



Joe Scott, Supervisor of Elections
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General Election – November 5, 2024

CANVASSING BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

IN ATTENDANCE:

Canvassing Board Members

County Judge Betsy Benson, Chair
County Judge Deborah Carpenter-Toye
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 included, but were not limited to, Camille Coolidge and Herman Schnell, representing the Republican Party, and Michael Cohen, representing the Democratic Party.

MEETING CONVENED: 2:00 P.M.

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

Pledge of allegiance

A motion to approve the minutes from the previous Canvassing Board meeting held on October 17th was granted by the present board members.

Chief Deputy Mary Hall informed the Canvassing Board members that, after the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) staff reviewed the duplicated UOCAVA ballots, two ballots required the board's review to determine voter intent. A motion to duplicate these ballots based on the board's determination and to tabulate the ballots was approved.

A blank ballot card with marks was presented to the board for voter intent determination. The board approved a motion to allow the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) staff to duplicate the ballot card.

A total of 278 Voter Intent ballot cards were presented to the board for review. The audience was invited to approach the podium with questions or comments while the board reviewed

the cards. Camille Coolidge, representing the Republican Party, expressed concern over the board's inconsistent ruling on a ballot card. She requested the board to reference page 18 of the voter intent guidelines concerning invalid votes. Ms. Coolidge commented on another ballot card where an extra bubble was filled for a race, leading to an overvote. The board acknowledged her comments. Herman Schnell, also from the Republican Party, raised concerns about consistency, which were also acknowledged by the board. Ms. Coolidge reiterated the importance of consistency in the board's decisions. Michael Cohen, representing the Democratic Party, asked the board to review races in question from a previous ballot card, which were all undervotes.

A motion to approve the board's findings on the reviewed ballot cards and to allow SOE staff to duplicate ballot cards based on those findings was granted by the board. Ms. Coolidge requested that the three presidential race ballot cards she referenced be set aside and that their duplication numbers be recorded.

The board also reviewed 188 Overvote ballot cards, with 19 ballot cards set aside for further review. A motion to approve reviewed ballot cards with overvotes and to tabulate them was granted by the board. Mr. Schnell asked if overvote ballots would be processed separately. Kevron Aird responded that the machines are configured differently when running the ballot cards with overvotes and they are done as they are approved by the board. Ms. Coolidge asked the board for one ballot card with voter intent put aside and to be included in the group of ballot cards that she asked to be segregated. A motion to set aside ballot cards per the party's request for evidentiary purposes was approved by the board. Motion that (7) ballot cards are overvotes and to be added to the overvotes stack and to be tabulated, and (12) ballot cards with voter intent to be duplicated and added to the previously reviewed voter intent stack was approved by the board. (3) ballot cards will be segregated with the Presidential race determination from voter intent stack, and (1) ballot card will be segregated with the United State Senator race determination which is the part of the (12) overvotes stack.

A motion for a 10-minute recess was approved, with the meeting resuming at 4:47 p.m. Upon return, Supervisor of Elections Joe Scott discussed the public inspection process outlined in the Canvassing Board Schedule for the November 5th General Election, clarifying the policy regarding public inspection. He stated that public inspection includes the viewing of unopened envelopes and duplicated ballot cards, except untabulated ballots and a public record may be submitted for those ballots. A motion for the deletion of the sentence "Public inspection of tabulated Vote-by-Mail ballots" from the schedule was put on hold. Ms. Coolidge and Mr. Schnell urged the board to maintain previous policies and procedures regarding public inspection, requesting that no changes be made just weeks before Election Day. Supervisor Scott explained that the statute does not require the county to open ballots and wait until after the public inspection in order for them to be tabulated. Judge Benson invited suggestions from interested parties. Mr. Schnell requested access to computer images of ballots from Clear Ballot. The board granted a motion to defer modifying the public notice until a compromise is reached.

Chief Deputy Mary Hall continued presenting ballots for review:

- Three Vote-by-Mail ballots containing multiple pages were invalidated (from precincts N013, E019, E006) due to multiple ballots enclosed.
- 18 Vote-by-Mail ballots with cure affidavits were reviewed. A motion to process and tabulate the cured ballots was granted.
- 237 Vote-by-Mail ballots from voters in the same household, where individuals signed each other's envelopes, were presented to the board for review. A motion to

accept these ballots and authorize the SOE staff to process and tabulate them was approved by the board with no objection from the audience.

The board also addressed the role of a computer expert appointed by the Republican Party in the tabulation room, permitting photographs but not videos.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Canvassing Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

RECESS

With no further business to be conducted, a motion was granted by the board to recess the Canvassing Board meeting at 5:57 p.m.