



For Immediate Release  
11/11/2016

## Letter from Supervisor Overturf regarding Putnam County Sheriff's Office Race

I want to address the many valid concerns and questions regarding the Putnam County Sheriffs race. There are several important things that I hope to communicate in this message. First and foremost it is the desire of this office and of both candidates running to count every single vote that was legally cast in our county. We have the most confidence that this is and will be the case. That is why we are taking the time needed to ensure that this race is accurately reported with the correct vote totals. We are also working with both candidates to address their concerns and hope to reassure the community their voice was heard.

### 1. What happened?

As of Tuesday, November 8th at the closing of the polls it quickly became evident that this was an extraordinary close race. The unofficial results showed candidate Jon Kinney with a lead of 18 votes. It is important to stress the word unofficial. This was not nor was it ever intended to be a final count. There were a number of votes that were outstanding at that point in time. We had 74 Provisional ballots and 8 unscanned ballots that had to be certified before we can add them to the vote total. We also may have some overseas ballots that will be added to the vote total, and we can receive those ballots up to 10 days after the election. Finally, we conduct an audit of our voting equipment using a completely different tabulation system and vendor. We do this to ensure that our voting equipment is operating correctly and that every voter's ballot is accounted for. It was at the completion of this audit that we found that although all ballots had been counted, not all ballot totals were uploaded into the final result totals. After extensive examination, we discovered that one of the USB Thumb drives that we record vote totals on after scanning mail ballots had not been uploaded to the server. After determining this problem existed, we notified both candidates and their representatives as well as announce this information to the public at the beginning of the Canvassing Board Recount meeting. The results of this Thumb drive produced an additional 428 votes and a swing in the election of 27 votes from candidate Jon Kinney being ahead by 18 to candidate Gator DeLoach being ahead by 9. Due to the closeness of the election, and the swing caused by this new information the Canvassing Board initiated a recount of the actual ballots. Please also understand that whether or not this this Thumb drive had been uploaded we would have still initiated a recount of the actual ballots due to the closeness of the election. This is why we keep the ballots.

2. Were ballots "lost or misplaced"?

No, no ballots were lost or misplaced. An electronic card from one of the vote tallying machines was not correctly uploaded to the server. All ballots were counted. Furthermore we are currently recounting the ballots themselves and this will be an independent count in no way affected by the failure to upload the card.

Could there be other votes withstanding?

There is the slight possibility of military ballots or other absentee ballots that were mailed by the appropriate date and time but have not reached our office. We do not suspect there will be many additional ballots but with a race this close it could have an impact.

Does this affect other races?

The additional votes from the Thumb drive will be accounted for in every race. We do not expect it to have a meaningful impact in any other race. Nevertheless every vote will be counted. Please understand this in no way affects the recount since the electronic cards are a tally of the counted ballots and we are currently recounting these ballots. We are able to verify that this Thumb drive which has since been accounted for tallied votes on Election Day. Furthermore the recount of ballots will confirm our numbers. We are very confident in the accuracy of the results once the recount is completed.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Overturf III  
Supervisor of Elections