

November 16, 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
Norman Saunders	Board Member	Democrat
Dorothy Duffield	Board Member	Republican
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

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 provisional canvass convened on November 16, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers began at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2020 at the Charles County Board of Elections- 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, MD 20646. There was a quorum of the Board of Canvassers via video conference 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS

At its 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 Board Secretary.

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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 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.

VERIFICATION OF OPTICAL SCAN VOTING UNIT(S)

Ms. Tracy 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 the week of October 12-17, 2020. Ms. Dickerson reported that the memory cards created for this canvass was/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.

Ms. Tracy Dickerson verified that the seals on the ballot scanners was/were intact and recorded the optical scan ballot scanner's serial number and seal number on the Scanning Unit Opening Integrity Report. Ms. Dickerson 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. Tracy Dickerson posted one copy of the Zero Report from the ballot scanners on wall next to the scanner. At the direction of the Board of Canvassers, signed the Zero Report attached to the ballot scanner(s). Ms. Dickerson also confirmed that the ballot boxes were empty.

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

CANVASSING OF BALLOTS

Overview of Canvass Process

Ms. Tracy Dickerson explained the rules concerning public observation of the canvass, stating that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and current social distancing guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control, that the number of individuals allowed in the room at one time may be limited, 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 on YouTube, link provided 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.

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The Election Director 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 will vote to accept in full, accept in part, or reject the provisional ballots. The provisional ballots for which the Board 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.

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.

Canvasser	Names of Ballot Processing Canvasser
Canvasser #1	Fern G. Brown
Canvasser #2	Dorothy C. Duffield
Canvasser #3	
Canvasser #4	
Canvasser #5	
Canvasser #6	

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Duplicating Team Members
Team #1	Stephanie Ramos-Santos and Tracy A. Dickerson
Team #2	

Team	Names of Ballot Scanner Operating Team Members
Team #1	Fern G. Brown and Dorothy C. Duffield
Team #2	Stephanie Ramos-Santos and Tracy A. Dickerson

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Canvassing of Provisional Ballots

Ms. Dickerson reported that 3105 provisional ballots were cast. 3086 provisional ballots and 19 mail in ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass.

Mr. Norman Saunders made a motion to begin presenting provisional ballot applications. Ms. Fern Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Ms. Dickerson presented 38 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant returned a voted mail in ballot or already voted. Mr. Craig Renner made a motion to reject, seconded by Ms. Dorothy Duffield. The Board unanimously approved to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
5. Ms. Dickerson presented 2 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the voter failed to sign the provisional ballot application. Mr. Craig Renner made a motion to reject for failure to sign, seconded by Ms. Fern Brown. The Board unanimously approved to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
7. Ms. Dickerson presented 1 provisional ballot with the recommendation to reject because the applicant did not provide identification or personal identification information in time. Mr. Craig Renner made a motion to reject, seconded by Ms. Dorothy Duffield. The Board unanimously approved to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot.
8. Ms. Dickerson presented 3 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant provided incomplete information on the provisional ballot application. Ms. Fern Brown made a motion to reject, seconded by Mr. Norman Saunders. The Board unanimously approved to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
9. Ms. Dickerson presented 161 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant provided his or her driver's license or social security number, but the number was not verified. Mr. Craig Renner made a motion to reject, seconded by Ms. Fern Brown. The Board unanimously approved to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
10. Ms. Dickerson presented 3 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because there was no provisional ballot in the envelope. Mr. Norman Saunders made a motion to reject, seconded by Ms. Dorothy Duffield. The Board unanimously approved to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
11. Ms. Dickerson presented 13 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant did not provide proof of residency in time. Mr. Craig made a motion to reject, seconded by Ms. Fern Brown. The Board unanimously approved to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.

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Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted in full and accepted in part provisional ballots and all accepted mail in ballots, Wade Beswick locked the ballot scanner(s) 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 mail in ballots equaled the number of ballots counted by the ballot scanner(s). There were 2 ballots that were canvassed during mail ballot 1 that had to be put in as provisional voters, due to voter moving to another county after ballot was canvassed.

RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

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

Provisional Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
Total Ballots Presented at Provisional Canvass	3307
Total Provisional Ballots Presented	3307
Total Mail in Ballots Presented	19
Total Accepted Ballots	3105
Accepted in Full Provisional Ballots	2947
Accepted in Part Provisional Ballots	139
Accepted Mail in Ballots	19
Total Rejected Ballots	221
Rejected Provisional Ballots	221
Rejected Mail in Ballots	0

19 Absentee Ballots were presented. 17 absentees went through the provisional canvass and provisional scanner. 2 absentees went through mail-in canvass and mail-in scanner and processed as provisional voters in MDVoters.

The Election Director 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.

ADJOURNMENT

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

