

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

November 13, 2024 –General Election Provisional Canvass Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Board of Canvassers

| Name | Position | Party |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Jacqueline Gray | Board of Canvassers Chairman | Democrat |
| Norris Hanes | Board of Canvassers Secretary | Republican |
| Sharon L. Hancock | Board of Canvassers Member | Democrat |
| Melanie Boston-Holland | Board of Canvassers Member | Democrat |
| Norma Jean Gibson | Board of Canvassers Member | Republican |
| Karen Selby | Board of Canvassers Attorney | Democrat |

Norris Hanes

LBE Staff:

| Name | Position |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tracy Dickerson | Election Director II |
| Mary C. McDougal | Deputy Election Director II |
| D. Wade Beswick | IT Program Manager |
| Alexandria Horn | Election Program Assistant I |
| LaVon Brown | Election Program Assistant II |
| Kevin Meador | IT Specialist I |

Public:

| Name | Organization |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Melissa Davis | |
| Matt Flynn | SOMD NEWS |

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

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers began at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at the Board of Elections at 201 E. 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

Lisa Yates, the Clerk of the Court for Charles County, administered and recorded the oath of each member of the Board of Canvassers on October 10, 2024 at 10 a.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS

At a meeting on October 10, 2024, the Board of Canvassers elected Jacqueline Gray as Chairman of the Board of Canvassers and Norris Hanes as Secretary.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS

Director Dickerson noted that public notice of the mail-in ballot canvass was provided and that the notice was provided by email to the head of each Local Central Committee, State Central Committee, State Administrator and each Board of Education candidate on September 19, 2024. Notice was also posted on our web-site as well as our Facebook page.

VERIFICATION OF OPTICAL SCAN VOTING UNITS

Before verification of the scanning units Director Dickerson announced that during her 100% verification audit she noticed that Mail-In/Absentee Pre-Canvass was missing from the numbers reflected on the Charles County Board of Elections website. Director Dickerson and staff proceeded to open the Mail-In/Absentee polls back up, close them out again and verify that the numbers matched. Program Manager Beswick then uploaded the corrected numbers to the website.

Director Dickerson presented documents to the Board of Canvassers proving that the voting system ballot scanners being used in the canvass successfully passed Logic and Accuracy Testing on October 9, 2024. Director Dickerson reported that the memory sticks created for this canvass were placed in the ballot scanners and sealed. Director Dickerson provided the Board of Canvassers with the results from the Logic and Accuracy Testing. Director 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.

Director Dickerson verified that the seals on the ballot scanners were intact and recorded the scanner's serial number and seal number on the Scanning Unit Opening Integrity Report. Director Dickerson noted that the ballot scanner's serial numbers and seal numbers from Logic and Accuracy Testing matched the ballot scanner's serial numbers and seal numbers before the canvass began.

The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the counts on the ballot scanners were zero. Director Dickerson posted one copy of the Zero Report from the ballot scanners for public viewing in the room where canvassing occurred. Director Dickerson printed a second copy of the Zero Report, which remained attached to the ballot scanners. The Board of Canvassers signed the Zero Report attached to the ballot scanners. Director 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

Overview of Canvass Process

Director 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.

Director 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 District.
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. 1 mail-in ballot was presented at this canvass.

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 | Shawnecia Munson and Loriann Bowman |
| Team #2 | Ruth Culver and Mary Lawson |
| Team #3 | Natasha Janga and Charles Janga |
| Team #4 | Lois Bowling and Nancy Svites |
| Team #5 | Tammy Shoye and Tracy Mattingly |
| Team #6 | Dorothy Duffield and Gloria Riley |

| Team | Names of BMD Duplicating Members |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| BMD #1 | Michelle Mabry |
| BMD #2 | Danna Thelen |

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|--------|------------------------|
| BMD #3 | Stephanie Ramos-Santos |
| BMD #4 | Christine Saoud |

| Proofing BMD | Names of BMD Duplicating Proofing Members |
|--------------|---|
| | Sherry I. Hancock, Norma Jean Gibson, Jacqueline Gray |
| | Norris Hanes and Melanie Boston-Holland |

| Team | Names of Ballot Scanner Operating Team Members |
|------------|--|
| Scanner #1 | Allen Prince |
| Scanner #2 | Kevin Savoy |
| Scanner #3 | Mark Hashagen and Shaleia Jamerson |
| Scanner #4 | Debbie Dudak and Chris Malloy |

Canvassing of Provisional Ballots

Director Dickerson reported that 1871 provisional ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass.

Sharon L. Hancock made a motion to begin presenting provisional ballot applications. Jacqueline Gray seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Director Dickerson presented 1602 provisional ballots with the recommendation to accept them in full. The recommendation was based on the fact that staff had confirmed that each provisional application was submitted by a registered voter and was cast in the correct precinct where that voter currently resides. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and accept and count the provisional ballots in full.
2. Director Dickerson presented 231 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 ballot was cast in the wrong precinct. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation, and the ballots were referred to the duplicating team.
3. Director Dickerson presented 4 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant returned a voted mail-in ballot or already voted. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
4. Director Dickerson presented 1 provisional ballot with the recommendation to reject because there were 2 voted ballots in the envelope. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
5. Director Dickerson presented 32 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant's proof of residency was not submitted timely. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
6. Director Dickerson presented 1 provisional ballot with the recommendation to reject because voter failed to sign the provisional ballot application. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.

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RECESS

The Board of Canvassers recessed the meeting at 4:28pm and will reconvene the meeting on November 18, 2024 at 10:00am. Director Dickerson recorded the public count, turned the optical scan voting units off, and affixed a seal.

RECONVENE OF THE MEETING

The Board of Canvassers reconvened its meeting on November 18, 2024 at 10:00am. Director Dickerson explained the rules concerning public observation of canvass and canvassing process. Director Dickerson verified that the seals were intact and that the seal numbers matched the seal numbers attached and that the public counts matched the public counts recorded before the Board of Canvassers recessed on November 13, 2024.

Chairman Gray made a motion to resume the canvass of provisional ballots. Member Boston-Holland seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Canvassing of provisional ballots resumed.

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 | Shawnecia Munson and Loriann Bowman |
| Team #2 | Natasha Janga and Joanne Vanwie |
| Team #3 | Tammy Shoye and Tracy Mattingly |
| Team #4 | Dorothy Duffield and Gloria Riley |

| Team | Names of BMD Duplicating Members |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| BMD #1 | Michelle Mabry |
| BMD #2 | Danna Thelen |
| BMD#3 | Stephanie Ramos-Santos |
| BMD#4 | Christine Saoud |

| Proofing BMD | Names of BMD Duplicating Proofing Members |
|--------------|---|
| | Sherry I. Hancock, Norma Jean Gibson, Jacqueline Gray |
| | Norris Hanes and Melanie Boston-Holland |

| Team | Names of Ballot Scanner Operating Team Members |
|------------|--|
| Scanner #1 | Chris Malloy |
| Scanner #2 | Allen Prince |
| Scanner #3 | Mary Lawson |

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|------------|------------------|
| Scanner #4 | Shaleia Jamerson |
| Scanner #5 | Mark Hashagen |

Canvassing of Provisional Ballots

Director Dickerson reported that 2191 provisional ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass.

1. Director Dickerson presented 1976 provisional ballots with the recommendation to accept them in full. The recommendation was based on the fact that staff had confirmed that each provisional application was submitted by a registered voter and was cast in the correct precinct where that voter currently resides. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and accept and count the provisional ballots in full.
2. Director Dickerson presented 178 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 ballot was cast in the wrong precinct. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation, and the ballots were referred to the duplicating team.
3. Director Dickerson presented 2 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant returned a voted mail-in ballot or already voted. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
4. Director Dickerson presented 4 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because there was no ballot in the envelopes. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
5. Director Dickerson presented 27 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant's proof of residency was not submitted timely. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
6. Director Dickerson presented 3 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. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
7. Director Dickerson presented 1 provisional ballot with the recommendation to reject because the applicant provided his or her driver's license or social security number but it was not received timely. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot.
8. Director Dickerson presented 1 provisional ballot with the recommendation to reject because the applicant failed to complete the provisional application. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot.

Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted in full and accepted in part provisional ballots, canvassers 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 mail-in ballots equaled the number of ballots counted by the ballot scanners.

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The Board of Canvassers signed the Voting Results Report and posted a second copy of the report on the wall near the entrance of the canvassing room.

RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Director Dickerson announced the results from the provisional canvass. Director Dickerson announced the following statistics from the provisional canvass:

| Provisional Canvass Statistics | Number of Ballots |
|--|--------------------------|
| Total Ballots Presented at Provisional Canvass | 4063 |
| Total Provisional Ballots Presented | 4063 |
| Total Mail-in Ballots Presented | 0 |
| Total Accepted Ballots | 3,987 |
| Accepted in Full Provisional Ballots | 3,578 |
| Accepted in Part Provisional Ballots | 409 |
| Accepted Mail-in Ballots | 0 |
| Total Rejected Ballots | 76 |
| Rejected Provisional Ballots | 76 |
| Rejected Mail-in Ballots | 0 |

Director 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 Tuesday December 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm.