

Charles County Board of Canvassers
Charles County Public Library - Waldorf West, 10405 O'Donnell Place Waldorf, MD 20603.

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 – Provisional Canvass Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Board of Canvassers (via Videoconference):

Name	Position	Party
Katherine O'Malley-Simpson	Board Chairman	Republican
Fern Brown	Board Secretary	Democrat
Craig Renner	Board Member	Republican
Dorothy Duffield	Board Member	Republican
Norman Saunders	Board Member	Democrat

LBE Staff (in person):

Name	Position
Tracy A. Dickerson	Election Director II
Karl A. Richardson II	Information Systems Specialist
Daniel W. Beswick	Election Data Application Specialist II
Shelby E. Trice	Election Administrative Assistant II
Christopher Wade	LBE Technician

All canvassers, duplicating team members, and ballot scanner operating team members in attendance are listed under the Canvass Participants section below.

CONVENING THE MEETING

The vote by mail canvass convened on June 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers began at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at The Charles County Public Library - Waldorf West, 10405 O'Donnell Place Waldorf, MD 20603. There was a quorum of the Board of Canvassers via video conferencing, and at least one member of the Board of Canvassers who is a registered voter of the principal minority party was present.

CONFIRMATION OF OATH

Sherri Hancock, the Clerk of the Court for Charles County administered and recorded the oath of each member of the Board of Canvassers on May 6, 2020 at 10 a.m. Substitute members of the Board of Elections were also sworn-in on the same day.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Fern Brown made a motion that Ms. Katherine O'Malley-Simpson serve as Chairman of the Board of Canvassers. Ms. Dorothy Duffield seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. Mr. Norman Saunders made a motion that Ms. Fern Brown serve as Secretary for the Board of Canvassers. Ms. Dorothy Duffield seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS

Ms. Tracy A. Dickerson noted that public notice of the vote by mail canvass was provided and that the notice was provided by email on May 7, 2020. Ms. Tracy A. Dickerson noted that due to current social distancing guidelines, and in compliance with the Governor's Proclamation of April 10, 2020, that public viewing will be by video conferencing only.

VERIFICATION OF OPTICAL SCAN VOTING UNIT(S)

Ms. Dickerson presented documents to the Board of Canvassers showing that the ballot scanners being used in the canvass successfully passed Logic and Accuracy Testing on May 14, 2020. Ms. Dickerson reported that the memory cards created for this canvass were placed in the ballot scanners and sealed. Ms. Dickerson provided the Board of Canvassers with the results from the Logic and Accuracy Testing. Ms. Dickerson noted the Ballot Scanner Serial Numbers and Seal Numbers from the Logic and Accuracy Testing documentation for each ballot scanner being used in the canvass.

Mr. Karl A. Richardson II verified that the seals on the ballot scanners were intact and recorded the optical scan ballot scanner's serial number and seal number on the Scanning Unit Opening Integrity Report. Mr. Richardson noted that the ballot scanners serial numbers and seal numbers from Logic and Accuracy Testing matched the ballot scanners serial numbers and seal numbers before the canvass began.

The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the counts on the ballot scanners were zero. Ms. Dickerson posted one copy of the Zero Report from the ballot scanners on back of the scanning unit lid. Mr. Richardson printed a second copy of the Zero Report, which remained attached to the ballot scanners. At the direction of the Board of Canvassers, Ms. Dickerson and Ms. Trice signed the Zero Report attached to the ballot scanners. Ms. Dickerson also confirmed that the ballot boxes were empty.

A copy of the *Scanning Unit Opening Integrity Report* is attached to the minutes.

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CANVASSING OF BALLOTS

Overview of Canvass Process

Ms. Dickerson explained the rules concerning public observation of the canvass, stating that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the Governor's Proclamation of April 10, 2020 and current social distancing guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control, that no more than 10 people may be in a room at once, and that all individuals must maintain a distance of six feet from each other. Due to these restrictions, public observation of the canvass would be provided by livestream, which the public could view at a YouTube link that is posted on our website. Ms. Dickerson provided an overview of the canvassing process and noted that the rules were posted in the canvass room. Ballots are distributed to the ballot processing canvassers in batches. Each canvasser reviews the envelope first to determine whether it was timely received.

Ms. Dickerson explained that each provisional ballot application was reviewed prior to canvassing to determine the voter's eligibility to vote in this election and the voter's correct ballot style. At this canvass, the provisional ballot applications will be presented to the Board of Canvassers with a recommendation. The recommendations will be to:

1. Accept provisional ballot application in full – recommend counting all votes cast on the provisional ballot.
2. Accept provisional ballot application in part – recommend counting some but not all votes cast on the provisional ballot. This is because the voter voted in the wrong precinct.
3. Reject provisional ballot application – recommend not counting the provisional ballot.

The Board of Canvassers delegated the authority to Ms. Dickerson to accept in full, accept in part, or reject the provisional ballots. The provisional ballots for which the Ms. Dickerson voted to accept in full or accept in part are distributed to the bi-partisan ballot processing teams to open and review the ballots. The "accepted in full" ballots are scanned into the ballot scanner, and the "accepted in part" ballots are referred to a duplicating team. The duplicating team will copy onto the voter's correct ballot style the votes for the contests for which the provisional voter is eligible to vote.

Commented [TEH1]: If the Board delegated the authority to the Election Director to accept in full or accept in part provisional ballots, it should be noted here.

Ms. Dickerson explained that vote by mail ballots are distributed to the ballot processing individuals in batches. Each individual reviews the envelope first to determine whether it was timely received. For timely received ballots, each individual determines whether the voter signed the oath. After verifying that the oath is signed, each individual opens the envelopes. With the envelope face down, each individual removes the ballot, taking care that the envelope stays face down. After removing all of the ballots in the batch, the ballot envelopes are set aside. Each individual reviews the ballots for compliance and tabulating acceptability.

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Those timely ballots that are in compliance and can be read by the ballot scanner are referred to the Board of Canvassers for acceptance. All other ballots are placed in a plain envelope, with the individual's number, ballot style, or other information identifying the individual to which the ballot belongs, and the reasons for the referral to the Board of Canvassers written on the envelope. The envelope with the ballots inside is referred to the Board of Canvassers.

The Board of Canvassers rules on whether to accept or unanimously reject the referred ballots.

Ms. Dickerson explained the process to provide information to the Board of Canvassers or challenge a decision of the Board.

Canvass Participants

The members of the ballot processing, duplicating, and ballot scanner operating teams are listed below.

Canvasser	Names of Ballot Processing Canvasser
Canvasser #1	Mary Lawson
Canvasser #2	Jashaun Munson
Canvasser #3	Vincenz Dickerson
Canvasser #4	Shawnecia Munson
Canvasser #5	Pat Wade
Canvasser #6	Mark Hashagen
Canvasser #7	Michelle Mabry
Canvasser #8	Seth Dickerson
Canvasser #9	Mary Hashagen

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Duplicating Team Members
Team #1	Stephanie Ramos and Tracy Dickerson

Team	Names of Ballot Scanner Operating Team Members
Team #1	Karl A. Richardson II and Daniel W. Beswick

Canvassing of Provisional Ballots

Ms. Dickerson reported that 40 provisional ballots were cast. To preserve the secrecy of the ballot for this canvasses, Ms. Dickerson explained that ten absentee ballots of each ballot style were held back for this provisional canvass and will be counted with the provisional ballots. 40 provisional ballots and 20 absentee ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass.

Ms. Katherine O'Malley-Simpson made a motion to begin presenting provisional ballot applications. Ms. Dorothy Duffield seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Ms. Dickerson presented three provisional ballots with the recommendation to accept them in part. The recommendation was based on the fact that staff had confirmed that each provisional application was submitted by a registered voter and the provisional

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ballot was cast in the wrong precinct. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation, and the ballots were referred to the duplicating team.

2. Ms. Dickerson presented 5 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant returned a voted absentee ballot or already voted. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
3. Ms. Dickerson presented 227 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant voted the wrong primary ballot. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
4. Ms. Dickerson presented one provisional ballot with the recommendation to reject because there was no provisional ballot in the envelope. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot.

Canvassing of Absentee Ballots

The Election Director distributed the absentee ballots to the canvassing individuals to review for timeliness and signatures. The Election Director presented 20 absentee ballots with the recommendation to accept the absentee ballots. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and voted to accept the ballots. The Election Director presented 693 absentee ballots with the recommendation to reject. Two were rejected for duplicate voting, 62 were rejected for no signature on oath, and 629 were rejected for being untimely.

Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted in full and accepted in part provisional ballots and all accepted absentee ballots, Mr. Karl A. Richardson II locked the ballot scanners and printed a Voting Results Report. The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the number of accepted in full and accepted in part provisional ballots and accepted absentee ballots equaled the number of ballots counted by the ballot scanners. Ms. Dickerson signed the Voting Results Report and posted a second copy of the report on the back of each scanning unit.

RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Ms. Katherine O'Malley-Simpson announced the results from the provisional canvass. Ms. O'Malley-Simpson announced the following statistics from the provisional canvass:

Provisional Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
Total Ballots Presented at Provisional Canvass	981
Total Provisional Ballots Presented	273
Total Absentee Ballots Presented	708
Total Accepted Ballots	60
Accepted in Full Provisional Ballots	37
Accepted in Part Provisional Ballots	3
Accepted Absentee Ballots	20
Total Rejected Ballots	921

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Rejected Provisional Ballots	233
Rejected Absentee Ballots	688

Ms. Dickerson announced that provisional voters can find out if their provisional ballots were counted and if not, the reason why it was not counted by visiting the State Board of Elections' website or by calling the State Board at 1-800-222-8683.

NEXT BOARD OF CANVASSERS' MEETING

The Board of Canvassers will meet on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to canvass all remaining ballots.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.