

Charles County Board of Canvassers
Charles County Board of Elections- 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, MD 20646

November 12th – 16th, 2020- Mail in Ballot Canvass Minutes
Final Canvass Day

Mail in Ballot Daily Canvass Minutes- Final Day of Canvassing

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
Louis Jenkins	Board Attorney	

LBE Staff (in person):

Name	Position
Tracy A. Dickerson	Election Director II
Wade Beswick	Election Program IT Specialist I
Stephanie Ramos-Santos	Election Program Assistant I
Chris Wade	LBE Technician

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

RECONVENING THE MEETING

The Mail in Ballot canvass reconvened on November 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers began at 9:00a.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at Charles County Board of Elections- 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, MD 20646. 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 October 14, 2020. And one other member on October 19, 2020.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS

At a meeting on October 21, 2020, the Board of Canvassers elected Ms. Katherine O’Malley-Simpson as Chairman of the Board of Canvassers and Ms. Fern Brown as Secretary.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS and VERIFICATION OF OPTICAL SCAN VOTING UNIT(S)

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 September 30, 2020. Ms. Dickerson explained the rules concerning public observation of canvass and canvassing process. Ms. Dickerson verified that the seals were intact and that the seal number matched the seal number attached and that the public count matched the public count recorded before the prior day’s canvass recessed.

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

CANVASSING OF BALLOTS

Canvass Participants

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Duplicating Team Members
Team #1	Charlene Yates & Claire Mower

Team	Names of Ballot Scanner Operating Team
Team #1	Mary Lawson
Team #2	Rose Chase
Team #3	Shawnecia Munson
Team #4	Mark Hashagen
Team #5	Michelle Mabry
	Patricia Wade

Canvassing of ballots resumed.

Tracy Dickerson reported that, to preserve the secrecy of the ballot, all mail in ballots for any precincts with less than 10 requests for mail-in ballots or any precinct with no provisional ballots were held for canvassing until after election day. 4,562 ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass.

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Board of Canvassers' Decision Meeting

The Board of Canvassers convened via video conferencing at 3:00 p.m. on November 16, 2020 to review ballots that were referred from the canvassers.

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

Ms. Dickerson presented 39 Mail-In Ballots to the Board of Canvassers via video conference. Listed below is the reason each ballot was presented to the board.

- 23 Mail-In Ballots were untimely; Mr. Craig Renner made a motion to reject, seconded by Ms. Fern Brown. Unanimously approved.
- 6 Mail-In Ballots had no ballot inside envelope; Mr. Norman Saunders made a motion to reject, seconded by Ms. Dorothy Duffield. Unanimously approved.
- 2 had no Mail-In application on file; Mr. Craig Renner made a motion to reject, seconded by Ms. Fern Brown. Unanimously approved.
- 1 Mail-In Ballot was not verified; Mr. Craig Renner made a motion to reject, seconded by Ms. Dorothy Duffield. Unanimously approved.
- 6 Mail-In Ballots returned were from the primary; Mr. Craig Renner made a motion to reject, seconded by Ms. Fern Brown.
- 1 Mail-Ballot was returned but the voter has been deceased, Mr. Norman Saunders made a motion to reject, seconded by Mr. Craig Renner.

Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted ballots, Mr. Wade Beswick locked the ballot scanners and printed an Election Results Report. The Board of Canvassers reviewed the daily canvass minutes and confirmed that for each day, the number of accepted ballots equaled the number of ballots counted by the ballot scanner. Ms. Dickerson signed the Voting Results Report and posted a second copy of the report on the wall next to the scanners.

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

DAILY CANVASSING RESULTS

Vote by Mail Canvass Statistics- Day 7	Number of Ballots
Total Ballots Presented	4,562
Accepted Ballots	4,523
Rejected Ballots	39

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RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Ms. Katherine O'Malley-Simpson announced the results from the Mail in Ballot canvass.

Mail in Ballot Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
Total Ballots Presented	40,558
Accepted Ballots	40,474
Rejected Ballots	75

Between Mail-In Ballots 1 and Mail-In Ballots 2, there is a total of 40483 Mail-In ballots. 40474 Mail-In ballots were accepted. 2 ballots were taken in error by Prince George's county and is not shown in the numbers. 2 voters moved out of county, their Mail-In ballots were counted through the mail-in ballot canvass, but show up in MDVoters as provisional. There were 5 Federal-Ballot-Only ballots returned. This gives a total of 40483.

VERIFICATION OF VOTE COUNT

Ms. Tracy Dickerson explained that staff conducted several post-election verifications and audits performed. Staff manually added the Voting Results Reports from each ballot scanner at the election day vote center and compared the manually added totals with the totals produced by the election database for those precincts. Ms. Dickerson confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Ms. Dickerson explained that a similar verification was performed on each ballot scanner used on the canvassing day randomly selected by the Board of Canvassers for the Mail in Ballot canvass. Staff manually added the Voting Results Reports printed from each ballot scanner used on the canvassing day randomly selected by the Board of Canvassers for the Mail in Ballot canvass and compared the manually added totals to a report printed from the election database for the Mail in Ballot canvass. Ms. Dickerson confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Ms. Dickerson presented the Board of Canvassers with the verification results, and the Board of Canvassers reviewed the results. Mr. Norman Saunders made a motion to accept the verification results. Ms. Fern Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

POST ELECTION AUDITS

Ms. Tracy Dickerson explained that post-election audits were performed on 5% of vote centers open during early voting and on election day, and select mail in and provisional ballots.

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For the vote centers, Ms. Dickerson, explained that the local board determined the number of vote centers to be verified and then randomly selected 5% of all vote centers used on election day or during early voting. The staff then compared the number of signed voter authority cards for each ballot scanner at the selected vote center(s) against the number of ballots cast. Ms. Dickerson confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Ms. Dickerson explained that staff reviewed a sample of accepted Mail in Ballot ballots to determine if the ballot was timely received. Staff also reviewed a sample of rejected Mail in Ballot ballots to determine if the ballot was untimely received or was rejected for another valid reason. Ms. Dickerson confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Ms. Dickerson explained that a sample of accepted provisional ballots were reviewed to determine whether the provisional voter was registered to vote at the time of the election, voted the ballot for the precinct in which the voter resides, and all other applicable criteria were met. A sample of partially accepted provisional ballots was also reviewed to confirm that a voter was registered to vote at the time of the election, did not vote the ballot for the precinct in which the voter resides, and all other applicable criteria were met. Staff also reviewed a sample of rejected provisional ballots to confirm that the voter was not registered to vote at the time of the election or the voter's ballot was rejected for another valid reason. Ms. Dickerson confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Ms. Dickerson explained that all ballot images from early voting, election day and the mail in ballot canvass through November 2, 2020 were sent to a third-party for re-tabulation. The vendor produces reports comparing precinct-level results from voting system against the precinct-level results from the re-tabulation, and these reports show any differences between the two sets of results. Ms. Dickerson showed the reports and confirmed that any differences between the two sets of results were less than 0.5%, the threshold for additional auditing.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Ms. Dickerson explained that the post-election verifications and audits had no discrepancies and presented the Board of Canvassers with the election results. The Board of Canvassers reviewed the election results.

Ms. Katherine O'Malley-Simpson made a motion to certify the results of the 2020 Presidential General Election. Ms. Fern Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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NEXT BOARD OF CANVASSERS' MEETING

If additional ballots are received, the Board of Canvassers will convene before the next meeting of local board of elections. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. via videoconference.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m. on November 16, 2020.

John G. Brown