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**COMMITTEES**

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Cambria County Commissioners  
Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, Thomas C. Chernisky  
C/O Melissa Kestermont, Executive Assistant & Open Records Officer  
200 South Center Street  
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Dec. 26, 2024

**RE: Voting machine testing Right-to-Know request**

Commissioners Hunt, Rager and Chernisky:

The Nov. 12, 2024 Tribune-Democrat news story “**Cambria County elections board meets to act on ballots**” contains this passage: Hunt ... assured the public that the scanning machines were tested prior to Nov. 5.

The Nov. 6 FOX 8 news story “**Cambria County Ballot Machine Problems**” contains this passage: County Solicitor Ron Repak said the machine was unable to read the ballot markings, based on how they were printed. He said they conducted tests before Election Day, but because of the nature of the problem, the mistake was not able to be discovered until voting commenced.

The Nov. 6, 2024 Altoona Mirror news story “**Cambria vote malfunction spurs hand count**” contains this passage: ... Repak declined to speculate on how many ballots were collected and how many blank ballots were ordered and distributed, noting he did not want to give an inaccurate number ...

The fact that this countywide Election Day fiasco occurred – despite assurances that electronic voting machines were tested ahead of time – is troubling not only to me as a state elected official, but to the vast majority of Cambria County voters whose faith in the integrity of our voting system has been severely rattled.

**Since the three county commissioners also serve as the Cambria County Election Board, I am making this formal request of you under the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law. So that I may share it with the concerned public, I am requesting that you provide me with:**

- ❖ The number of voting machines used in Cambria County in the Nov. 5, 2024 election.
- ❖ Copies of any and all policies, directives and results tracking/tallying in effect prior to or on Nov. 5, 2024 regarding the procedure for testing voting machines in Cambria County. This includes, but it not limited to, information on which and how many voting machines were tested (which occurred per Commission Hunt’s statements), what the testing

procedure involved (including the type and source of those ballots), who performed and was present for any testing, how test results and passing grades were assessed and tabulated, and the number of voting machines that may have failed such testing.

- ❖ Any and all documents, correspondence (including but not limited to emails) or written explanation that determines, specifies or illuminates “the nature of the problem” and why “the mistake was not able to be discovered until voting commenced,” as attributed to Repak’s statement in the Altoona Mirror.
- ❖ A tally of how many ballots cast in Cambria County were unable to be scanned on Election Day of Nov. 5, 2024, and a separate tally of how many ballots were able to be scanned successfully on Election Day of Nov. 5, 2024.
- ❖ The number of blank ballots that were ordered from William Penn Printing Co. on Election Day of Nov. 5, 2024, and the number that were then successfully distributed to polling places on Election Day of Nov. 5, 2024.

If you choose not to comply with this request, please state your legal objections in writing.

If you have any questions or desire any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



**State Rep. Frank Burns**  
**72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District**