

PAUL D. PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE



LUCAS BUILDING
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

OFFICE OF THE IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

Report to the Legislature:

2016 Use of Intelligent Mail Barcode Tracing - Absentee Mail Ballots

Senator Jack Whitver; President of the Senate
Representative Linda L. Upmeyer; Speaker of the House
Senator Roby Smith; Chair, State Government Committee
Representative Ken Rizer; Chair, State Government Committee

Pursuant to HF2273 in the eighty-sixth General Assembly below is a report on the use of Intelligent Mail Barcode Tracing (IMb) by Iowa County Auditor's during the 2016 general election.

Six counties opted to use IMb Tracing during the 2016 general election cycle. IMb Tracing is a tool in addition to an USPS Postmark to establish the point of entry into the USPS of a voted mail ballot. The participating counties were Benton, Cerro Gordo, Clinton, Dubuque, Jones and Woodbury. A spreadsheet with the results follows.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dawn Williams at 515.725.0067 in my office with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Pate", written over a circular stamp.

Paul D. Pate
Iowa Secretary of State

Cc: Charlie Smithson, Secretary to the Senate
Carmine Boal, Chief Clerk of the House

	Benton	Cerro Gordo	Clinton	Dubuque	Jones	Woodbury	Totals
Total Absentees Issued	4353	9570	11,180	24520	3770	21966	75359
A. Received before polls closed	4256	9367	10,829	22926	3705	20460	71543
B. Outstanding after polls closed	97	292	351	1594	65	1506	3905
1. Received after ED & before Canvass	12	89	102	72		166	441
a. With legible postmark	10	87	102	69		162	430
i. Postmarked before ED	7	78	87	30	6	127	335
ii. Postmarked after ED	2	9	15	39		35	100
a) Postmark & Imb on or after ED	2	9	4	39	6	35	95
b) IMb before ED (different postmark)	1	0	8	0	0	0	9
b. Without legible postmark or no postmark	2	2	0	3	0	4*	7
iii. IMb Tracing date before ED	1	1	0	0	0	2	4
iv. IMB Tracing date on or after ED	2	1	0	3	0	0	6
2. Outstanding after canvass	85	203	249	1522	53	1340	3452

Formula Key

Total Absentee Ballots Issued = A. + B.

B. = 1. + 2.

1. = a. + b.

a. = i. + ii.

ii. = a) + b)

b. = iii. + iv.

Comments:

"The USPS IMb system allowed Clinton County to count eight ballots that would have otherwise been previously disqualified from counting due to a late postmark. Those eight ballots had a postmark that would have disqualified them from being counted. Double checking those return envelopes with the IMb system showed those ballots were in the postal system before midnight Monday before the election. Eight may not sound like a lot, but it certainly is to those voters who placed their ballot in the USPS system with plenty of time and confidence it would be included in that election. I would also note that one of those ballots was received from a domestic military base. I would have celebrated this if it were even one ballot. Thank you to the legislature, the Secretary of State Office and my wonderful peers who are County Auditors and Commissioners of Elections who all worked to make the IMb a tool for the 2016 General Election." Eric Van Lancker, Clinton County Auditor