

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

July 6, 2018 – Minutes for 2nd Absentee Canvass & Certification of Results

ATTENDEES:

Board of Canvassers: Katherine O'Malley-Simpson: Republican
Fern Brown: Democrat
Craig Renner: Republican
Dorothy Duffield: Republican
Norman Saunders: Democrat

LBE Staff: David Martinez, filling in as Board Attorney
Tracy A. Dickerson, Election Director II
Mary C. McDougal, Election Deputy Director II
Karl A. Richardson, II, Information Systems Specialist
LaVon Brown, Election Data Application Specialist II
Daniel W. Beswick, Election Data Application Specialist II
Shelby E. Trice, Election Administrative Assistant II

Public: Arthur Ellis, Candidate
Cherry Stackhouse, Candidate Greer Volunteer
Mary Lawson, Election Judge
Louise Williams, Observer
Mellissa Davis, Candidate

Absent: Louis Jenkins, Board Attorney

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers began at 10:04am on Friday July 6, 2018 at The Charles County Board of Election, 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, MD 20646. There was a quorum of the Board of Canvassers, 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 June 6, 2018. Substitute members of the Board of Elections were also sworn-in on the same day.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS

At its meeting on June 28, 2018 the Board of Canvassers elected Katherine O'Malley-Simpson as Chairman of the Board of Canvassers and Fern Brown as Secretary.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS

Tracy Dickerson noted that public notice of the first absentee canvass was provided and that the notice was provided by mail on May 29, 2018.

VERIFICATION OF BALLOT SCANNER

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 June 7, 2018. Tracy Dickerson reported that the memory card created for this canvass was placed in the ballot scanner and sealed. Tracy Dickerson provided the Board of Canvassers with the results from the Logic and Accuracy Testing. Tracy Dickerson noted the following information from Logic and Accuracy Testing documentation for each ballot scanner being used in the canvass:

Ballot Scanner Serial Number	Seal Numbers
DS0315330913	Main: 508
	Emergency: 469
	Lid: 66
	Left Side: 124329
	Right Side: 124330
	Rear Tamper Tape: 09-020858
	Front Tamper Tape: 09-51356

Karl A. Richardson, II explained the test deck verification process, verified that the seals on the ballot scanner was intact, and recorded the ballot scanner's serial number and seal number.

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Karl A. Richardson, II noted that the ballot scanner's serial number and seal numbers from Logic and Accuracy Testing matched the ballot scanner's serial number and seal numbers before the canvass began.

The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the counts on the ballot scanner were zero. The Board of Canvassers posted one copy of the Zero Report from the ballot scanner on the wall where the canvassing occurred. Karl A. Richardson, II printed a second copy of the Zero Report, which remained attached to the ballot scanner. The Board of Canvassers signed the Zero Report attached to the ballot scanner. The Board of Canvassers also confirmed that the ballot boxes were empty.

CANVASSING

Overview of Canvass Process

Tracy Dickerson explained the rules concerning public observation of the canvass, provided an overview of the canvassing process and noted that the rules were posted in the canvass room. Absentee ballots are distributed to the ballot processing teams in batches. Each team reviews the envelope first to determine whether it was timely received.

For timely received ballots, each team determines whether the voter signed the oath. After verifying that the oath is signed, each team opens the envelopes. With the envelope face down, each team 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 team reviews the ballots for compliance and tabulating acceptability.

Ballots that were marked using the online ballot marking wizard are duplicated and verified by a ballot duplication team. The election official responsible for ballot duplication uses a ballot marking device to remark and print a ballot that will have the voter's selections marked, and refers the two ballots to a ballot verification team. The ballot verification team compares the two ballots to ensure that the ballot printed during the canvass matches the ballot returned by the voter.

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 to the side by the Board of Canvassers, to be referred to the ballot duplicating team, to be remarked.

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

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

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Canvass Participants

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

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Ballot Processing Team Members
Team #1	Fern Brown and Dorothy Duffield
Team #2	Katherine O'Malley-Simpson and Norman Saunders
Team #3	
Team #4	
Team #5	
Team #6	

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Duplicating Team Members
Team #1	Tracy A. Dickerson and Craig Renner
Team #2	

Team	Names of Ballot Scanner Operating Team Members
Team #1	Karl A. Richardson, II and Daniel W. Beswick
Team #2	

Canvassing of Absentee Ballots

Tracy Dickerson reported that, to preserve the secrecy of the ballot, five absentee ballots of each ballot style were held back from the first absentee canvass and will be canvassed during this canvass. 96 absentee ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass.

Craig Renner made a motion to accept and approve the opening and tabulation of the ballots. Katherine O'Malley-Simpson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted ballots, Karl A. Richardson, II locked the ballot scanner and printed an Voting Results Report. The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the number of accepted ballots equaled the number of ballots counted by the ballot scanner. The Board of Canvassers signed the Voting Results Report and posted a second copy of the report on the wall where the canvassing occurred.

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RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Katherine O'Malley-Simpson announced the results from the second absentee canvass. Katherine O'Malley-Simpson announced the following statistics from the second absentee canvass:

Absentee 2 Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
Total Ballots Presented at 2 nd Absentee Canvass	96
Total Absentee Ballots Presented	96
Total Provisional Ballots Presented [<i>if applicable</i>]	N/A
Total Accepted Ballots	88
Accepted Absentee Ballots	88
Accepted in Full Provisional Ballots [<i>if applicable</i>]	N/A
Accepted in Part Provisional Ballots [<i>if applicable</i>]	N/A
Total Rejected Ballots	8
Rejected Absentee Ballots	8
Rejected Provisional Ballots [<i>if applicable</i>]	N/A

July 6, 2018 at 11:13 am, Katherine O'Malley-Simpson made a motion to recess the meeting until the canvass reports were available. Fern Brown seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was reconvened on July 6, 2018 at 1:30 pm when the canvass reports were available.

VERIFICATION OF VOTE COUNT

Tracy Dickerson explained that staff conducted several post-election verifications and audits performed. Staff manually added the Voting Results Reports from each ballot scanner in the precincts previously randomly selected by the local board of elections and compared the manually added totals with the totals produced by the election database for those precincts. Tracy Dickerson confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Tracy Dickerson explained that a similar verification was performed on each ballot scanner used for the first absentee canvass. Staff manually added the Voting Results Reports printed from each ballot scanner used for the first absentee canvass and compared the manually added totals to a report printed from the election database for the first absentee canvass. Tracy Dickerson confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Tracy Dickerson presented the Board of Canvassers with the verification results, and the Board of Canvassers reviewed the results. Craig Renner made a motion to accept the verification results. Fern Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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POST ELECTION AUDIT

Tracy Dickerson explained that post-election audits were performed on certain precincts and absentee and provisional ballots. For the randomly selected precincts and any precinct where the difference between the number of voters checked-in to vote and ballots cast is 5 or more, staff compared the number of signed voter authority cards for each ballot scanner against the number of ballots cast. Tracy Dickerson confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Tracy Dickerson explained that staff reviewed a sample of accepted absentee ballots to determine if there was a timely absentee ballot request was on file and the absentee ballot was timely received. Staff also reviewed a sample of rejected absentee ballots to determine if the ballot was untimely received or was rejected for another valid reason. Tracy Dickerson confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Tracy 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. Tracy Dickerson confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Tracy 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.

Katherine O'Malley-Simpson made a motion to certify the results of 2018 Gubernatorial Primary, Fern Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Katherine O'Malley-Simpson and Fern Brown, as President and Secretary of the board of canvassers, respectively, signed the canvass sheets.

NEXT BOARD OF CANVASSERS' MEETING

If additional absentee ballots are received, the Board of Canvassers will convene before the next meeting of local board of elections. The next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2018 at 9:00 am at The Charles County Board of Elections, 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, MD 20646.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46pm.

Fern H. Brown