



## Voting machine outages, paper shortages mar election in America's third largest county

### Description

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Voting machine outages and paper shortages have been reported by people across Harris County in Houston, Texas. And this is hardly surprising as the state's biggest county – and the third largest in the country by population – recently hired a Democrat election official with a bad reputation.

Former Washington, D.C. and Georgia election official Clifford Tatum was elected as Harris County's elections administrator last August 16 after a futile effort at supervising votes in the nation's capital.

Republican Party chair Cindy Siegel was the only individual to vote against Tatum, citing a 2012 election Tatum managed had "Wrong ballots. Machines not working. People's ballots not programmed correctly. Huge lines."

In 2012, the *Washington Examiner* reported the D.C. election cycle Tatum was responsible for being "plagued by long lines, ballot errors and malfunctioning equipment."

A woman serving as an advisory neighborhood commissioner at the time said: "It was a disaster and completely unreal. One of my constituents compared it to voting in a Third World country. Constituents continually came to me saying they were handed the wrong ballot. It was the worst day ever for the Board of Elections."

Even present D.C. Democrat Mayor Muriel Bowser didn't hide her disappointment in Tatum's badly run 2012 election by calling his apologies for the failure "disrespectful."

"It's our intent for that particular breakdown not to happen again," Tatum told lawmakers, after that election disaster a decade ago.

Tatum also owes over \$100,000 in income tax, which was raised by Texas state Sen. Paul Bettencourt after Tatum was selected as Harris County election administrator.

The *Houston Chronicle* rebuffed Republican complaints about Tatum being elected as the top Harris County election official with headlines like “GOP Is Already Attacking Harris County’s New Elections Administrator, Citing Tax Lien” in spite of the legitimate concerns.

Right now, during a critical 2022 midterm election, the biggest county in Texas is dealing with election-day problems with Tatum in charge.

“Voters across Harris County reported polling issues early Tuesday morning and they continued into the evening,” local Houston news outlet *KHOU 11* reported.

## Issues with voting and tabulation machines

At the NRG Stadium, where the NFL’s Houston Texans play, almost half of the voting machines available to voters broke down and similar failures were reported across the county.

“Meanwhile, the election judge at BakerRipley on Navigation Boulevard said they were slow to open because they didn’t have the proper election supplies dropped off, including the key to open voting machines,” added *KHOU 11*, also stating that a number of voters were waiting as early as 7 a.m.

Voters at one place were completely dismissed and told to vote elsewhere because “the machines hadn’t been delivered.”

After 20 of the 60 voting machines broke down at the voting center, Tatum showed up and a Houston woman confronted him on camera and criticized him for voters being turned away.

“For that to not be ready when you had Friday, Saturday and Sunday to make sure we were good, I mean that has never happened in this poll,” the woman said.

Tatum was able to get Harris County to stretch the voting times by an hour after the bulk “malfunctions” happened.

In what could be a chance for election fraud, voters who get in line after 7 p.m. are only able to cast temporary ballots, which are included in the vote count after election night so they can be manually processed.

Meanwhile, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Gates announced a few hours into Election Day that 20 percent of polling places in the county are experiencing troubles with their tabulation machines.

Gates said in a video message that they have about 20 percent of the locations with tabulator issue. There are 223 voting stations across Maricopa County, which means that at least 44 of them experienced tabulator malfunctions.

Maricopa County recorder Stephen Richer released a statement apologizing to voters for the confusion

and inconvenience saying that “every legal vote will be tabulated. I promise.”

Watch the video below about election fraud in the midterms.

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