

Thread: Jocelyn and five people (JB, AE, TA, AB, MB)

Mon, Oct 28

Jocelyn Benson:

- I need to know the number of active registered voters who don't have a license or ID affiliated with their record
- And if possible we need to know the number in that universe who voted in 2020
- Just for raw data right now please

Tina Anderson:

- We did a look at that a few months ago. It's a multi-day query because the data set is so large. It takes a large number of hours from critical people to run. Jonathan and I have talked about the data a few times and it's worth talking through before we make the request, because the data is complex and may not be very helpful
- What do we want to use it for? We might have info that can address the same question that is not that exact request

Jocelyn:

- City council and Dingell know along with ed duggan
- We will need to make a statement shortly

Tina:

- Ok we will circulate what we have drafted

Jocelyn:

- Need to be able to say the vast majority of voters reg w an ID or DL and have a number to go with that

Tina:

- What we can say is the % who register at branches where you have to present proof of residency which we validate
- That's in the TPs we put together for the house admin hearing

Jocelyn:

- No I need an overall number brater and I talked he knows what I need

Tina:

- I talked to him too. Can we hop on a call quickly

Jocelyn:

- No
- I'm on stage

Tina:

- Ok

Jocelyn:

- Need to get the number and not debate this please rn
- I appreciate we are a team that loves to deliberate but we don't have time for that now
- Will need a draft statement by 1:30 please send it for me to review after I'm done speaking thx

Tina:

- It's not about deliberation it's about what's available

Jonathan Brater:

- We need to be prepared for a statement without a number. We can't get an accurate number immediately, it is a very complicated query that takes many hours minimum. I agree with Tina that raw number is not likely to be helpful

Jocelyn:

- Thanks lmk when we have a draft reactive statement to review or if we want to issue something proactively
- Let's decide in the next 30 mins?

Tina:

- We are looking at number options right now, will have a statement ready for you with or without number depending on what we are able to pull together

Jocelyn:

- Ok lmk what yall decide
- Number doesn't need to be in statement
- Dana and I talked earlier also want to weave in – you're going to see significant consequences unfold for this gentleman, that should be a deterrent

Tina:

- Got it

Jocelyn:

- Voting records are public so we will catch you if you do this etc etc
- So – isolated, rare, not widespread, happened once before in 2018. Swift and significant consequences, voting records are public – if you try this you will be caught.
- Goal: communicate we are not messing around, even though this is just 1 person that is one person too many.

Tina:

- Got it

Jocelyn:

- Put in on him as a liar and a lawbreaker not us

Jonathan:

- My edits are in

Jocelyn:

- I have a 2p zoom and will look again at my email at 230
- Statement is great
- Well done
- One edit
- Say “We also take seriously our responsibility to ensure that every eligible voter is able to register and cast a ballot.”
- Instead of “We also take our responsibility to ensure that every eligible voter is able to register and cast a ballot.”
- Otherwise it’s great
- And I would lead with
We are aware and working with the local clerk and prosecutor to address a potential violation of the law involving a non-U.S. citizen voting at an Ann Arbor early voting site on Sunday.

Tina:

- Got it. For some reason Angela can’t comment on this thread so I’m sharing her thoughts – one last edit that was suggested at the end:

Let this be a message: Voting records are public – any noncitizen who attempts to vote fraudulently in Michigan will be exposing themselves to great risk, and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Rational is if we say “will be caught” we could invite questions about how this was uncovered”

- Good to send out?

Jocelyn:

- I’m good with that change and yes, good to send out
- Thanks everyone. Great work.

Mike Brady:

- Just to confirm, is this statement to be issued proactively immediately or is it ready for reactive comment?

Jocelyn:

- What do you recommend?

Aghogho Edevbie:

- At this point, I think we should be proactive. We're down to hours, possibly minutes before there's broader awareness. With the council and Dingell knowing, it will get out. It's best if we speak first.

Jonathan:

- There's still a question of coordinating with other affected entities including clerk and law enforcement. Part of the problem in the Macomb situation is the clerk did a release without doing that.

Jocelyn:

- Should we check in with Jackie and do a joint announcement with her?

Tina:

- Angela just talked to her – we are good on that end. Working to reach AG Comms and then will be good to send it out

Jocelyn:

- Is it possible at all to do this tomorrow morning?
- It's just hard because in like two hours, I'll be taking the stage and I'd rather not have this taint that
- Have we gotten any press inquiries yet at all?
- I just spoke to Jackie and she did not know of any

Tina:

- We just talked to Kim, we are ready to go when we get the ok from you. I think by tomorrow it will be out and we will miss our opportunity to frame it.
- We have not gotten press inquiries yet. But a lot of people know about it.

Jocelyn:

- Have you gotten any press inquiries yet at all? Is there value into waiting when we do because they wont publish anything before talking to us
- Is it just us making a statement or is it joint with Jackie and Dana?

Angela Benander:

- Hi I was locked out of this thread for a bit
- They will publish something this explosive before they come to us

Jocelyn:

- Is it just us making a statement or is it joint with Jackie and Dana?

Angela:

- It would just be you at this point
- I have spoken to both of their comms reps

Jocelyn:

- Why don't they want to join us?
- I just spoke with Jackie and she did not seem happy about us putting out a statement

Angela:

- We can hold but we will be reacting
- Very unlikely this doesn't hit the media today
- Bc we know people on both official and political side know

Jonathan:

- I think Jackie's unhappy because (1) it's drawing attention to it (2) unusual to announce before charges filed. I did her this was likely going public soon anyway which would be the reason to talk about it proactively, but that's the dilemma.

Angela:

- 1) Debbie Dingell announced it to everyone 2) these are unusual circumstances

Aghogho:

- I get that being proactive is not the usual course here, but we are in an extraordinary situation. This is occurring mere days before the election and if we are reactive, we'll be on the defensive and may have to explain why we waited.

Jocelyn:

- I would like any proactive statement to be made jointly with the clerk or local prosecutor
- So let's work on developing that.
- I spoke with Eli. He and I will issue a joint statement when he's ready.

Jonathan:

- In other news, for awareness we did send the Rock river township supervisory control directive today. Other township officials will follow the law and Alger county govt is working with us too.

Thread: Jocelyn and four people (JB, TA, NT, LM)

Tues, Oct 29

Tina Anderson:

- Hi Secretary – opening a staff thread with you in case it's helpful during the senior leaders briefing at noon.
- Luz, Jonathan and Neil are here

Neil Tambe:

- Secretary, I'll turn it over to you after Sandy's video.
- No questions yet, if that holds I will tell people about the resources we'll send as a follow up after Jonathan and then pass to Secretary Benson to close.

Tina:

- Thank you! Great briefing

Jocelyn Benson:

- Great job team!

Thread: Jocelyn and two people (CH, JS)

Tues, Oct 29

Jennette Sawyer:

- Hi – NBC sent a riverside app link for the pre-tape at 4:15 so you will need to use Chrome browser. Thanks!

Thread: Jocelyn and Jonathan Brater

Mon, Oct 28

Jonathan:

- Call you right back talking to Jackie

Jocelyn:

- Just wanted to raise that someone could've asked or paid this person to do this and we shouldn't assume that's not the case

Jonathan:

- Can we talk when you have a minute?

Thread: Jocelyn and Cheri Hardmon

Mon, Oct 28

Cheri:

- Spoke with Tim Skubick for Off the Record. For the sake of maintaining a nonpartisan atmosphere this week, he isn't having any elected officials on. I did stress this would be an interview about early voting and election preps but he was firm and hoped we would understand. He did offer a zoom interview for WLNS or FOX 2 if you're interested.

Jocelyn:

- Let's skip it

Cheri:

- That was my thought too.

Cheri:

- Good morning! Hit time for CNN with Jim Acosta today is 11:29. For some reason they want you to be logged in by 11:09.
- For the Laura Coates SiriusXM radio interview Thursday at 8:30am, you have two options to join. You call into the guest hotline or connect via zoom. Which do you prefer?

Jocelyn:

- I'll be driving so will need to be by phone

Cheri:

- Got it.
- The producer for Jim Acosta just called to cancel your interview for today because Trump, who was supposed to speak at 10, is now expected to go on any moment and they will take him live. They want to reschedule for later in the week.

Jocelyn:

- Ok

Cheri:

- The Laura Coates interview has been moved to tomorrow at 8:30am. Do you still want to call in rather than zoom?

Jocelyn:

- Yes I'll be driving so will need to be by phone

Thread: Jocelyn, Tina Anderson, Angela Benander, and Cheri Hardmon

Tues, Oct 29

Tina Anderson:

- Good morning! Dashboard hasn't updated yet but wanted to make sure you have the latest data we had available yesterday for your WJR interview.

126,000 early votes yesterday, 87,000 AV ballots returned yesterday. Overall total 1.98m votes in so far.

We will have a final number for yesterday soon this morning after dash updates.

- It updated! 27.4% turnout so far, 1.99m votes in. 1.6m AV, 389,000 total early votes

Thread: Jocelyn and six people (TA, AE, AB, CH, JB, MB)

Mon, Oct 28

Jonathan Brater:

- 47 k voters so far today
- Yesterday at this time was 40 k

Tina Anderson:

- Oh wow!

Jonathan:

- 126 k early votes so far today. With AVs that have come in we are at the 1.98 million total votes. We MIGHT hit 2 million tonight but hard to say

Jocelyn:

- If we hit 2M can I have Hilary announce it
- I'm kidding

Tina:

- Hahaha

Jonathan:

- Looks like we're sticking at 126 k, things slowed down. I don't think we'll hit 2 mill tonight unless a lot of people are working late

Jonathan:

- We are above 2 million overall!

Jonathan:

- 110 k early votes today, tracking a bit lower than yesterday

Jocelyn:

- My hope is that we can say 1 million people voted early in person and so if we keep tracking over 100 every day, we'll get there

Jonathan:

- 116 k

Jocelyn:

- You guys I misread this headline to mean the opposite and almost had a heart attack
- [Picture of CNN headline: "Supreme Court rules RFK Jr. will appear on battleground ballots despite suspending campaign"]

Thread: Jocelyn and Mike Brady

Tue, Oct 29

Mike:

- Can you please join a 10:30 call?
- [*Exempt from disclosure under MCL 15.243(1)(g)*]

Jocelyn:

- Sure!

Mike:

- Tina will send an invite.
- Invite sent.

Thread: "JB Interview Requests" (Jocelyn and nine people: TA, AE, AB, CH, IC, JS, JB, SM, MB)

Mon, Oct 28

Cheri Hardmon:

- NewsNation Morning in America would like you to join anchor Markie Martin tomorrow or Thursday during 6-9am show. 5-minute interview. Election, voting are the topics.
- WJR would like you to join Guy, Lloyd and Jaime tomorrow morning at 7:35 to talk about early voting. 8-10 minute segment.

Jocelyn:

- Ok
- WJR I can do tomorrow AM
- Will need to have all the non citizen TPs ready to go
- New Nation I can do 715-730

- Tomorrow
- Or Thursday
- That's the only window I have either day

Cheri:

- All set for Thursday with NewsNation at 7:15-7:30am and WJR tomorrow at 7:35am

Cheri:

- WDET with Stephen Henderson would like you to join him tomorrow during the 9-10am hour to talk about the early success of in-person voting and what it means for democratic participation in Michigan this year. 15 minute segment.

Jocelyn:

- Yes I can do that

Cheri:

- Great. I'll let them know.
- NBC Nightly News correspondent Stephanie Gosk will be in Michigan on Thursday and would like to interview you, preferably at an early voting location, for a story about poll challengers and citizen activists. They are interested in the poll challenger program and how it works. The interview would take about 25 minutes.
- They will be in Detroit. Is there a time and location that works best for you?

Cheri:

- Hallie Jackson NOW on NBC News is looking to do an interview with you today, either pretape by 4:30pm or live between 5-7pm, to discuss your swatting incidents, fears and concerns around this type of harassment and any other safety concerns you would like to talk about. 5 minute segment.

Jocelyn:

- Let's pretape at 415
- Also need to move Laura Coates interview on Thursday. I'm not sure how it got scheduled at that time but I'm booked from 8 to 10 AM on Thursday.

Cheri:

- Okay. We will get it moved. Is there another day that works better for you?

Jocelyn:

- In that timeslot, I could do tomorrow or Friday
- For the Halloween interview with NBC I could do it 1045 to 11:15 AM in the Cadillac offices or noon to 1230 in Lansing

Cheri:

- Okay

Jocelyn:

- Lansing would be preferred
- Stephen Henderson asked me to come on Monday, not tomorrow. At least in his text, he said Monday, which is what I could do. I can't do tomorrow. Which is it?
- [Picture of text thread with "Stephen":
 - [Today 8:15 AM]
 - Stephen: "Ha! It was fine. Happens all the time on live radio. Lol. Always great to have you on the show.. thanks again!"
 - Stephen: "Hey – hope you're well, and know you're super busy. Wondering if you'd like to come on the radio show next Monday, just to talk about preparation for Tuesday, etc.. we could talk clerks, early voting, vote counting, all of it. Could do it in about 15 mins. If necessary cook also prob record this week if your schedule works better for that."
 - Jocelyn: "Sure"
 - Jocelyn: "I can call in – 9a?"]

Cheri:

- Yes, apparently the producer didn't check with Stephen before making the pitch to us.

Jocelyn:

- OK, well I can do Monday but not tomorrow

Cheri:

- Sounds good!

Jocelyn:

- The other option is Friday

Cheri:

- I can ask about Friday, but based on my last email from the producer, Stephen was definitely hoping you could join him Monday.

Jocelyn:

- Monday it is then
- Thx

Cheri:

- The Laura Coates interview has been moved to tomorrow at 8:30am. Do you still want to call in rather than zoom?

Angela Benander:

- Good afternoon- we're putting out a release with quotes from partners on rides to the polls. Here's a draft quote for your review:

A lack of affordable or available transportation should not be a barrier to casting a ballot for any Michigan citizen. Thanks to the Michigan legislature lifting the ban on providing rides to polling for those who need them this is the first year organizations can provide this important service to voters. Thank you to these groups and companies that are going the extra mile to provide rides for voters who need it. These services will be essential for many, especially older residents and voters with disabilities, to ensure every voter can make their voice heard in this election.

Jocelyn:

- It's important that transportation not stand in the way of any eligible Michigan citizen and their access to the ballot box. I'm glad lawmakers worked to lift the ban on providing rides to voting locations and grateful to the organizations who have stepped up to provide transportation for citizens who need it to vote. These services will be essential for many, especially older citizens and voters with disabilities, to ensure every eligible voter can make their voice heard in this election.

Jocelyn:

- Flagging that our release that went out at 530p has old numbers in it

Tina Anderson:

- Is there a specific one that you're concerned about?

The numbers that went out are the ones from this morning, which is the full set we use, and is comparable with what was released in 2020. The 116k number is from the end of tonight and is a one off that BOE shared (will be updated on dash tomorrow).

Our protocol is to release numbers that match the dashboard and are updated in the morning.

- We crossed 2m early this morning but dash still says 1.99
- Dash will update tomorrow with end of today's numbers

Angela:

- Correct- we put the 2020/2024 comparison out weekly

Jocelyn:

- I announced already that we crossed 2M when we did
- So it contradicts that

Angela:

- And use the numbers that are on the dashboard

Tina:

- That was a mid day number, and contradicts the dashboard. The release says “as of this morning”

Jocelyn:

- I think if we’re going to do as you suggest then we should put those numbers out in the morning, not in the evening because they’re not entirely accurate when we put them out in the evening

Angela:

- Year sorry we just got behind today

Jocelyn:

- So if you wanna put a release out with numbers from the day before, let’s just do it first thing in the morning as opposed to at the end of the day when the numbers are no longer accurate

Angela:

- I think if anyone calls us on it we can say you had the up to the minute number

Jocelyn:

- Ann Arbor put out their numbers too as end of day not beginning of day so again if we’re going to do beginning of day, let’s do it at the beginning of the day so it to not confuse people
- Thx all

Thread: Jocelyn and Jamie

[Exempt from disclosure under MCL 15.243(1)(u),(y)]
