

General Election – November 5, 2024

CANVASSING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

IN ATTENDANCE:

Canvassing Board Members

County Judge Deborah Carpenter-Toye, Chair Alternate
Lamar P. Fisher, County Commissioner
Joe Scott, Supervisor of Elections

SOE Staff

Mary Hall, Chief Deputy Supervisor of Elections
Kevron Aird, Deputy Supervisor of Elections
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:

2:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Judge Deborah Carpenter-Toye at 2:00 p.m. In attendance were Judge Deborah Carpenter-Toye, County Commissioner Lamar P. Fisher and Supervisor of Elections Joe Scott.

Pledge of allegiance

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from the last Canvassing Board meeting held on October 9th was granted by the board.

Chief Deputy Mary Hall presented the voter intent ballots to the Canvassing Board for review and determination. The board reviewed each Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot and made a decision on each one.

Several members of the audience made comments during the review:

- Camille Coolidge, representing the Republican Party, questioned one of the board's determinations regarding a voter intent ballot. The voter's intent was deemed clear, as the same mark was used consistently.
- Mitchell Berger on behalf of candidate Debbie Mucarsel-Powell commented on one of the ballots being reviewed. The board acknowledged the comment.

- Herman Schnell, also representing the Republican Party, inquired about example #3 from section C of the "Standards for Determining Voter Intent." The board found the marks consistent. Judge Deborah Carpenter-Toye reiterated that if there is a discrepancy, the board will stop and explain to the audience.
- A question about undervotes was clarified for Elizabeth Butler, an audience member.

After the board completed the voter intent review, Larry Davis, representing the Florida Democratic Party, raised concerns about observers seeing the voter's party affiliation during public inspection. He requested that the voter's party be hidden. Camille Coolidge argued that the Florida Statutes do not support this request, stating that party affiliation is public record. Coolidge objected to covering voter party affiliation, and Judge Carpenter-Toye explained that this issue is procedural and should be handled by the Supervisor of Elections with his staff.

Mitchell Berger addressed a challenge to an overseas military ballot. He also discussed the terms "challenge" and "protest," arguing that a person filing a protest should be required to fill out a challenge form. Camille Coolidge clarified that signatures, not voter eligibility, were being protested.

The board granted a motion that the reviewed voter intent ballots be duplicated and made available for public inspection.

After a brief recess, the board resumed its review of VBM ballots. Six challenges/protests forms with backup information presented.

- Precinct #Q043: 13 pieces of paper provided containing the voter's signatures from 7/2022, 2020, 2016, with some possibly being duplicate copies. A motion to request a cure affidavit and be brought back to the board on Thursday after election day was granted by the board.
- Precinct # N003 – 5 documents containing the voter's signature were provided, with some possibly being duplicate copies. A motion to accept the VBM ballot was granted by the board.
- Precinct # P002 – 6 pieces of papers provided. A motion to accept the VBM ballot was granted.
- Precinct # R045 – 12 documents containing the voter's signature were provided, with some possibly being duplicate copies. A motion to accept the VBM ballot was granted.
- Precinct #T007: James Pruden, representing Donald Trump, submitted challenges for ballots in this precinct, requesting cure affidavits due to signature mismatches. Camille Coolidge clarified that the board, not staff, must make such decisions. Two ballots from voters (husband and wife) at the same address who had signed each other's ballots were reviewed. The board granted motions to accept both ballots.

The board also reviewed 124 overvote ballots. Audience members were invited to ask questions during the review. One ballot was found not to be an overvote and was moved to the voter intent pile for duplication. All other overvotes were approved for tabulation.

Chief Deputy Mary Hall requested that duplicated UOCAVA ballots be reviewed by legal counsel and SOE staff, with any questionable ballots brought before the board. Supervisor Joe Scott noted that the transparency corridor is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and that detailed ballot reviews would require a public records request. A motion to accept the request was granted by the board. No determination will be made when viewing UOCAVA duplication.

Ballots reviewed today will be available during public inspection.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Canvassing Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

RECESS

With no further business to be conducted, a motion was granted by the board to recess the Canvassing Board meeting at 5:31 p.m.

DRAFT