

Baltimore County Board of Elections
106 Bloomsbury Avenue
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

MINUTES

July 7, 2014 – 2nd Absentee Canvass & Certification of Results

ATTENDEES:

Board of Canvassers:	Bruce Harris, President	Democrat
	Leronia Josey, Vice President	Democrat
	Joseph Karey, Secretary	Republican
	Jeanne Turnock, Substitute	Republican
	Timothy Hickman, Substitute	Democrat

LBE Staff:

Andrew Bailey, Board Counsel
Katie A. Brown, Director
Rena' M. Waggoner, Deputy Director
Denard Allen, Election Office Clerk
Olaoluwa Bello, Election Data Application Specialist
Lawrence Cleavenger, Canvasser
Erin Dechowicz, Canvasser
Beatrice DePaola, Canvasser
Glynn Faith, Canvasser
Warnick Graves, Canvasser
Tiffany Guthrie, Election Supervisor
Ruie Marie Lavoie, Administrative Officer
Diana Moran, Election Supervisor II
Thomas Moran, Election Supervisor
John O'Hara, Canvasser
Roy Smith, Election Office Clerk
Jeffrey Stevens, Election Information System Specialist
Nancy Stratton, Administrative Officer II
Matilda Suesse, Election Office Clerk
Sandra Turner, Election Data Application Specialist
Rita Walczyk Evans, Election Data Application
John Wales, Election Data Application Specialist

Public:

Tony Campbell
Linda Dorsey-Walker
Carroll Forrester, Jr.
Al Friedman
Beverly Goldstein
George Harman
Nicole Ruocco
Fatima Smith
Daniel Young

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DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers began at 10:00 am on Monday, July 7, 2014 at the office of the Baltimore County Board of Elections in the Bloomsbury Community Center located at 106 Bloomsbury Avenue in Catonsville, Maryland. 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

James McCormick, Clerk of the Court for Baltimore County administered and recorded the oath of each member of the Board of Canvassers on June 9, 2014. Substitute members of the Board of Elections were also sworn-in on the same day. Bruce Harris administered and recorded the oath of all Baltimore County Election Staff on June 26, 2014 and July 2, 2014.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS

At its meeting on June 26, 2014, the Board of Canvassers elected Bruce Harris as Chairman of the Board of Canvassers and Joseph Karey as Secretary.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS

Katie Brown noted that public notice of the second Absentee Canvass was provided and that the notice was provided by posting a notice in the lobby of the office of the Board of Elections and posted the information on the Baltimore County election website...

VERIFICATION OF OPTICAL SCAN VOTING UNIT(S)

Katie Brown presented documents to the Board of Canvassers showing that the optical scan voting units being used in the canvass successfully passed Logic and Accuracy Testing on June 9, 2014 and June 10, 2014. Katie Brown reported that the memory cards created for this canvass were placed in the optical scan voting units and sealed. Jeffrey Stevens provided the Board of Canvassers with the results from the Logic and Accuracy Testing. Ruie Lavoie noted the following information from Logic and Accuracy Testing documentation for each optical scan voting unit being used in the canvass:

Optical Scan Voting Unit Serial Number	Seal Number	Tamper Tape Number
87653	59716	04-028872
87677	59772	00-002245

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Jeffrey Stevens explained the test deck verification process, verified that the seals on the optical scan voting units were intact, and recorded the optical scan voting units' serial number and seal number.

Optical Scan Voting Unit Serial Number	Seal Number	Tamper Tape Number
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Ruie Lavoie noted that the voting units' serial numbers and seal numbers from Logic and Accuracy Testing matched the voting units' serial numbers and seal numbers before the canvass began.

The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the counts on the optical scan voting units were zero. The Board of Canvassers posted one copy of the Zero Report from the optical scan voting units on the wall by the entrance to the door where the canvassing occurred. Jeffrey Stevens printed a second copy of the Zero Report, which remained attached to the voting units. The Board of Canvassers signed the Zero Report attached to the voting units. The Board of Canvassers also confirmed that the ballot boxes were empty.

CANVASSING

Overview of Canvass Process

Katie Brown 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.

Those timely ballots that are in compliance and can be read by the voting unit are referred to the Board of Canvassers for acceptance. All other ballots are placed in a plain envelope, with the team number to which the ballot belongs, and the reason 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.

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Katie Brown 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 optical scan voting unit operating teams are listed.

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Ballot Processing Team Members
Team #1	Glynn Faith (Democrat) and Beatrice DePaola (Republican)
Team #2	Sandra Turner (Democrat) and Larry Cleavenger (Republican)
Team #3	Olaoluwa Bello (Unaffiliated) and John O'Hara (Republican)
Team #4	Erin Dechowicz (Democrat) and Warnick Graves (Republican)

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Ballot Duplicating Team Members
Team #1	Timothy Hickman (Democrat) and Rita Walczyk Evans (Republican)
Team #2	Mathilda Suesse (Democrat) and Tiffaney Guthrie (Republican)
Team #3	Leronia Josey (Democrat) and Jeanne Turnock (Republican)
Team #4	Nancy Stratton (Democrat) and Denard Allen (Unaffiliated)
Team #5	Sandra Turner (Democrat) and Olaoluwa Bello (Unaffiliated)

Team	Names of Optical Scan Operating Team Members
Team #1	Andrew Bailey (Democrat) and Roy Smith (Republican)

Canvassing of Absentee Ballots

Katie Brown 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. 1594 absentee ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass. 58 absentee ballots were presented with the recommendation to reject.

Leronia Josey made a motion to accept and approve the opening and tabulation of 1538 ballots. Joseph Karey seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Diana Moran presented 1 absentee ballot with the recommendation to reject because the voter failed to sign the oath. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot.

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2. Diana Moran presented 6 absentee ballots that were returned undeliverable with the recommendation to reject the ballots. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
3. Diana Moran presented 47 absentee ballots with the recommendation to reject because the ballots were not timely received. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
4. Diana Moran presented 1 absentee ballot with the recommendation to reject because the applicant did not provide identification or personal identification information in time and the voter is in "pending" status. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot.
5. Diana Moran presented 3 absentee ballots with the recommendation to reject because the voter voted two ballots. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.

8 absentee ballots were referred to the Board of Canvassers for review.

2 absentee ballots were received with a signed oath and a specimen ballot. After discussion, the Board of Canvassers unanimously rejected the 2 absentee ballots.

6 absentee ballots were unanimously rejected by the Board of Canvassers because the ballot contained an identifying mark.

Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted ballots, Katie Brown locked the voting unit and printed an Election Results Report. The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the number of accepted ballots equaled the number of ballots counted by the optical scan voting units. The Board of Canvassers signed the Election Results Report and posted a second copy of the report on the wall at the entrance to the room in where the canvassing occurred.

RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Bruce Harris announced the results from the second Absentee Canvass. Bruce Harris announced the following statistics from the second absentee canvass:

Absentee 2 Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
Total Absentee Ballots Presented at 1 st Absentee Canvass	1594
Accepted Ballots	1528
Rejected Ballots	66

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VERIFICATION OF VOTE COUNT

Katie Brown explained that staff conducted several post-election verifications and audits performed. Staff manually added the Total Reports from each voting unit 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. Ruie Lavoie confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Katie Brown explained that a similar verification was performed on each optical scan voting unit used for the first Absentee Canvass. Staff manually added the Total Reports printed from each optical scan voting unit 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. Katie Brown confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Katie Brown presented the Board of Canvassers with the verification results, and the Board of Canvassers reviewed the results. Leronia Josey made a motion to accept the verification results. Joseph Karey seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

POST ELECTION AUDIT

Katie Brown 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 touchscreen voting unit against the number of ballots cast. Katie Brown confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Diana Moran 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. Diana Moran confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Katie Brown 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. Katie Brown confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

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CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Katie Brown explained that the post-election verifications and audits had discrepancies that were less than the vote margin of any contest on the ballot in that precinct.

Katie Brown presented the Board of Canvassers with the election results. The Board of Canvassers reviewed and signed the election results.

NEXT BOARD OF CANVASSERS' MEETING

If additional absentee ballots are received, the Board of Canvassers will convene after the next meeting of local board of elections. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2014 at 10:00 am at the office of the Baltimore County Board of Elections located at 106 Bloomsbury Avenue in Catonsville, Maryland.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Approved this 14th day of August, 2014.