

General Election – November 3, 2026

CANVASSING BOARD MEETING Wednesday, October 14, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE:

Canvassing Board Members

County Judge Melinda Brown, Chair
Michael Udine, County Commissioner
Joe Scott, Supervisor of Elections

SOE Staff

Mary Hall, Chief Deputy Supervisor of Elections
Robert Scott, Information Technology Director
Tiawan McNeal, Voter Services Director
Kevron Aird, Election Systems Manager
Gregg Mendenhall, Consultant
Other members of the SOE's staff

Also, in Attendance

Devona Reynolds Perez, SOE Counsel
Scott Andron, Canvassing Board Counsel
Members of the Public

MEETING CONVENED: 3:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Judge Melinda Brown at 3:00 p.m. Present were Judge Melinda Brown, Commissioner Michael Udine, and Supervisor of Elections Joe Scott.

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was granted by the Canvassing Board members.

Review of Procedures for the Voter Intent Questions – Legal Counsel Devona Reynolds Perez presented the Voter Intent Standards PowerPoint presentation to the Canvassing Board members.

The Canvassing Board proceeded to consider and determine whether to approve or reject the ballots presented for review.

A total of 445 military and overseas Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballots had been reviewed by the Supervisor of Elections staff. A motion to accept the VBM ballots reviewed by staff was approved by the Canvassing Board members.

A total of 253 VBM ballots requiring voter intent determinations were presented to the Canvassing Board members for review.

Kevron Aird explained the new process for reviewing VBM ballots requiring voter intent determinations using the Novus system. The ballots were displayed on the screen, with the original ballot on the left and the duplicated ballot on the right. Bubbles left unfilled and highlighted on the ballots indicated selections pending determination.

Herman Schnell asked whether the ballot displayed on the right was an existing ballot. It was explained that the ballot on the right was the duplicated ballot and that voter intent determinations were made in real time.

The Canvassing Board members reviewed each ballot requiring a voter intent determination and made decisions regarding the applicable races.

It was noted that the ballots duplicated during the meeting would be available for public inspection the following day.

Herman Schnell again asked where the bubbles displayed on the ballots originated. It was explained that the highlighted bubbles indicated selections requiring review for voter intent. Supervisor Joe Scott instructed staff that if a selection on the original ballot was not a voter intent issue but was not captured on the duplicated ballot, staff could click the corresponding bubble on the duplicated ballot.

The Canvassing Board agreed to address ballot questions at the end of the voter intent review process to expedite the proceedings.

Herman Schnell, representing the Republican Party, raised an objection regarding ballot No. 1398.

The Canvassing Board recessed for five minutes at 4:55 p.m.

Upon reconvening, the Canvassing Board members continued reviewing the voter intent ballots using the paper ballots instead of the Novus system.

Motion for the SOE staff to review the duplicating ballots and bring only the ballots that need to be reviewed by the board for voter intent using paper ballots. Motion that the board will review only the duplicated ballots from the paper ballots reviewed, and ballots duplicated electronically in real time will not need to be reviewed by the Canvassing Board members in the next meeting was granted by the board.

A total of 38 sets of duplicated VBM ballots had already been reviewed by the Supervisor of Elections staff. A motion to approve the previously reviewed VBM ballots was approved by the Canvassing Board members.

A total of 113 VBM ballots with overvotes were presented to the Canvassing Board members to confirm that the ballots contained overvotes.

VBM ballots reviewed and challenged during public inspection were stored in a bag secured with seal No. 0392948. Chief Deputy Mary Hall requested permission from the Board to make these ballots available to the public for review again before presenting them to the Board. The Board granted permission.

A total of 846 blank VBM ballots were identified. A motion was made to run the ballots through the voting machines and present any ballots containing markings to the Canvassing Board for review.

1 VBM ballot containing an overvote in a single race was presented. A motion to duplicate the ballot, including the overvote, was made and granted by the board.

2 VBM ballots were returned in the same voter certificate. A motion to reject the ballots was approved by the Canvassing Board members.

3 VBM ballots with signature differences, stored in a bag secured with seal No. 0392947, were presented to the Board for review.

4 VBM ballots missing signatures, accompanied by cure affidavits and stored in a bag secured with seal No. 0392946, were presented to the Board for review. A motion to approve all four ballots was approved by the Canvassing Board members.

4 VBM ballots challenged during public inspection due to signature concerns were presented for review. 2 ballots were approved, while the remaining 2 required cure affidavits.

1 additional VBM ballot was identified as requiring a cure affidavit.

James Pruden wanted to clarify to the board that all protested ballots were challenged solely on the basis of signatures.

13 VBM ballot challenges had been withdrawn and, therefore, did not require further review by the Canvassing Board.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Canvassing Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21st at 2:00 p.m.

RECESS

There being no further business to come before the Board, Judge Melinda Brown recessed the Canvassing Board meeting at 6:11 p.m.