

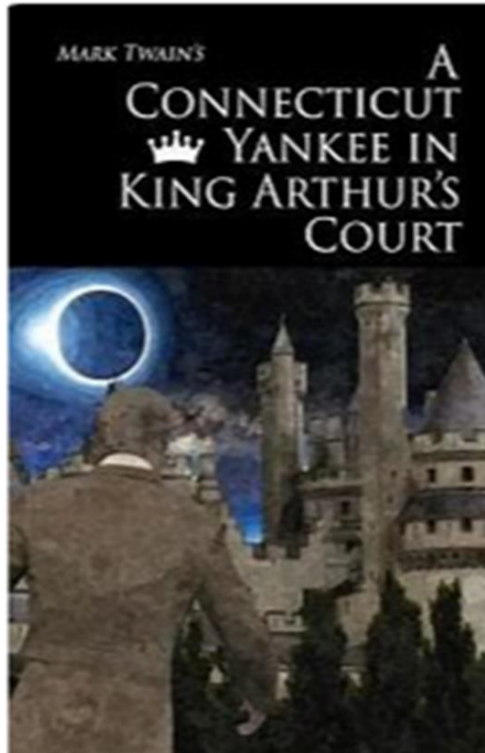
Dear Friend,

If you know someone that needs to be added to this policy briefing, please let us know by sending an e-mail here: [info@puregrassroots.org](mailto:info@puregrassroots.org)

[Please also follow me on X \(Formerly twitter\) here: R. Morris Owens \(@MoeOwensJD\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#) or on Facebook here: [Facebook](#)

### **Paper Ballots, The 4 Minute Mile & The Eclipse**

The rarity of a total lunar eclipse of the sun makes it special. God's perfect laws make the eclipse both spectacular and mathematically predictable. In Psalm 100 we are reminded that God's truth endures to all generations. Thus, we can know the exact times, dates and locations of both past and future eclipse events. And we have known this for a long time.



### **Mark Twain's hero in "A Connecticut Yankee" Used his knowledge of an eclipse as a key plot device**

Similar to the rarity of a total eclipse, the idea of an election run with hand counted paper ballots has become a total rarity, something we as Americans cannot recognize or fathom anymore.

But it is possible!



Just last month, a Texas county successfully completed a paper-ballot hand count during the March GOP primary. Advocates of a return to hand counts and paper ballots now have more solid evidence that dependence on electronic systems isn't the only way to go.

On March 6, Republican precinct chairs in Gillespie County in central Texas (county seat, Fredericksburg) had decided a year earlier to pursue a hand count, wanting more transparent and secure elections. Six months of hard advance work prepared teams to count more than 8,000 ballots, using a plan designed to reduce error and speed up the process.

Gillespie County Party Chairman Bruce Campbell didn't think enough people could be found to complete the project, but about 300 volunteers came out of the woodwork to help, indicating strong support for hand counts and a well-earned distrust of electronic systems.

Weeks later, on March 19, [Texas Tribune](#) posted an article blasting the whole idea as a failure: "[Experts agree and studies show](#) the method is time-consuming, costly, [less accurate](#), and less secure than using machines, but local Republicans, citing unsupported concerns about the accuracy of voting machines, were determined to try and show otherwise."

Three days later, [Texas Scorecard](#) countered on March 22 that while problems had been encountered, as happens in every count, the mistakes had been found and fixed ahead of the canvass. A precinct chair had contacted Campbell the day after the election, concerned that he hadn't double-checked his tallies, and the mistakes were found and corrected before the canvass deadline.

Campbell told Texas Scorecard that the discrepancies did not affect the outcomes of the races. The final tallies reflected 8,266 voters, and all 8,266 were accounted for in the end. The teams identified some areas that can be improved (as always happens with a new effort) to make the process easier and more efficient the next time.

Gillespie is still a largely rural county. But, two counties to the east lies Travis County (Austin), historically rife with election-integrity concerns. Travis County hand counted mail-in ballots on election day, but discrepancies were found, and again corrected. Vickie Karp, co-director of VoteRescue in Austin, participated in the Austin mail-in hand count, and observed, "For over 20 years I've been very passionate about returning to transparent elections

with hand counted paper ballots. It was so inspiring to participate in this hand counting project for the Travis County Primary. The volunteers were dedicated, and committed, as we all knew: This is how elections should be executed!”

A surplus of volunteers showed up for the Travis County hand count; so many that some were turned away, as they weren't needed. As it turned out, a few extra hands could have been helpful, but only in hindsight can some things be realized. The hand-count organizers will have a better idea of just how many teams are needed next time.

The idea still has its detractors. Elections-consulting firm Elections Group CEO Jennifer Morrell, a former election official and an expert on election audits, had this to say: “This 100% is indicative that we know mistakes are going to happen every single time. And I don't know how anybody would feel confident, after that many errors were identified, that all their errors had been identified.”

Morrell added that the discrepancies found in Gillespie and in Travis don't typically occur in elections where voting equipment is used.

Any student of the 2020 election knows differently. Yet, Morrell is right about one thing — mistakes will happen. What she, Texas Tribune, and other detractors failed to note was that the discrepancies in this primary were *found* and *corrected*, and the hand-count paper system is the only one that allows the transparency under which errors can be corrected in view of the public, which is the whole point. In this instance, the Gillespie precinct chair self-reported an uncertainty that he'd checked his tallies correctly and wanted to check one more time. Find an electronic system that will do that.

Former New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner commented in *The New American* that his state has never completely abandoned its hand-counted paper system. There, the towns run their own elections, and 100 towns have never gone to machines, retaining the paper ballot system and hand counts. Election-integrity expert Kurt Hyde, a former New Hampshire resident, participated in hand counts there, and remembers that wards, instead of precincts, hold the elections, and hand counts are conducted in public view.

Arguments are often made in Texas that the number of precincts such in places such as Harris County (Houston) is too large to make hand counts manageable. But, the unexpected number of volunteers who showed up in both Gillespie and Travis Counties should be an indicator that the public is willing to show up and gear up in order to restore transparency in elections.

A system was devised to streamline the process in both Texas counties, and plans are in place to do it again. Its success will help other activists execute hand counts in their own counties.

In fact, a request was even made to the Travis County counting team to hand count an upcoming runoff as a result of the primary. As this system gains traction, hope might yet prevail for future Texas elections.

As this was just a primary, it may seem small. But it is a successful proof of concept and that is key.

Consider this...

As a college student, I had to opportunity to study for a year on scholarship at Oxford University. There was a memorial there for Roger Bannister, a track and field athlete that was the first recorded athlete to break the four-minute time barrier in the 1 mile race.

For years, so many athletes had tried and failed to run a mile in less than four minutes that people made it out to be a physical impossibility. The world record for a mile was 4 minutes and 1.3 seconds, set by Gunder Hagg of Sweden in 1945. Despite, or perhaps because of, the psychological mystique surrounding the four-minute barrier, several runners in the early 1950s dedicated themselves to being the first to cross into the three-minute zone.

Roger Bannister of Harrow, England, in 1929, was a top mile-runner while a student at the University of Oxford. In 1951 and 1953, he won British championships in the mile run. **As he prepared himself for his first competitive race of the 1954 season, Bannister researched the mechanics of running and trained using new scientific methods he developed.** On May 6, 1954, he came to the Iffley Road track in Oxford for the annual match between the Amateur Athletic Association and Oxford University. Conditions were far from ideal; it had been windy and raining. A considerable crosswind was blowing across the track as the mile race was set to begin.

At 6 p.m., the starting gun was fired. In a carefully planned race, Bannister was aided by a close friend who acted as a pacemaker. For the first half-mile, the pacesetter led the field, with Bannister close behind, and then another runner took up the lead and reached the three-quarter-mile mark in 3 minutes 0.4 seconds, with Bannister at 3 minutes 0.7 seconds. Bannister took the lead with about 350 yards to go and passed an unofficial timekeeper at the 1,500-meter mark in 3 minutes 43 seconds, thus equaling the world's record for that distance. **Thereafter, Bannister threw in all his reserves and broke the tape in 3 minutes 59.4 seconds.** As soon as the first part of his score was announced—“three minutes...”—the crowd erupted in pandemonium.



What was so notable about this event that is that prior to Bannister, the idea of breaking that barrier was thought impossible. But men like Bannister refused to conceded the idea and kept working to find a way to succeed. **Once Bannister proved it could be done, it became commonplace as an achievement.**

**The only way we can expect real integrity in the election process is when paper ballots, counted at the polling location is commonplace and not as rare as a total eclipse!**

Paper ballots can be done. So lets get it done!

What can **YOU** do about this?

Get educated and get active in your community!

Use these guiding principles to form your team:

**We believe** the American system of government, a constitutional Republic, is the finest ever developed by man.

**We believe** the traditional moral values of our Judeo-Christian heritage form the cornerstone of western civilization and that the family is the most vital unit of society.

**We believe** the free market system, competitive capitalism, and private enterprise afford the widest opportunity and highest standard of living for all.

**We believe** in the dignity of the individual. We welcome people from all ethnic racial and religious backgrounds judging others only by character and ability - as we wish to be judged ourselves - our common bond is a love for liberty and our rejection of totalitarianism under any label.

**We believe that individual rights are endowed by our creator, not government; that the government's function should be limited to protecting our right to life, liberty, and property; and that individual rights are inseparably linked to individual responsibility.**

If you agree with the above concepts, you are a "Bircher" so let's get organized in local chapters of the John Birch Society to start impacting your community. In this way we can still work as an organized team statewide without concern of interference from the political thugs that set out to lynch Kristina. Join here: [Join the John Birch Society : The John Birch Society \(jbs.org\)](http://www.jbs.org). You can also reach Michigan JBS field officer Rhonda Miller at: [rmiller@jbs.org](mailto:rmiller@jbs.org)

The fight continues!

If you have any comments or questions for MRP, please contact us at: [info@puregrassroots.org](mailto:info@puregrassroots.org).

Yours in Service,



R. Morris Owens, J.D.

Director of Communications for Michigan Republican Policy

**P.S. Please forward this e-mail on to all the other activists in your network.**