

----- Forwarded Message: -----

From: ayousoufian@comcast.net

To: "Logan, Dean" <Dean.Logan@METROKC.GOV>

Cc: "Fell, Garth" <Garth.Fell@METROKC.GOV>, "Ferguson, Bob" <Bob.Ferguson@METROKC.GOV>, "Joly, Janine" <Janine.Joly@METROKC.GOV>, "Phillips, Larry" <Larry.Phillips@METROKC.GOV>, "Satterberg, Dan" <Dan.Satterberg@METROKC.GOV>, "Baynard, Scott" <Scott.Baynard@METROKC.GOV>

Subject: Thank you for your response RE: I deserve same treatment as Larry Phillips Re: Follow-up re: not counting my votes last fall

Date: Wed, 22 Mar 2006 01:05:19 +0000

5:02 PM, Tuesday, March 21, 2006

Dear Mr. Logan,

Thank you for your prompt reply to my last email. There's enough to absorb in it that I may have more to say later.

So - where do we go from here?

For now it appears your position at this time is that my votes in the September 20, 2005 primary and November 8, 2005 general elections were not counted and that is what is reflected in my voter record. This is despite what appears to be a clear indication - and correct me if I misunderstood this - that the non-counting of my November vote was due to King County Elections department "staff error". (I quote you from below: "I can further confirm that, as a result of staff error, your November 2, 2005 General Election ballot was not counted." )

Is that it?

What does that mean for my voter record? I can't imagine that you intend for this matter to end with the explanation you have offered. Or do you? Am I to just accept that "mistakes were made" - after all we have been through in this county for the past year-plus regarding elections issues? That my lengthy, consistent record of voting in every election is now tarnished?

How is it that Larry Phillips got the benefit of receiving a list of voters whose absentee ballot votes had not been counted and when he discovered his vote wasn't counted - a discovery that came 6 weeks after the November 2, 2004 general election - steps were taken such that his vote (and others) was (were) counted after all? Why/how is it that it was arranged for whatever mechanics or procedures were required to be deployed for his vote to be retroactively counted? Will those same steps be taken to retroactively restore my votes?

Otherwise, why is it that I am being disenfranchised and Larry Phillips was not?

You also say that: "After researching your issue over the past day and one half, I can confirm that your September 20, 2005 primary ballot was not counted as a result of an inability to match the signature on your reply envelope with the signature in our election management / voter registration system. This determination was made properly and notice provided in accordance with state law."

Conspicuously absent from the above comment is the failure to address the fact that I received a letter following the September 20, 2005 primary telling me there was a problem, and when I phoned I was told the problem had been dealt with and my vote had been counted.

And why had this "inability to match the signature on your reply envelope with the signature in our election management / voter registration system" not manifested itself in the decade or more I have been voting absentee when my signature on file dated from 1972? My signature had changed from what you had on file (I learned this in late November, 2005), but it had changed to its current form within a few years of the 1972 signature. How did my absentee ballot votes get to be accepted all through the 1990's and through 2004? I will be the first to acknowledge that when I saw the signature you'd had on file since 1972 I knew it was in its older form (this occurred in late November, 2005 when I personally came into the Elections Office and completed yet another Voter Registration Form as yet another follow-up to insure my signature was updated in your system, at which point the system still had my old signature). Still, it was similar - the main difference being that the individual letters of my name were no longer discernible. Somehow my absentee ballots were counted all these years, and when there wasn't a match in September, 2005, I got a letter but was then told I was OK.

How many other people might have not had their absentee ballots counted because of these sorts of issues, and/or how many were misinformed when they phoned to check on the form letter they got, or who were away on vacation and didn't even see such letters until it was far too late to do anything about it?

It remains a mystery why nothing was said about whether Larry Phillips ever received such a letter shortly after his November 2, 2004 ballot was not counted. Whether he did or not, and whatever came of that, Larry Phillips got to have his vote count long after - six weeks after - the election when his issues came to light. I shouldn't receive disparate treatment. If Larry Phillips can say that this could happen to anyone, and now it has, and if he got to be un-disenfranchised (I made that word up just now), I should get the same treatment.

And what is going to happen when we go to "all mail voting" if these kinds of errors are apparently an ongoing situation?

Is the public aware of how capricious it appears to be whether your vote is counted and/or how easy it is for votes to be rejected if one votes by the absentee method? How much of this goes on?

Armen Yousoufian  
continuous King County Citizen since 1969  
continuous King County voter since 1972

----- Original message -----

From: "Logan, Dean" <Dean.Logan@METROKC.GOV>

Dear Mr. Yousoufian,

Thank you for your follow-up email to our discussion on Thursday, March 16, 2006. I can confirm that I have committed to responding to your question and concerns regarding your 2005 Primary and 2005 General Election ballots and have the information to do so. My assumption, based on your comments at the Canvass Board meeting and your follow-up email message was that you desired a complete response, which is what we have prepared. I will not, in this message, respond to the assertions and allegations from your message today as they do not have relevance to what I believe to be a timely response to your original request for information.

After researching your issue over the past day and one half, I can confirm that your September 20, 2005 primary ballot was not counted as a result of an inability to match the signature on your reply envelope with the signature in our election management / voter registration system. This determination was made properly and notice provided in accordance with state law. I can further confirm that, as a result of staff error, your November 2, 2005 General Election ballot was not counted. Additional details regarding your November 2, 2005 General Election ballot follow.

As you indicated, your absentee and the completed voter registration form were sent to the King County Canvassing Board for ruling and disposition. At the meeting a motion was presented and accepted that your absentee be accepted and processed. The absentee was then sent back to the absentee work unit for processing. Absentee staff noted on the reply envelope itself and on attached documentation that the ballot was accepted and was to be processed. The envelope was placed back with other ballots that had been initially identified as a mismatch between the signature on the envelope and the signature in our election management/voter registration system for accounting purposes and should have been pulled for final processing.

Despite a number of reviews, your ballot was overlooked and not pulled for final processing. After your

inquiry on March 16, 2006, staff retrieved your envelope from those challenged and discovered that, in fact, it had been overlooked and should have been processed. As a result of the discovery that your ballot was not processed through to tabulation, I have directed Elections supervisors to:

1. Evaluate staff understanding of absentee processing status information in our election management/voter registration system,
2. Review with Elections Staff the correct interpretation of flags and fields relating to absentee processing in our election management/voter registration system,
3. Ensure that staff can appropriately communicate the status of a received absentee ballot to voters,
4. Perform a root-cause analysis of the failure to process through to completion a ballot dispositioned by the Canvassing Board to be counted, and
5. Alter processes as necessary to ensure that ballots dispositioned by the Canvassing Board to be counted are in fact counted.

Additionally, I am directing our new Quality Assurance unit to review all steps taken in response to the above directives and to recommend any additional actions necessary to address this issue.

Although I am certain it is of little consolation, I have confirmed that your signature has been updated based on the voter registration form you completed in November and your ballots have been accepted and counted for both the February 7, 2006 and March 14, 2006 Special Elections. Considerable effort has been extended to assure against these types of occurrences. Many of those procedures were originated during the 2005 election cycle and have been perfected in the subsequent Special Elections held in February and March.

Please accept my sincerest apologies in regards to this error.

Sincerely,

**Dean Logan**, Director  
Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division  
King County Department of Executive Services

-----Original Message-----

**From:** AYOUSOUFIAN  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2006 12:10 PM  
**To:** Logan, Dean; Satterberg, Dan  
**Cc:** Fell, Garth; Ferguson, Bob; Joly, Janine; Phillips, Larry; KERVIN; jensullivan@seattletimes.com  
**Subject:** I deserve same treatment as Larry Phillips Re: Follow-up re: not counting my votes last fall

Noon, Tuesday, March 21, 2006

Subject: I want the same treatment that King County Councilmember Larry Phillips received following the November 2, 2004 general election - when it was discovered his absentee ballot wasn't counted either!

March 21, 2006

From: Armen Yousoufian, King County citizen since 1969

To: [dean.logan@metrokc.gov](mailto:dean.logan@metrokc.gov) (Dean Logan), [dan.satterberg@metrokc.gov](mailto:dan.satterberg@metrokc.gov) (Dan Satterberg)

Cc's: [garth.fell@metrokc.gov](mailto:garth.fell@metrokc.gov) (Garth Fell), [bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov](mailto:bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov) (Bob Ferguson), [Janine.Joly@metrokc.gov](mailto:Janine.Joly@metrokc.gov) (Janine Joly)

and, new cc's and bcc's added since last email: (see comments below): King County Councilmember and Chair, Larry Phillips [larry.phillips@metrokc.gov](mailto:larry.phillips@metrokc.gov) ; Seattle Times reporters Keith Ervin [kervin@seattletimes.com](mailto:kervin@seattletimes.com) and Jennifer Sullivan [jensullivan@seattletimes.com](mailto:jensullivan@seattletimes.com) (authors of a December 13, 2004 article on Larry Phillips' absentee ballot not having been counted); and, undisclosed others in the media, citizens, and government oversight organizations.

Dear Dean Logan and Garth Fell (by cc),

Note: new cc's included in this email versus the email I sent yesterday are:

1. King County Councilmember and Council President, Larry Phillips, whose absentee ballot from the November 2, 2004 election wasn't initially counted and with whom I now have something in common!;
2. Seattle Times' reporters Keith Ervin and Jennifer Sullivan, who were the indicated authors of a December 13, 2004 Seattle Times' article on how Larry Phillips' November 2, 2004 absentee ballot vote got what appears to be similar (mis) treatment as my absentee ballot votes of September 20, 2005 and November 8, 2005 (see: [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2002117716\\_recountvote13m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2002117716_recountvote13m.html) ); and,
3. Other undisclosed members of the media and interested citizens and government oversight organizations (by "bcc").

It has now been three full working days since late morning last Thursday, March 16, 2006, when Garth Fell told me at the "TEA" (Temporary Elections Annex) that he would look into the matter at hand. It has been nearly an equal amount of time since I informed the canvass board at its 2 PM, March 16, 2006 meeting, which was attended by Dean Logan and Garth Fell, of my great distress over my discovery on March 16 (at approximately noon) that my absentee ballots cast at the September 20, 2005 primary and November 8, 2005 general elections were not counted.

And it has been a day since I emailed you the below email and asked for at least a response as to when I might expect to hear something back.

In the meantime, I have had the opportunity to research what happened, what was said, what commitments were made to the public, etc, on the occasion of the discovery - in December, 2004 - that King County Councilmember and King County Council Chair Larry Phillips' absentee ballot was not counted in November, 2004.

As I see it, there is a striking similarity to the circumstances surrounding Larry Phillips and my absentee ballots. In both cases, our ballots were allegedly rejected for lack of signature match. In both cases, we were effectively denied the opportunity to correct whatever was supposedly wrong. (In my case, based on the eyewitness account of a friend who was present at the November 22, 2005 canvass board meeting, my absentee ballot was reviewed by Dean Logan and Dan Satterberg, and my vote was to have been counted (with Dow Constantine abstaining from the vote). But instead, I learned by chance, on March 16, 2006 - last Thursday - that a worker later rejected my absentee ballot for alleged lack of signature match and I was sent a letter I was later told I could ignore - that my vote had been counted.) It is unclear what happened with Larry Phillips. Did he get a letter after November 2, 2004 saying there was a problem

with his signature, and did he phone, as I did, and was he assured, as I was, that his vote had been "processed" and not to be concerned?

Whatever happened to Larry Phillips, such that his vote wasn't counted, may be what happened to me. Why weren't the lessons learned from his situation a year earlier incorporated into your procedures? What is going on?

In the case of Larry Phillips' vote, the December 13, 2004 Seattle Times reported ( see: [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2002117716\\_recountvote13m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2002117716_recountvote13m.html) ):

"Those ballots were thrown out because the county voters' signatures didn't appear among the records in a computer database. Election workers erroneously threw out those votes before using voter-registration cards to verify signatures on absentee-ballot envelopes."

In my case, I had turned in - simultaneously with, and attached to, my November 8, 2005 absentee ballot - an updated Voter Registration Form, indicating I was updating my signature (and changing my mailing address to a P.O. Box due to problems with my rural mailbox being vandalized). I had also written a note on the absentee ballot cross-referencing the updated Voter Registration Form I had turned in. My notes could not have been more clear: I anticipated there might be a problem with my signature not matching (because of what I had just been through with my absentee ballot for the September 20, 2005 primary and what I was told to do by "Paula") and I wanted to be sure there would be no further question about accepting my signature on the absentee ballot in November, 2005.

The December 13, 2004 Seattle Times article goes on to quote you, Mr. Logan, as saying: "Absentee-ballot signatures must match signatures on voter registration cards. If any signatures don't match, voters will be informed of the mismatch and given a chance to establish the validity of their ballots, Logan said."

There could be no doubt that the signature on my absentee ballot matched my "voter registration card" as I turned the two items in together, attached them to one another, and signed both within seconds of one another - all at the polling place on Vashon Island where I was an election worker that day (November 8, 2005). I also sent along a handwritten note explaining what I was doing.

Right now, I probably feel the same way Larry Phillips apparently felt per the following from the December 13, 2004 Times' article:

"County officials became aware of the error after Phillips scanned a list of his Seattle constituents whose gubernatorial votes had been rejected.

Phillips' eyes froze. There, buried in the list, was his own name."

My eyes "froze" as well when I was shown the computer screen last Thursday showing my file and that my votes in September and November, 2005 had not counted for lack of signature match.

Similarly, I could practically say the same thing as what Larry Phillips was quoted as saying in the article. Namely:

"I was under the absolute impression [that] not only I voted, but followed the instructions correctly," said Phillips, a Democrat. "If it can happen to the King County Council chairman, it can happen to anyone else."

I have two college degrees in engineering, an MBA, was literally a "rocket engineer" for Boeing (on Minuteman Missiles), can follow directions, and there is no doubt in my mind

that I followed the absentee ballot voting instructions the same way as I have done successfully for all the votes I've cast in the past 34 years in King County. Larry Phillips is quoted as saying: "If it can happen to the King County Council chairman, it can happen to anyone else." I guess I am the latest "anyone else"!

At this point I am going to ask you again to respond to me promptly - by return email today - to at least give me some idea of when I will hear back on this matter, how it could have happened, including answering the question of why, if the canvass board agreed on November 22, 2005 that my vote should be counted, that it was not, etc. I am not asking for all the answers immediately, but I am asking for some response as to when you will be getting back to me.

I don't know how rapidly you responded in December, 2004 to Larry Philips, when it was discovered that Larry Phillips' vote hadn't been counted, but I intend to find out and I don't see why I shouldn't be treated equally. And at that time, you were in the middle of a lot more activity than I imagine you are now.

Please reply by email to the above address.

I am on the brink of alerting various additional members of the media to this situation - beyond a select few I am bcc'g in on this email - and letting the chips fall where they may.

I would appreciate a response soon. Thank you in advance.

Armen Yousoufian

----- Original message -----

From: ayousoufian@comcast.net

10:50 AM, Monday, March 20, 2006

To: Dean Logan and Dan Satterberg (addressed to you two as you were involved in November, 2006 Canvass Board meeting)

CC's to other present at March 16, 2006 Canvass Board Meeting

Subject: Review of our discussion last Thursday at the "TEA" (Temporary Election Annex) at the end of your canvass board meeting re: my votes last fall in the primary and general elections not having been counted; confirmation someone will get back to me with an explanation.

Dear Dean, and Dan,

**Purpose of this email:**

The purpose of this email is to follow-up on my question/our discussion last Thursday, March 16 and to re-confirm that someone (Dean Logan, Garth Fell?) would get back to me with an explanation.

**The issue:**

I hope you two will recall that following what would otherwise have been the end of your 2 PM Canvass Board meeting this past Thursday afternoon (i.e. March 16, 2006) at the "TEA", I brought up a disturbing situation that I wanted an explanation for. Namely, that I had just found out a couple of hours earlier - by sheer chance - that my absentee ballot votes at the September 20, 2005 primary and the November 8, 2005 general election had not been counted. After a decade or more of voting absentee, and having had the same signature on file since 1972, and even after having updated my signature simultaneous with the November 8, 2005 general election, my ballots were apparently rejected on the basis of my signature not matching. This was in contradiction to what I was told at the time, in the days following each election.

Details will follow below, but I want to confirm that we discussed this matter last Thursday, and someone(s) said they'd look into it and get back to me with an explanation.

I cannot tell you how disturbed I am by this situation. As I related it to you last Thursday, and as I recall it, Dan Satterberg indicated that he had a recollection of the matter having come before the canvass board in November, and - again as I recall - recollected that Dow Constantine had recused himself from voting on the issue. My name was obviously known to all of you even back then, and the situation was one that apparently was unusual enough, coupled with the familiarity with my name, such that it is not unexpected that you'd remember that something had happened involving my vote, even if you didn't immediately recall all the details.

I alerted you to this situation in addition to having told Garth Fell about it at about noon that same day. At the time I met Garth Fell I had only just learned that my two votes in September and November, 2005 had not been counted. As I may have explained to you last Thursday, I just happened to have been working at the "TEA" (stands for Temporary Election Annex, I was told) that day - i.e. last Thursday, when you had one of your canvass board meetings. I was working there - for the first time in my life - as an official election observer. I met a number of supervisors that day - people I'd never met or heard of before that day - except for Garth Fell, whose name I had heard, but whom I had never met. It was just before I happened to meet Garth Fell that I had learned the disturbing news that my votes had been rejected. When I met Garth Fell, realizing his position in the hierarchy, I related the situation to him and how upset I was by it. At or about that time, I had become aware that - again by sheer chance - at that very location where I had been assigned, that very afternoon at 2 PM, you - members of the canvass board - would be meeting. I decided I'd attend the meeting and bring this matter to your attention - time, circumstances, and appropriateness to do so permitting.

Having said the above, and so that there is no doubt about the details I related quickly and orally to you last Thursday, what follows below is a detailed account of what this is about. First, the background from last fall, then what I learned on March 7 that led to my questions and discovery on March 16, and finally the events of March 16.

### **Background from fall, 2005 :**

This past September 20, 2005, on the occasion of the fall primary election, I completed and mailed an absentee ballot, as I've been doing for the past 10 to 15 years or so. Approximately a week later, I received in the mail a form advising there was a problem with my ballot and listing a variety of possibilities that the problem might be, including that my signature didn't match what was on file. The letter said they needed an enclosed form completed and returned to them by a date that was, in fact, the same day that I was looking at the letter! A crummy photocopy of what I later came to realize was a voter registration form was enclosed. I happen to live on Maury Island and it was mid afternoon when I read this form letter and I was disturbed that after having been a Washington voter since 1971, and having voted in virtually every single election since then, that my vote would not count this time. I looked over the form and, not realizing it was a photocopy of the lower 11" of a longer than 11" form I didn't even know what to do with it. It appeared to be a form to register to vote and I had been registered for 34 years already! I hadn't seen a voter registration form in 34 years, having no reason to look at one, and

couldn't figure out why this form was enclosed to deal with whatever the problem was. So I phoned some number that was on the form letter and got someone to whom I explained the situation. The first thing the person said was to mail the form. I pointed out it was due that day. Then she said I could come in to the King County Administration Building in downtown Seattle - that they were open until 4:30 (or 5? - I can't recall now). I pointed out that I lived on Maury Island and that it was already late afternoon. She repeated that they were open another couple of hours. I explained that Vashon/Maury were islands with no bridge but rather only ferry access (i.e. that it wasn't Mercer Island), that I was 20 minutes from the ferry, which took 20 minutes to cross to West Seattle, etc. and that if I left that minute and got on the next ferry that had room I still would not make it in time.

This lady then put me on hold, came back, and told me my vote had been "processed" (I think that was the word) on a date that was a day or two before the date of the letter. I asked what "processed" meant and after going back and forth with her repeating that it had been "processed" I asked if it meant my vote had been counted. She said "yes". Naturally I then asked why I had received the letter and been made to worry my vote had not been counted and I got some total nonsense about who sends the letters versus who processes the votes and it all made no sense. I gave up getting a sensible answer but asked what would happen for the November 8, 2005 general election coming up. I can't recall what ambiguous answer I got. (Mind you, on March 16 at the TEA, I was told that this person would not have been in a position to know what the proper answer was and that I'd been misinformed about my vote having been counted and that by not returning the form my vote had remained in a status of having been rejected for a signature mismatch. I was later to learn also that my signature on file was from 1972 and there's no question it had changed markedly even by a few year later - yet, all these years my absentee ballots had been counted!)

Shortly after that incident, I decided to sign up to be a poll worker for the November 8, 2005 general election. I'd heard some time earlier there was a need for poll workers and I was getting so disgusted with what I'd been reading re: the elections that I decided to see for myself first hand what went on at the polls, to go through poll worker training, etc. I made some calls and got myself into the waiting list/pool of potential workers for the November 8 election. I subsequently made a follow-up calls to see if they would need me and to schedule myself for training. What happened that is described in the next paragraph may have resulted out of one such call to schedule myself for training, as by then the November 8, 2005 election was getting close, and if I was going to work I needed to get myself scheduled for a 3 hour training session.

Approximately a week to 10 days before the November 8, 2005 election, I had occasion to speak to a "Paula" at King County Elections about the incident described above re: my vote, the form letter I'd received, the conversation, etc. (I can't recall now why it was I'd spoken with "Paula", but it was probably because I'd called to schedule myself for a training session as by then I'd been scheduled to work on Vashon for the November 8, 2005 election.) I didn't want a repeat of the September, 2005 incident. About that time I'd also had the umpteenth incident with my rural mailbox on Vashon being bashed in (it's a sport out in the rural areas) and had changed the delivery of my personal mail to a P.O. Box that I'd been using for my business mail for 20 or more years.

"Paula" advised me that when I worked at the polls on November 8, I should complete a voter registration form and write a comment on it - and/or on the absentee ballot outer envelope - that I was completing the voter registration form for purposes of updating my signature. As it turned out, I also indicated that I wanted to change my mailing address to my P.O. Box. I wrote clear and extensive comments on both forms as to what I was doing, plus an additional handwritten note, and I believe I attached all of them together with blue painter's tape (available to me at the polling location).

I could only have hoped that would have been the end of the story. As we now know, it had only just begun!

Approximately a week or so later, I had a repeat of what had happened following the September 20, 2005 primary election. I got another form letter in the mail advising there was a problem! I believe there was another photocopy of the lower 11" of the voter registration form enclosed. Again I received it on the day it was due, or maybe the day before. Again I phoned and was assured all was fine - that my vote had been counted.

I thought that was the end of it. Four months passed before I learned I was wrong.

#### **Events of March 7, 2006:**

Four months later, on Tuesday evening, March 7, 2006, I happened to see a friend at a meeting we were both attending. My friend mentioned he had been an election observer in the days following the November 8, 2005 election and that he happened to have seen my absentee ballot, note, registration form, etc. come before the canvassing board. He told me how Dow Constantine "recused" himself, but that ultimately my vote had been counted. But he also alerted me to the fact that the latest voter database indicated I had not been "credited" with voting. That was puzzling and I made a mental note to check into it if I ever got the chance. Little did I know what was yet to come - and which is described below.

#### **Events of Thursday, March 16, 2006:**

On the above date, I reported for election observation duty at the "TEA" (Temporary Election Annex). I was assigned to the second floor, where I soon discovered signature comparison was one of the functions that took place. This was my first time ever doing any such thing. I completed the necessary employment paperwork and then occupied myself observing what was going on, reading a training manual, and generally getting myself up to speed on the process and procedures.

While I was observing at the "TEA" I soon realized that this was where the signature comparison process was conducted. In fact I watched it going on for awhile. As I did so, I couldn't help but recall my situation from last fall, when there were issues following both the primary and the general election as to whether my vote by absentee ballot was counted. I took the opportunity to discuss the two situations re: my vote by absentee ballot at the 2005 primary and general elections with several supervisors - a Renee LeBeaux (spelling?) and Lynda Smith. I mentioned that I was told my vote was counted, but I wasn't credited with voting, and could they possibly use me as an example of what goes on in the process and how that could happen? The last of the supervisors I spoke with (before I had a chance encounter with Garth Fell, with whom I then had yet another discussion of the situation) was a Christine Rudolph. It was Christine who looked me up in DIMS (I think it was the DIMS system and by this time it was approximately noon, and I had learned a fair amount by then about the DIMS and GEMS systems, how the various processes fit together, etc.). Christine Rudolph showed me on the computer screens how my two votes last fall had been rejected for lack of signature match. In other words, I learned, the reason I wasn't credited with voting was because my vote had not been counted! This conflicted with what my friend had told he had seen happen at the canvass board meeting in November. By the time Christine got as far down the conversation path as she did with me, she said she recalled my situation - recalled there was an absentee ballot envelope with notes on it and a voter registration form, etc. She told me she recalled my paperwork had gone to the canvass board, then back to her department. Christine said a "Sandy" made the call that the signature on the outside of my absentee envelope didn't match with the signature on the voter registration form I had turned in at the same time (I had deposited both items (my absentee ballot and a voter registration form), with notes on each referring to the other, and that I was updating my signature, all at the Vashon Grange polling location on November 8, 2005, where I had worked that day as a poll worker). (Subsequently, just as after the primary 6 weeks earlier, I had received a letter in the mail telling me there wasn't a signature match, following which, just as happened following the primary, I contacted them and was told my vote had been processed after all and I didn't need to do any more. At some point on March 16, I was told that on

both occasions last fall when I was told my "vote had been processed" and was further told that meant I was OK, that in fact I had been misinformed, and that I'd been talking to people at the Administration Building, and that they didn't know there what happened at the TEA.)

After that conversation with Christine Rudolph, I did some other observing, and next thing you know I was face to face with Garth Fell, who was apparently looking at some problem situations in preparation for what I learned would be a 2 PM meeting of the canvass board itself. I knew of Garth, and told him of the situation that had just come to my attention that my votes in both elections last fall had not been counted and that I was disturbed by that. By then, I had been told the persons I had talked to in the fall of 2005 at the number I'd called after getting the letters saying I needed to update my signature had given me incorrect information - that they would have been at the Administration building and not in a position to know what actually needed to be done and the processes and so on that went on at "TEA".

### **Communication and training problem:**

As a side comment, there seems to be a communication and training problem: how was I to know that what I was being told, after both the primary and general elections, when I called regarding the letters I'd received, was incorrect? It certainly isn't my fault I didn't know that the person who told me I didn't need to send the form back was providing incorrect information (not to mention that by the time I got the form it was too late to get it back in time anyway!).

### **Thursday, March 16, 2006 canvass board meeting:**

As you now know, I then went to the 2 PM meeting and brought the whole matter up there. Present to hear me were: Director of Elections Dean Logan, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office Chief of Staff Dan Satterberg, King County Councilmember Bob Ferguson, Assistant Elections Department Superintendent Garth Fell, Janine Joly from the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Amie Patke (a King County Elections supervisor) and a couple of party observers (Michael Cline (D), and Dennis Smith (R)).


Garth Fell and Dean Logan assured me they would look into what happened.

### **Further background and what happened with Garth Fell after the canvass board meeting:**

By way of full disclosure: a while after the canvass board meeting ended, back on the second floor of the TEA, I had another conversation with Garth Fell. He reminded me that he'd told me he would look into the situation and he wished I'd give him the time to do so. I told him that was fine, but I'd been hearing that kind of story for a year and a half re: a whole 'nother story - that being what had happened with my wife and her absentee ballot back in the general election in 2004 and so many people, up to and including Bobbie Egan, had told me they'd be looking into it and would be phoning within weeks. As I say, that's another story, the details of which I related to Bobbie Egan a year or more ago, and which I won't go into now, but which neither my wife nor I have ever received a response to.

### **Conclusion:**

To the best of my recollection, after having voted in every single election (at least the primaries and generals, and probably all the specials as well) for decades, I am very upset that my votes in the two elections last fall weren't counted.



I've now explained the details of the situation and I await an explanation of what happened. If it is true that the canvass board OK'd my absentee ballot to be counted, why wasn't it? Is it possible a lower level person effectively negated your act of approving my ballot to be counted by their action(s)?

Please let me know when I might get an answer to my question.

Email is the best means of communication with me, and I would appreciate your using it rather than, or in addition to, snail mail.

Armen Yousoufian