

Good evening,

My name is Mike Todd, a resident of Robbinsville and the Township Council Vice President. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. I wanted to convey my concerns shared by many throughout the County regarding this past election as we learned some new information last week. Several of our residents presented us with a letter from the County informing them that their most recent votes did not count. They had all arrived early that day to cast their vote in person. After signing the electronic signature pad, they were given a provisional ballot to cast their vote. Since each of the voters signed the signature pad and used a provisional ballot as directed, the system thinks they voted twice when in fact they didn't. Their votes were rejected when they did everything right. Once the issues with the machines were realized on Election Day, the County Clerk ensured the public that all votes would be counted. Sadly, today, we know that is just not true. How did the signature pads (aka machine votes) not equal the number of paper ballots counted without anyone realizing it? Mercer County voters were disenfranchised in this election, and this absolutely could have been avoided.

I urge this governing body to continue to advocate for change in our voting processes, enhanced training for poll workers and even a different mechanism in which we cast votes here in Mercer County. Something needs to change. The County needs to consider replacing these new voting machines with ones similar to what other counties have, which did not have the issues we saw here in Mercer. Two elections in a row now, we saw significant problems since introducing this brand of voting machine and its two too many. Training for poll workers needs to be revamped along with better communication between departments with a more efficient way to schedule poll workers. It's not going to change overnight and it's not going to change without your support as well.

While we are currently in January, November will be here before we know it. The residents of Mercer County deserve a fair and just election with confidence that their vote counts. I don't think we're at that point right now, but optimistic we can get there with your help.

Thank you for your time.