



State Election Board Report – November 13, 2020 Unabridged Notes Detailing Everything Witnessed Nov 2-Nov 7, 2020

Monday, November 2

- 8:17PM – After receiving reports all afternoon of election materials not being delivered to polling precincts in a timely manner (or at all), SHS receives guidance from Deputy Secretary of State Jordan Fuchs to go to the English Street warehouse, the location from which the Fulton team was distributing poll pads and other election materials.
- Approx. 9:00PM – SHS arrives at the warehouse. While pulling into the completely full parking lot, I observed a driver walking back to his car dragging behind him a rolling bag of poll pad with a bag of election materials on top. As I passed, the top bag fell off and was run over by the poll pad bag. “Hopefully nothing breakable in there,” I thought to myself
- 9:04PM – Rick is hard at work resetting poll pads for precinct SC11 that had only one of two bags of poll pads arrive despite the fact that the system at the warehouse showed that both had been checked out of the warehouse and were on the way.



- Many bags of poll pads and other election materials have not been packed yet and paperwork is not matching up (e.g. JC09). I had previously been told that the chaos was caused by a shipping company calling this morning and cancelling their delivery, but this is clearly not the sole cause of the confusion. Fulton has not prepared their shipment even if they had someone to ship it.



- Some bags have everything and others do not, but the full ones are not organized → It is impossible to tell which bags are missing what without doing a manual count and they don't have the manpower for that at the moment

- 9:15PM – Fleet of Enterprise box trucks arrive

- 9:24PM – I finally get to talk to Rick. He says that this mess is “100% because of the reallocation [of resources based upon the data modeling to fit expected turnout left after early voting]. “It was my call, and it was a bad call,” he told me.
 - Rick is already visibly exhausted. He slept three hours last night and this is taking its toll on him. Nadine has slept less.

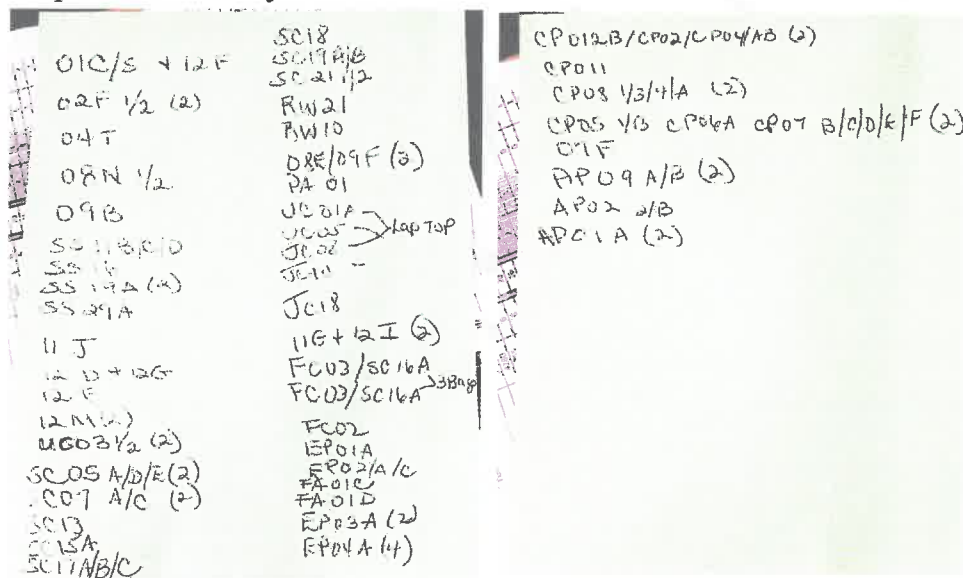
- 9:37PM – All BMDs now out for delivery. Fulton Co. schools are the last to receive them and they're going to stay open until 10 (or later) to accept delivery. The rest (Milton and Sandy Springs Library) will be delivered at 4AM if tonight's delivery gets there too late. Lots of poll pads still here to be delivered by temps
 - Rick tells me that they doubled the number of poll pads given to them by the Secretary of State, and they still need 500 more.

- 9:40PM – 65 cases of poll pads still here insert photo
 - There was confusion among poll managers. Some that did pick up their poll pads forgot the yard signs, etc. They were on another table but had no signage indicating that, so there is clearly a system problem that needs to be worked out





- 10:05PM – I speak with Johnny Harris, who says that all this chaos with the poll pads was caused by getting a flawed file from the Secretary of State’s office that didn’t mark/remove anyone who had voted during early voting so they were having to updating them all the way until now instead of on Saturday. Ran this by Ryan and Jordan, so say “easy to disprove.”
 - Constant issue is that there isn’t poll pad paperwork to match with the full/loaded cases
 - SS15 set aside to be picked up, but was suspiciously light. Opening it revealed that it was empty. It was never filled, so they are setting up the precinct now → Seems like a training/systems issue
- 11:12PM - Many poll pads still here to be picked up. They seem to skew very heavy to the north part of the county.



- Learn that Rick reprogramming poll pads earlier was setting up a new precinct for SC11 because someone took the wrong suitcase but only took one.
 - Seems to be a mystery who this person was → Should have chain of custody paperwork!! That means that a stranger just walked out with sensitive election materials?
- Several cases (including SC11) were just left out on the loading dock outside the warehouse. Thankfully the seals were intact. Someone took the original SC11 poll pads that Rick worked for an hour to reprogram to the loading dock but not the rest of the way to their car, which is why the manifest system showed that they had been checked out.



- ~12:00AM – After looking at a disorganized pile of poll pad bags for three hours, I personally began organizing the precincts in alphanumerical order so that delivery drivers could easily tell which was theirs in the wee hours of this morning.
 - This process was needlessly complicated. There are clearly too many people eager to help without asking for any clear direction. One warehouse staffer had realized what was happening with the organizing and also began sorting poll pad bags. Unfortunately, he did not check the work that was already done before joining in. We were organizing A-Z, and he was organizing Z-A. We met in the middle and had to reorganize everything.
- ~1:00AM – Leaving a now-organized pile of poll pads, I went home for the evening.

Tuesday, November 3 – Election Day

- 5:07AM – SHS arrives at the warehouse.
 - It seems that during the night a vast majority of the bags were collected. Judging by labels on the bags, now all the remains are RW21 and Northwest Library
 - Correction - Northwest Library stack of poll pads was for early voting and is not going out today
 - 5:10AM – These two precincts depart, but 10C and 10K are also still around with some materials
- Rick's recommendation – Need some digital scanning for inventory check out → SC11 went to the loading dock but never made it to the truck so Rick spent a much-needed hour making a replacement bag.
- 5:22AM – Mount Ephraim Baptist (08P) still being filled, but I am told that it is “4 min away from the warehouse”
- 5:42AM – Mount Ephraim Baptist on the way.
- Several yard signs explaining new precincts to those in line are left in the warehouse. Hopefully “Know Before You Go” worked.
- 5:47AM – Urgent – Susan Voyles, poll manager at SS02, has been refusing to wear her mask (despite Fulton policy to wear masks), got called out by a staffer yesterday, and now won't answer any phone calls from staff trying to bring her the rest of the materials. There is concern that she won't even show up this morning, and Happy Faces rep wants to ban her from working again (she's been a manager many times) → Called Deputy Secretary to handle it.
 - Bigger issue is that she doesn't seem to have any of her equipment yet.



- ~4:00PM – I arrive at State Farm Arena facility to monitor the pre-scanning and the preparation for this evening’s influx.
 - Shaye Moss is definitely a subject matter expert → walked in to see her helping staff with questions for manual recording of numbers
 - Ext. Aff. from GPTV recording with his cell phone → security issue
 - Ralph gives him more guidance re:filming. Camera fine, no phones
 - People went to the window on the Admin level above to get a downward angle on the processing and were still filming when security moved them. →Shaye requests a curtain be put up to protect voter information
- Shaye got a new team of 10 on Saturday, and they are staying through Election Day → Crew of approx. 30 here now after the reinforcements
- Scanners have been jamming up a little and require frequent cleaning between batches
 - Make sure that they have the scanner cleaning sheets from Dominion next time → They never got any and the Dominion rep doesn’t have any
- Too many ballots coming in for secure black ballot boxes. → They are moving them over from Pryor St. in rolling bins 2k at a time. This seems like a massive chain of custody problem. It is my understanding is that the ballots are supposed to be moved in numbered, sealed boxes to protect them
- Pryor St. still sitting on UOCAVA (military) ballots that need to be ENet verified → more to come here after they are finished
- I introduce myself to the party poll watchers because I notice that they are watching me closely. In the course of conversation, I ask one if he had seen anything out of the ordinary today and was told, “We weren’t informed of your role here so it’s not our place to tell you anything.” He then called me a “traitor”...whatever that means
 - Perhaps if I have a more legitimate-looking (plastic hard card/badge/pin?) then I will be able to talk to them more freely without the credibility deficit
- Pryor St & signature match is the major bottleneck still → continuing to cause problems even now
- Leak in the “Sanitary Waste” line at State Farm left large pool of water overnight → No hardware lost or ballots but work was delayed from 5:30AM to 9:00AM. Only casualty was an extension cord.
- Temps here have been much better than the warehouse b/c they are told that if they’re good they’ll be kept all season, but warehouse workers/drivers just get called every year so they don’t care.



- I am told now that the government workers are the real problem because they are basically on furlough b/c of COVID and don't care about task at hand
- Would speed up scanning if that had a bill featherer/ballot shaker to put some air between the ballots before scanning → compacted ballots from the tight stacks take longer to scan and lead to more jams.
- Saw a ballot from the August 11 (Sept Elex) voting that made it all the way to State Farm processing room → Absentee primary request form for Whitfield McDougall (1939 DOB)
- Two people running duplication station now, instead of the one I saw the other day
- Slowest part is post-cutting matching the ballot #s with Oath of the Elector envelope
- N.B. no more ballots requests processed @ Pryor after Friday (10/30) → Reason for matching data in Report 2
- 6:32PM – 86,191 scanned → ~40k absentee left to scan
- ~7:00PM - Staff clearly working harder now that Ralph is here → for much of my time here everyone was joking around, taking breaks, and hanging out with no sense of urgency
 - Now starting to realize that it's going to be a long night after Ralph pep talk that the rest must be finished by 5pm tomorrow
 - Need another 15-20k tonight ("Give me three good hours of work) so they can hit 100k
- ~7:45PM – OPEX Cutting machine goes down during push when Chairman Pitts arrived → back up 7 min later
- 8:00PM count:

Scanner	Ballots Scanned
Scanner 1	23,101
Scanner 2	36,823
Scanner 3	23,044
Scanner 4	5,177
Scanner 5	1,236
Total	89,381

- 8:30PM – Leave State Farm



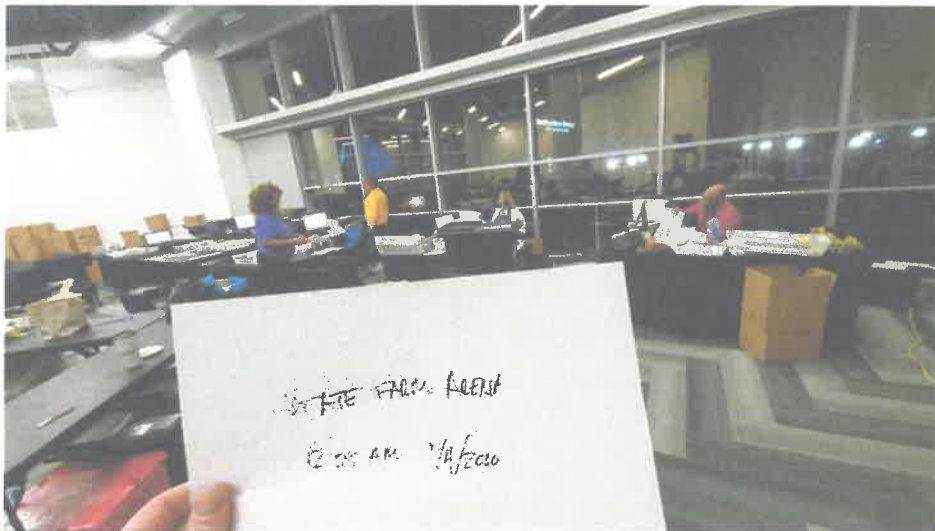
- 10:00PM – Arrive at warehouse after dinner → Walk in on Rick doing an interview, takeaways below
 - Absentee by mail holding up the counting process
 - By weekend we will be done with absentee by mail
 - Closing out Election Day & early voting finished today
 - N.B. – Rick accurately describes the sig match process at Pryor St to the press
 - Rick does give hours-old news to reporter (60k scanned), after interview I inform him (loud enough for press to hear) that the latest # was closer to 90k
- People are a bit reserved with info without a more formal credential → Asked Ryan & Matt Mashburn for one for runoff
- Things are very calm here for now? → Likely to pick up?
- Seem to be missing some CF cards, but those were re-allocated → intake forms don't seem to have been updated. Did they really re-allocate materials without updating the forms for tracking them?
 - 161 precincts received and recorded
- 11:17PM – News reaches warehouse that Sec. Raffensperger “ripped” Fulton just came through the wire (apparently someone asked about Fulton stopping scanning at 10:30 while every other county is still working and Sec. said ‘Fulton can’t get anything right’) → Morale hit palpable in warehouse body language. Chairman Pitts “pissed”
 - 11:26PM - There is confusion about whether or not they’re still scanning at State Farm bc there were reports that the staff there told the rest of the staff and press to leave, but I am still getting number reports from Shaye
- I learn the everything at Pryor (including today’s mail) was processed by Ralph’s team except for the ballots dropped in drop boxes by 7pm tonight → Drop box bags still sealed and in mail room at Pryor St.
- ~11:30PM - Amid reports from local news that the lights are off and the staff have left, I head to state farm
- 11:52PM I arrive at State Farm Arena and report to Ryan Germany and Deputy Secretary Jordan Fuchs that they staff are still scanning on all five scanners. “The media just packed up when I released all the staff opening and sorting ballots,” Shaye told me. The scanners worked to clear what had been processed that day instead of interrupting the processing flow to secure the ballots before leaving. Their goal is to hit Ralph’s 100k by the end of the night.
 - The scanners are jamming more frequently because of the heavy use. (I learn later that they are not built for this number of scans per day)



- Ralph informs them that the staff at Pryor St should be finished processing all the ballots from the drop boxes by 10AM on 11/4

Wednesday, November 4 – E-Day Plus 1

- 12:08AM – I send Ryan insert photo timestamped image showing that scanners are still working so that he can refute stories to the contrary



- Order is starting to break down → Ralph newly re-scanned some ballots that had already been processed by Shaye
- 12:15AM – Inspector James Callaway arrives to investigate the accusations that the Fulton staff had told the press to go home and were scanning without observers
- 12:43AM – Staff sealing up ballot bins according to protocol

Scanners	Ballots Scanned
Scanner 1	24,975
Scanner 2	39,688
Scanner 3	24,905
Scanner 4	7,533
Scanner 5	2,032
Total	99,133



- 1:12AM – I arrive back at the warehouse to double check that materials from Election Day were collected correctly
 - As I arrive, I see Rick and other Fulton leadership going through a mail cart. I am told that ‘they are doing a final check to make sure that everything has been recorded’ → moving from one stack to another but Tia, who was doing the intake, is nowhere to be found to give me final numbers. I am (cryptically) told that she is unavailable because she is “dealing with an issue.”
- They’re pulling compact flashes (CF) → poll manager put a Mobile 2 CF in Mobile 1 CF slot, which is causing confusion now. People are talking about a “master bus” problem for the backups, which seems to be causing the confusion.
- 1:48AM – Tia returns and tells me that 252 precincts have been taken-in and three are still at large. Missing precincts are:
 - CP05 1/B, CP06 A, CP07B/C/D/E/F
 - 11R
 - UC01 A/B/D/E
- 1:50AM – I leave to go home and sleep

- ~9:30AM – Receive phone call that there was a single car accident involving a poll manager in Roswell last night and that there was an open container of alcohol in the vehicle. Some election materials are missing but the runners had already moved the CFs with the day’s voting information. Still a big problem.
- 11:00AM – Arrive at warehouse. Very little action going on. I see a reporting page that says that 371/383 precincts are complete. The number is so high because there are multiple scanners per precinct. I am told that some of the “missing” precincts were just zero-counts on the CFs.
- 11:15AM – Arrive at State Farm
- 11:51AM – Press setting up



- 12:00PM – “Have you guys received those three precincts from last night?” – me → Still haven’t retrieved them from the precincts, but Rick says that he needs them ASAP – Derrick on it. Mike from The Elections Group says that they might already be in the system as 0 precincts
- ~12:15PM – Receive confirmation that the three precinct cards from last night are in the system and have been tabulated. They were zeroes.
- ~12:20PM – Learn that 2,800 ballots were dropped off at ballot drop boxes last night and are currently undergoing signature match protocol → 42,400 need to be scanned now
 - I learn that only 74k of 100k have been adjudicated so there will be a large chunk that aren’t showing in the state totals.
 - Results are being pulled now for the 2PM adjudication → This afternoon 25k from last night plus this morning’s scanning will be posted this afternoon after 2. More coming for the next adjudication at 5PM
 - Rick wants all scanning done by 7PM
- Provisionals are currently being processed downtown → Roughly 70k left for adjudication, but the rest have been reported.
- People are tired and making mistakes → Just watched a scanner come up with a stray ballot from one of his batches. → They say that they will track it down, but it’s not great. → 20 min later, ballot batch found & was wrongly labelled
- 1:15PM – I take down the numbers so that I can track our scanning rate

Scanners	1:13PM	4:37PM
Scanner 1	26,051	26,245
Scanner 2	41,563	42,355



Scanner 3	25,692	26,579
Scanner 4	7,823	8,711
Scanner 5	2,403	3,875
Total	103,532	107,765

- 1:15PM – I take down the numbers so that I can track our scanning rate
- 1:20-1:56 – Lunch
- 2:00PM – Return from lunch to learn that the remaining 2,800 ballots from last night’s drop boxes have been delivered → I am told that all absentee ballots (aside from UOCAVA) are here now
 - Again, this shipment came in mail carts instead of black ballot bins – Chain of custody issues
- Unfolding the opened ballots, matching the precinct numbers and voter ID numbers, and tearing off the pull tabs is still the bottleneck
- 2:27PM – Ralph escorts members of media (Reuters photographer) over to far windows to get a photo of Mercedes Benz → no shooting elections up close & supervised the whole time he was out of the press pen.
 - Talked to Branden, he wanted “an establishing shot to tell the story of what’s happening”
- 2:33PM – Everyone is back and they are firing on all cylinders.
- Still waiting on military ballots, but those are small number and accounted for already
- Rick asks The Elections Group consultants to look at the process to ascertain where it can be smoothed out. This was prompted by Ralph’s failure to bring flashdrives for the adjudication meeting at 2PM, but at 12:30 he realized that he didn’t have the flashdrives here so he had to send someone out to get them. The Adjudication Board was just sitting around after only adjudicating 12k ballots. – Indicative of inability to handle a smoldering issue before it becomes a fire
 - “Ralph chronically underestimates the staff and time required to complete tasks” I am told.
- 3:10PM – Just received report that a worker in the Registration Office received a positive COVID test today → Could have another infection spike coming
- Reinforcements still trickling in
- 4:00PM - 1,275 UOCAVA ballots arrive. Will be counted as “electronic ballots” not in separate category



- 4:05PM – All 5 scanners down as Dominion tech begins upload to flash drives for adjudication
- 4:15PM – All 5 scanners still down. → Best practices is not to take down all scanners at the same time. Backlog building now. Add line to manual that stipulates to ‘never disable more than 50% of your scanners at one time?’
 - Best practices for uploading Dominion data to flashdrives – Coordinate with meal times and scheduled breaks so there’s less scanner down time
 - Scanner 3 was missing a login and no one knew how to log back in after upload. Compounding back up issue
- Party poll watchers are complaining that the media is taking up all the space in the viewing gallery → Do we need a dedicated press pen next time?
 - Shaye tells me that a party poll watcher (Rep.) was going beyond the partition and speaking to staff duplicating military ballots → Must have clear guidance about limits of their job.
- Processor closest to the observer gallery keeps spraying aerosolized sanitizer/ disinfecting spray around her. It’s landing on the ballots as well. Does this lead to further duplication if it makes the ink bleed?
- 6:00PM – Out of both cardboard boxes and black ballot bins bc we (i.e. Ralph) started filling the boxes with liner envelopes → Now we are using ballot bins to hold Oath envelopes to fill up boxes until more come from Fulton HQ
 - Generating a ballot security issue to keep the count moving forward?
 - 6:11PM – More boxes arrive from HQ and staff undo the boxing that they just did
- 7:07PM – 106k adjudicated → 29k left for net count by my numbers, but Rick says to press that 142k is the total number of absentee not 135k
 - Latest count scanned was 112,433 at 6:42PM
 - News that they scanned 10k in 5 hours spreads through the room. People are realizing that there is at least another 8-10 hours of work to finish up so the staff redouble their efforts.
- 7:12PM – Rick does a press conference



- 7:47PM – More reinforcements arrive to relieve the day shift. → 8:45PM – Ten more arrive in next wave. Nick from Happy Faces says that 25 total are coming (23 here by 8:45)
- 8:10PM – Nadine at the warehouse is sending over more tables, chairs, letter openers, and a 4 terminal unit for duplication processing. (letter openers bc the OPEX scanners are a bottleneck at this point). → Rick expanding footprint to increase speed
- Matthew Mashburn from the SEB calls to my attention that a party poll watcher was on the elevator with two new reinforcements. The first asked the second if they ‘were ready for a long night.’ The second replied that, “yeah. I’m ready to f*ck sh*t up.” I must keep an eye on these two. Perhaps this was a bad joke, but it was very poorly timed in the presence of a poll watcher.
 - They are put on a team confirming and boxing ballots that have already been scanned to prepare them for later audit. All told, this is the place where they could do least to achieve their declared objective.
 - What is Happy Faces doing to vet the people who they are sending to make sure that they are not sending in people who do actually want to ‘f*ck sh*t up?’
- 8:54PM – Receiving conflicting management messages. Rick says that we’re staying until we’re done, but Ralph has been telling people rotating off the day shift to come back tomorrow. Unclear if that’s because he thinks the shift will carry through the entire night.
- Audit batch 88 from Scanner 4 – Ended up being military ballots that were locked up and hidden under a table. Later addition - Monique set them there so she knew where they were.
- ~9:00PM - Rick distracted with becoming an internet celebrity because of his Portland Timbers lanyard



- Lots of training on the fly happening with the new reinforcements trying to fold into the ongoing processes
- 9:40PM – News that 24k ballots remaining is given to the press
- 9:50PM – I do the math and report to SOS office that “at this rate, it will take 12 more hours to clear the deck.”
- 9:58PM – I do some calculation and realize that in the past 36 hours they have scanned more ballots than they did during the entire pre-scanning window. What were they doing for that whole time?
 - Audit batch times, dates, and numbers from scanners to calculate the rate of scanning done before the election results came in.
 - If the scanned # matches reported # of ballots clearing sig match @ Pryor, then that process was the problem. If it is lower, then the process here is the problem.
 - Keisha tells me that three scanners were down for the first week of pre-scanning so they worked from only two for a week until they were repaired. This would explain why the numbers on scanners 1&2 were so much higher than the others.
 - It is becoming clear that there was a language problem in how Fulton reported ballots that had been “processed & scanned” during press releases and in their backend data in Socrata. I had trouble interpreting the data for my first two reports because of how often the word “processed” was used. This indicates institutional silos to me and a lack of clear understanding amongst the staff. It seems that “scanned” meant to give voters credit in MVP instead of physically scanning the ballot through a scanner. Must have clear vocabulary!
- 10:00PM – Bottleneck is still cutting (the envelopes open) but it seems that many people are still unfolding → Only 4 are manually opening ballots to supplement the OPEX units
- 10:06PM – Talk to Rick and show him my calculations. He is utterly crestfallen to learn that it will take 12 more hours to scan everything if we maintain current speed
- 10:15PM – New 4 terminal unit for duplication arrives, doubling the # of BMDs here
- 10:20PM – Just received news that Shaye is sick (vomiting) → Told me earlier that she hasn’t eaten for two days and I haven’t seen her drink any water. Preliminary guess: dehydration & exhaustion
- 10:30PM – Staff working hard



- Rick's girlfriend is hanging out in the scanning area and keeping him company. She is not touching anything but is without credentials to be there. He seems very distracted with his new celebrity status still and is laughing while reading tweets aloud.
- 10:35PM – Scanner 3 goes down/crashed, but caught up quickly once it was back online. Bad timing because the fresh staff has been accelerating in their push.
- 11:08PM – Scanning starting to pile up → Lots of jams and necessary duplicates. They are clearly not built for this kind of capacity.
- 11:51PM – I report to SOS office that rate is still 2k/hr. Looking at another 10 to hit the 142k that Rick quoted the media at 7PM

Thursday, November 5 – E-Day Plus 2

- 12:22AM – Rick officially makes the call to downsize and slow crawl through the night to try to pick up strong in the morning. He communicates this to the staff but not the press.
- 12:37AM – Need to consult the O.C.G.A. code to see if The Elections Group consultants can handle the ballots to help out. They ultimately decide that since the law is unclear they will not touch ballots.
- ~12:45AM – Malcolm (poll tech) brings me an ipad and shows me that 157 polls are still showing as “open” in Fulton’s backend software. He shows me that he can personally close one himself.
 - I ask Dayna (The Elections Group consultant) who tells me that that spreadsheet was just an internal counting mechanism and was used by Fulton for keeping track of when polls opened but the poll managers were not required to close them out too. They could also make hardware requests through that system. Why do they have this fancy system if no one is using it?



- 1:18AM – Ralph failing to address shorting in supply chain → many sorters waiting with no bins coming from the cutters because cutters are still the bottleneck (it's been all night)
 - Advised him to reallocate resources → Ended up taking my advice and got people working with letter openers to process stacks
- Found a Cobb County ballot at Scanner 3 – It was kicked out by the scanner system, but how did that make it through the signature verification?
- 1:37AM – Rick & Fulton leaders sitting in corner discussing Rick's celebrity status → Not much left for them to do at this point procedurally, but Rick is clearly delirious – laughing so hard that he's crying.
- 1:41AM – I report to SoS office that they're speeding up scanning (see numbers) but I am beginning to fade and will need rest soon.
- 1:50AM – Rick is able to shake his delirium for an interview with 11Alive and BBC → Did a good job staying on-message about enfranchisement of voters
- 2:00-2:30AM – I go take a breather outside to cool off and take off my mask
- 2:55AM – Rick helping on the OPEX cutting machine → Clumsy at first but no party poll watchers seemed to notice



- N.B. Cutting has been the main bottleneck all day. Does Fulton need more OPEX machines? The salesman tells Rick that Philadelphia has 15 and Fulton has five. Rick is convinced that they need more. I tell Rick that the salesman is 'selling umbrellas when it's already raining and to think about it after the election.'
- ~3:00AM - Cutters starting to fail. They clearly need calibration more often than we're doing it. Staff getting frustrated operating the machines.
- 3:25AM – On to the last mail bin – Only 7k left to go.
 - By my math – 400 ballots per mail bin x 17 trays = 6,800 ballots
- 3:45AM – Staff slowdown is palpable. With OPEX machines misfeeding and malfunctioning, most everyone left has switched to manually opening envelopes. This has been the biggest bottleneck all day and Fulton managers have failed to triage that issue. Decrease in rate scanned was because the scanners didn't have processed ballots to feed through.
- 3:52AM – Rick getting double feeds on the OPEX and I'm not sure he's matching ballots with the Oath envelopes correctly. He's also on the phone.
- 4:20AM – Ralph tired and making mistakes → Staff member tells him that he miscounted the same batch twice. He was off by one both times. At least he's consistent...
- 4:57AM – Second OPEX cutter shut down because it was causing more problems than it was solving. → Double-feeding and cutting through both the envelope and the ballot, which leads to even more duplicates
- 5:00AM – Two guys that had been doing dupes all night are sent home
- 5:19AM – Tired mistakes – one worker unpacked a whole tray of ballots (400) before noticing there was no intake form. Staff was able to figure it out once he called supervisor over. It turns out that the log sheet was left on the previous table.
- Are we compromising secret ballot with our *ad hoc* process? Sorters can see address on the Oath envelope as well as the ballot itself → Voters could theoretically face reprisal if a processor had the desire to do pursue them for their choice
- 5:35AM – Report to SOS that they are still slowing down but that the skeleton crew is still here and working. Sun should rise shortly.
- 6:00AM – High performer tells me that she's processing 200/hr., so a full ballot tray in two hours. Given her performance, this should be considered a high benchmark. Worrying given the number of trays remaining
- 6:07AM – Processor just caught a ballot for a registered voter in Richmond County that was dropped in a Dekalb ballot drop box → Not counted and set aside to be delivered to Augusta later, but how did it make it all the way here?



- 6:07AM – I reach out to SOS office for contact at OPEX. We are down to two cutting units and a third is going on the fritz. 4,800 ballots left in the last mail bin and we need all the cutting power that we can get.
- 6:30AM – Processors decline two ballots stuffed into one envelope
- 6:45AM – Rick tells press that 132,272 ballots have been adjudicated (based upon update received at 5:44AM this morning)
- 6:55AM – Shaye (left sick last night) called to tell me that there is a 1800 number and a serial number on the side of the OPEX machines and that we can call but they won't service before 7AM
- 7:34AM – I send the 7:30 count to the SOS office and report that "5:30-7:30 shift was brutal. Team moving very slowly from exhaustion and losing staff to going home at shift end. Reinforcements coming at 8 to finish up. Approx. 3,500 left."
- 8:07AM – OPEX tech arrives to fix the two down cutters
- 8:38AM – Shaye checking the manifests done by the worker with the bad sense of humor from last night → Sloppy final paperwork...unsurprisingly
- 9:00AM – Full house in here → Mail carts are now empty but there are four ballot bins left. Only two are full.



- 9:07AM – All absentee ballots are officially in process
- 9:18AM – Scanner 3 goes down. Dominion tech says that "it's full, and they just had to show it another storage path." → It's been down for about 15 min and the window on the terminal says that it will take 10 more min to move files/get hard drive space.
- 9:50AM – All scanners are down for upload of files to flash drives. Policy about only taking down 50% at a time forgotten this time – I'm told this was Ralph's call



- 10:27AM – New staff this morning are handling their jobs well. Trained quickly but effectively
 - 10:30AM – I’m called over by a scanner to show me that new staff may be working more quickly but they have been sloppy. The dupe numbers are going way up → Scanner 3, Batch 363 – 14% needed duplication
 - Numbers of half-filled forms also going up
- Audit Scanner 3, Batches 368 & 385 for bad QC → Huge # of dupes required
- 11:13AM – Ralph tells me that he is bringing provisional ballots and will have them here by 1PM to process while we have staff here
 - 11:24AM learn that it’s ~3,610 provisionals according to Fulton release but no word on the type
 - Ryan Germany reminds me that the process for provisionals is that they must keep the original ballots with the BMD duplicate for audit
- 11:20AM – Press getting way too close but no more room to hold them. Need a partition and a larger press pen.
- 11:37AM – A panicked member of staff tells me that Fulton “found” four boxes or trays at the warehouse and that they’re on the way here now. I alert SOS contacts.
 - I ask Ralph and am told that these are cured ballots that cleared the second phase of rejections → Cured ballots all collected before the poll close
 - Looped back with staffer who told me this and corrected language that these ballots were not “found.” These were “cured and in Fulton’s possession the entire time.” Remind them of the importance of precise language when the stakes are so high.
- 12:35PM – Cured ballots arrive and are being wheeled in through the back door → Before this occurs I suggest that they come in through the front door because the optics of wheeling more ballots in through the back door are not great
- 12:40PM – I inform SOS office that Ralph has told me that there are +/- 1,200 cured ballots.
- 12:47PM – Party poll watchers very interested in these ballots that just came in through the back door. The GOP poll watchers are feverishly typing on their phones now.
 - I implore the Fulton staff that now is the time to make a statement before they have a media mess on their hands. They heed my advice and give the “Two minute warning” on the statement from Chairman Pitts
- 12:50PM – Press conference begins
- ~1:00PM - 4/5 OPEX cutters required repairs today. Techs leaving now.



- 3:16PM – 367 absentee dupes from yesterday left to be reported. I reported to Gabe as soon as I had the number, but it was too late to make the 3PM press conference.
- Staffer tells me that there were no ballot transfer bags at O3T – Friendship Baptist Church → Poll manager there was told by someone at call center to leave them in the scanners – Clearly the wrong answer for chain of custody purposes in the event of a recount
- 3:37PM – Ask Ralph about the last ballot box of provisionals sitting under a table. “Oh, there’s another box down there?” he says as he goes and pulls them out for sorting → Can assume they would’ve been forgotten even though he put them there
- 4:10PM – Talk to Rick about getting sheriffs to come to State Farm because security is supposed to let members of the public in and we don’t need protestors screaming at our counters.
- 4:25PM – Ralph not effectively managing provisional bottleneck → Lots of people sitting around
 - There is only one set of precinct codes and only two people are writing them on all ~4k ballots (as it has been all day)
 - I asked him how long it would take to get another code sheet; his answer: “Too long.”
- Learn that 35 compact flashes (CF) were not used on Election Day because of the low turnout
 - Some are still in the scanners → Currently looking for Zero Tapes
 - I overhear someone say into the phone, “Seal everything and then verify numbers later”
 - They didn’t indicate that anything was missing but there are no more in the yellow bags, but some might still be in the precinct scanning machines
 - The problem is that no one at the warehouse knows for certain where they are
- 5:35PM – Approx. 900 UOCAVA ballots arrive
- 6:10PM – Dupe team that has been working all day is leaving → Have a huge stack of trays to process. I brought this to Ralph’s attention, but he has no plan for how to deal with it. He must sub some people in if he wants to manage this.
 - Ralph wants to shut down until Monday because they can’t get another temp shift in (they alienated the Happy Faces rep today) → I strongly suggested that he should probably call Rick for guidance before making that decision.
 - 6:24PM – I report this to the SOS Office



- 6:41PM - Two staff were sitting around doing nothing, and I suggested that they go ask the person running the BMD station if they can go help
- Green staff working duping is prime location for something to go sideways with the paperwork re: original match
- 6:46PM Ralph's solution for the staffing shortage is to get two more BMD units to State Farm so we can increase the number of people duping (while his number of staff continues to plummet)
- 7:04PM – Shaye tells Happy Faces rep to not bring in more people to finish out the night. 'Fulton staff will handle it from here.' They are desperate now but not accepting help; sounds like territoriality.
- 7:15PM - Ralph has 2 BMDs and 4 more staff coming then will re-allocate cutters to run them → Should be here within 30 min (~7:45PM)
 - If all of the staff will be duplicating, then who will be verifying since there's no witness anymore bc of COVID?
- 7:21PM – Scanner incorrectly scanned provisionals through absentee scanner → Shaye fixed it and Ralph gives more training to scanner
- 7:23PM – I report to SOS office that with the extra BMDs coming, Ralph is planning on pushing through tonight until the job is done. Duplicating provisionals has been the bottleneck all afternoon, but Ralph has done nothing to avert it.
- 7:40PM – Ralph tells 11Alive that his goal is to be done by 11PM
- 7:54PM – Two 4-BMD units arrive. Ralph sets them up directly in front of the media and the poll watchers, hiding processing from their view. I strongly suggest that "if transparency is the goal, then perhaps we should relocate them." He decides to follow my suggestion. Mike, The Elections Group consultant, confirms with the poll watchers and media if they can still see everything.
- Audit Scanner 5, Batch 124 – Huge # of UOCAVA dupes → All sliced, all printed locally. OPEX machines do require calibration.
- 9:35PM – I find a stack of ballots requiring duplication just sitting on table where another staffer had been working. I bring to Ralph's attention. He hadn't noticed it.
- Need clarity in poll managers handbook about how to deal with provisionals. Shaye currently accepted in mixed batch of small and large ballots → Polling precincts just printed out the 8.5x11 and put it in a provisional envelope instead of giving the voter an absentee ballot.
- Learned that waiting until lunch was a powerplay by Ralph because he didn't trust the Happy Faces people → He had a big problem with them fixing the issue w/ Abbey's box away from the cameras this morning.



- Shaye had issues with them not following her direction b/c they said that they were taking order from the Happy Faces rep (who was not fully trained on correct procedure) and not her
 - “They were doing things eagerly but incorrectly.”
 - The reason why we had to stop and figure out what happened last night was b/c things were filed and filled out incorrectly → Lost time today b/c of mistakes at the end of the day yesterday.
- 10:01PM – Staff dwindling. Only 16 remaining.
- Poll managers need more guidance about access level of party poll watchers → Need larger facility to allow them the level of access they’re allowed.
 - Need badges/credentials for them? The GOP observers at State Farm were told that there would be creds for them here but there were none.
- 11:08PM – Party poll watchers complaining that they can’t see anything even with the new BMD location. I relay this to Deputy SOS, who gives me permission to relocate them to the back of the room so that they are closer to the processing without violating their ballot proximity rules. Strong pushback from Ralph, who “doesn’t appreciate the SOS changing the rules.” The poll watchers were supposed to have more access this whole time; no rules were changed.
 - 11:17PM – Moved them.

Saturday, November 7 – E-Day Plus 4

- 12:10AM – Seeing a few solo stray ballots → Update: they were awaiting processing (despite no sign of system being clear); they’re clear now.
- 12:25AM – Starting to secure ballot boxes for overnight storage → Shaye is overseeing all spoiled, 88888, WC, etc. ballots
- 12:30AM – I have realized that the BMD unit transporters are not ADA compliant → People must stand for hours to duplicate and the screens are too tall to sit and operate. One of the Fulton staff has a bad knee and uses a cane. She was saying that her knee was hurting but she needed to keep working.
- 12:52AM – Fulton finished. Uploading the USBs now, then heading to warehouse for adjudication at 1AM
- 12:57AM – Ralph logs off all computers



- We missed one ballot! – Found during cleanup → I pointed it out to Ralph, otherwise he would've missed it or left it unsecured. → Turns out that it was spoiled but written in small print on the back.
 - Ralph would've just slid the ballot into the plastic envelope on the top of the ballot box, but I had him open and re-seal a ballot box with the correct protocol. "Let's do it the right way," I tell him.

- 1:14AM – We're out; closed up now. The door doesn't lock, but we told State Farm security that we were finished and they will send someone up to lock it.

- 1:57PM – Big problem! Rick just called me to explain that Fulton did not verify their numbers on the backend after adjudication last night, so their provisional number is off by 484 from what it should be. Their current plan is to re-scan all of yesterday's batch to make sure that everything is done properly.
- 2:03PM – I alert the SOS team
- 3:15PM – State Farm security guard hasn't verified which GOP observers can come in. She literally just told them that "Democratic observers are allowed in and not Republican" bc she didn't have their names. After unsuccessfully attempting to persuade her that this process must be open to the public, I give the GOP poll watchers my number to call her supervisor and go up to the processing room so that staff are not left alone with ballots.
- Ballot boxes are still sealed upon my arrival in the processing room five minutes after the Fulton staff
- ~3:30PM - I am told that someone scanned provisionals through the UOCAVA/absentee scanner (Scanner 5)
 - They realized this after adjudication when they added up the numbers
 - Press release yesterday said that there were 3,604 accepted provisionals. My count shows that last night they scanned 3,420. Rick says that they're 484 short, but my math says it's only 184.
- 4:36PM – Rick discerns that some ballots were not duplicated as required. → opening up the BMD now.
 - Not a lack of scanning for entire 484, though 126 just merely went to the wrong scanner. Therefore 358 remain to be duplicated.



- They don't seem to really know what's their problem is.
- Absentee/provisional look just like military ballots so wires just got crossed.
→ How do we change one or the other to remedy this?
- 5:15PM – Trump Campaign staffer literally yelling in my face that they are violating O.C.G.A. statute 21-2-43 and that this is “blatantly illegal” because they are duplicating without a witness.
 - Rick explains that the dupes are double-verified on the back end. This is a COVID protocol that was put in place to give dupers more room
 - 5:25PM - The verifiers are 15 minutes away
 - I have concerns about if a witness was being used all week for duping. I think things were going straight to scanners after duping. → Very unlikely that it was happening last night bc of low number of staff. Must confirm.
 - UPDATE – 11/10 – I pull this thread. I was given the name of four staff (Edwina Moseley, Monique Sims, Katrina Lyons, and Jessica Seimer) who were doing the verification. Two were gone by 10:30PM and the other two were busy duping. I do not believe that duplicates were being verified between 10:30PM and closing up at 1AM
- 5:37PM – “No plan” SOS Investigator tells me after talking to Rick. Managerial failing here. The plan is to fully complete duping then plan next steps
- 5:53PM Verifiers arrive to doublecheck ballots
- 6:07PM – Shaye scanned the 126 ballots that were processed on the absentee scanner
 - They were working out of three ballot bins today and knew where to find their problem
- 6:58PM – I clarify for the SOS that 484 is the total number of uncounted ballots. 126 required no duplication and just went through the wrong scanner last night (scanner configured for absentee and not provisional). The ballots were not “not scanned” or forgotten in the process; it was just a simple delivery of the ballots to the wrong scanner. 356 ballots require duplication → They've been duping for a few hours, so probably have 150 or so left to go.
- 7:35PM – After talking to Ralph, Rick tells me that they are now counting the number of salmon provisional envelopes to make sure that all are accounted for bc Ralph never counted them on the way in → Unaccounted-for ballots are a huge problem!
 - My problem is that therefore there is a possibility that 1) not all provisional ballots made it to State Farm or that 2) some are missing bc they never did an intake count. Both are bad.



- 7:53PM – Using the OPEX to open more provisional ballot → Correction: Shaye is using the OPEX to count the ballots instead of doing it by hand
 - Got everyone worried that they were opening more ballots
- 7:57PM – Rick thinks they found the problem → May be more than 484 bc of Santé researching/verifying ballots all afternoon on Friday.
 - Dominic was able to find the problematic batches by looking at the data
- 8:07PM – Santé says that she was researching and accepting/overturning ballots all afternoon but didn't save and upload the document, so the number of the 484 universe just expanded to include another 75-100 more.
 - Need to check the properties on this file to make sure that she ended before 5PM deadline yesterday
- 8:27PM – Rick makes the call to rescan all of the provisionals
 - Step 1 – Count all envelopes
 - Step 2 – Rescan all ballots
 - Rick is about to remove the envelopes from their ballots → Stopped Rick from using OPEX bc they mess up the order, which would, in turn, shuffle the order relating to the ballots → He calls Ralph who says that the ballots and envelopes are not in a specific order so they can be scrambled.
 - 8:50PM – Advice disregarded. They're using the OPEX to count now bc the ballots aren't in any sort of order "bc the ballots all have codes on them."
- 9:35PM – "Exactly 200 down on the count." They counted all of the ballots and got to 3,420 (a number I gave them last night and again at 3PM today), but they need 3,620
- 9:47PM – Rick on the phone with Santé: "You're positive that you don't have any more ballots down there [at Pryor St. office]"..."YOU DO?!? How many?!"
 - There were 17 that were verified at Pryor but never made it to State Farm. What would've happened to them if Santé hadn't gone down to the office to get that file?
- There are 23 null, rejects and OOC, but those were included in that 3,620 that they're hunting down. → $3620 - 23 = 3,597$; 17 ballots downtown → 3,580 is new number
 - My math is still not zeroing out, so I get a staffer to explain it to me and they realize (after I talk to three and no one listens) that their math doesn't add up, which prompts a search for more spoiled ballots to make up for the missing seven.