



2024 PRIMARY ELECTION August 20, 2024

Friday, August 9, 2024
Vote-by-Mail Ballot Canvassing
10:00 a.m.

(Minutes prepared by Anne Mills)

Present:

Judge Bristow – Canvassing Board Chair (arrived 10:15 a.m.)
Commissioner Weiss – Canvassing Board
Supervisor Link – Canvassing Board

Commissioner Weiss called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and proceeded with roll call. The public notice of the meeting was confirmed and attached to the agenda.

The Canvassing Board reviewed the minutes for the August 2, 2024 Canvassing Board Meeting. Supervisor Link motioned to accept the minutes into the record. Commissioner Weiss seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Judge Bristow arrived and was added to roll call as present.

Time was provided for members of the public to voice any comments related to items to be discussed as listed on the agenda. Several members of the public presented their comments to the Canvassing Board.

The Canvassing Board commenced with the canvassing of vote-by-mail ballots. Ballots reviewed by the Canvassing Board consisted of ballots referred due to no signatures, signature issues, wrong party, and wrong precinct. During the canvassing of ballots, several objections were made and noted by the Canvassing Board. Two members of the public were removed by Chair Judge Bristow for continued disruptive behavior and disregarding Judge Bristow's numerous requests to conduct themselves with decorum and respectful behavior. Another member of the public was removed for video recording while signatures were being displayed over the public monitors in the canvassing public area.

Ballots protested during public inspection were presented to the Canvassing Board for review. After reviewing the protested ballots, Supervisor Link provided a summary of the process staff must undertake to prep the ballot and research documentation necessary for the Canvassing Board prior to the meeting. Ballots/signatures were presented for review, with three separate submissions from one person, and another set from a separate person, all of which had signatures that were clearly matching the signature on file. The Canvassing Board determined that frivolous challenges were being made, thereby abusing the public inspection process. A review of a third person's submission was made, and while all signatures were accepted by the Canvassing Board, it was not unanimously agreed that the third set was frivolous. The staff time involved was substantial as well as time of the Canvassing Board to review the frivolous challenges. The Canvassing Board discussed a mechanism to discourage abuse of the process. The Canvassing Board agreed to send a letter of notice to offenders by legal counsel on behalf of the Canvassing Board that they will be referring frivolous challenges to the Office of Election Crimes and Security.

The Canvassing Board discussed the newly adopted Rule 1S-2.027 to include DS-DE 420 Standards for Determining Voter Intent. The Voter Intent Addendum was reviewed and agreed upon for the 2024 Primary Election. The Canvassing Board will utilize the DS-DE 420 and the Voter Intent Addendum for guidance, with particular attention to consistency on the ballot markings. Judge Bristow motioned that true under-voted ballots with no markings (stray or otherwise) throughout the ballot will be presented to the Canvassing Board to confirm that it is a truly blank ballot before SOE Staff processes it. Ballots with any markings will be presented to the Canvassing Board for review. Supervisor Link seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Canvassing Board was presented with duplicated ballots for voter intent determination. The Canvassing Board discussed ballots with clear over votes. Ballots with clear over votes with no voter intent issues will be tabulated without duplication. Ballots with any mark other than clear over votes will be presented to the Canvassing Board for voter intent determination.

A listing of meeting breaks of the Canvassing Board for the day is provided below:

11:29 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

11:59 p.m. – 12:58 p.m.

Judge Bristow adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.