAIN STREET • JEFFERSON CITY
65101

November 7, 2023

Ms. Amanda Grellner
Osage County Prosecutor
P.O. Box 378
Linn, Missouri 65051

Dear Ms. Grellner:

Per your request, I am enclosing copies of the complaints we received against Linda Rantz, along with emails from our Elections Division regarding the issue. During my investigation I also contacted both the Republican and Democratic poll judge assigned to the Linn Methodist Church on April 4, 2023. While neither observed Ms. Rantz filming at their location, both indicated to me that they did not give Ms. Rantz permission to film inside the polling location which is required by statute. I will also be emailing you a link of a video in which Ms. Rantz is being filmed inside the polling location discussing poll workers hand counting ballots. This video was posted on the Lindell TV News Network.

If you have further questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

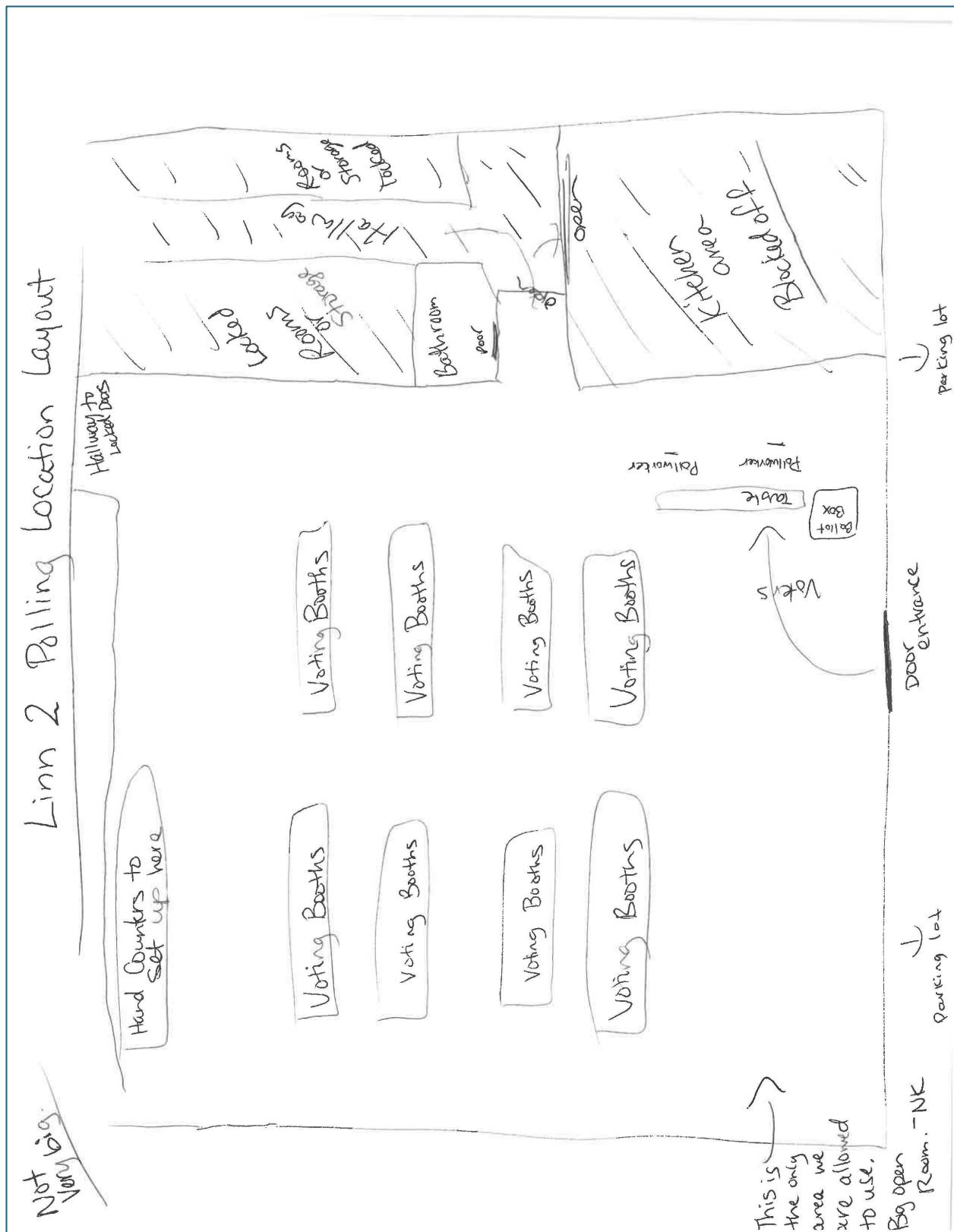
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank A. Jung".

Frank A. Jung
General Counsel

DOC 64 – Floor Plan of Polling Place referred to as “Linn 2”

This polling place is located at the Linn Methodist Church. The Secretary of State's investigate materials reference it as the place where Linda Rantz was filmed on TV prior to polls closing.



DOC 65 – Synopsis of Detective's Interview with Pat Nilges

This investigation by the Osage County Sheriff is based on a complaint filed by Linda Rantz with the Sheriff's office. It is the same complaint Rantz filed with the Secretary of State's office.

OSAGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF MICHAEL BONHAM

106 EAST MAIN STREET
 LINN, MISSOURI 65051

Supplement

Page 1

Incident #

23-2399

Title **Interview of Pat Nilges**

Reported 08/24/2023

13:50

Thursday

About 1350, August 24, 2023, I contacted Pat Nilges by telephone and interviewed her regarding the ballot procedures of the April 4, 2023 election. Pat was identified by N. Kammerich as one of four members of the Bi-Partisan team that composed the Verification/Certification Board. The interview was recorded using a department issued digital voice recorder. I explained to Pat the Sheriff's Office was focusing on the opening of the ballots after they had been sealed. When I asked Pat about the opening of the ballot envelopes, she stated they have to be opened by the judges and would have been closed when they were provided to the Bi-Partisan board. She said they did a complete recount of every ballot to insure the "people in the field," referring to the election judges, were accurate. Pat said there was too big of a chance of error with the hand count and when I asked her if the ballots had been run through the machine to count the ballots she said no. Pat said they never had a problem with the ballots before.

Note: This is a synopsis of the interview. For further information refer to the audio recording.

E.O.R.

N. Pappas, #808

Officer ID

PAPPAS, NICK

NP808

Agency

OCSO

Reviewed By

Capt. Travis Shaffer

Date

10/17/2023

Printed By/On: AR803 / 10/23/2023 13:04:06
 CrimeStar® Law Enforcement Records Management System

DOC 69 – Sample Ballot for Osage County April 4, 2023, election

Sample of one of the ballots for the Osage County April 4, 2023, election. Note the timing code (dashed border) around the edges of the ballot. This is used by voting machines. There were no plans to use voting machines. The Clerk said the vendor told her the ballot paper is already pre-printed with the timing code on it.

JUDGE'S INITIALS

OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT
MUNICIPAL ELECTION
OSAGE COUNTY, MISSOURI
APRIL 4, 2023

BT:1

SAMPLE

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice, like this . Use the marking device provided.

CANDIDATES: Complete the oval next to the Candidate for whom you wish to vote.

PROPOSITIONS/QUESTIONS: If you are in FAVOR of the Proposition or Question, complete the oval next to the word YES. If you are OPPOSED to the Proposition or Question, complete the oval next to the word NO.

WRITE-IN: To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, write his or her name in the blank space provided for such purposes and complete the oval next to the space provided.

COUNTY SALES TAX

"Shall OSAGE County, Missouri impose a countywide sales tax of three percent (3%) on all tangible personal property retail sales of adult use marijuana sold in OSAGE County, Missouri.

Yes
 No

Maries County R-II School District

To choose by ballot three (3) directors who shall serve as members of the Board of Education of said school district for a term of three (3) years each.

(Vote for 3)

Amy K. Kiso
 Garret Bialczyk
 Ashley Marquart-Harris
 Brent Stratman
 (write-in)
 (write-in)
 (write-in)

DOC 70 – Statement by Joe Brazil concerning Jay Ashcroft, 9/7/2022

Joe Brazil, County Councilman for St. Charles County in Missouri, statement regarding comment made to him by Jay Ashcroft, Missouri Secretary of State, regarding Ali Graef's lawsuit.

DigiSign Verified: 3E260E82-D2C0-48BD-ACC7-202D2078A6D3

September 17th, 2022

In the interest of time and my ability to produce a formal affidavit, this document serves as my immediate attestation to the following:

I, Joe Brazil, do swear that the following statement is true and accurate.

In a conversation between myself, and Secretary of State Ashcroft regarding Ali Graeff's Petition to Contest the St. Charles Co Primary election, he stated to me that "this will never see a courtroom."

This conversation took place September 7, 2022, and was specifically pertaining to the above stated petition.

Joe Brazil

Signature

09-17-2022

Date