

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

*Approved
12/11/2014*

November 12, 2014 – Provisional Canvass Minutes

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
- Denard Allen, Election Office Clerk
- Danna Archie-Williams, Election Supervisor
- Lenice Austin, Election Administrative Assistant
- Nakia Barnes, Election Data Application Specialist
- Olaoluwa Bello, Election Data Application Specialist
- Tina Bryant, Canvasser
- Lawrence Cleavenger, Canvasser
- Cynthia DeJesus, Canvasser
- Glynn Faith, Canvasser
- Tiffaney Guthrie, Election Supervisor
- Roberta Hawkins, Canvasser
- Tierra Henry, Canvasser
- Vonzella Holland, Canvasser
- William Lane, Canvasser
- Ruie Marie Lavoie, Administrative Officer
- Joi Matthews, Data Entry Operator
- Diana Moran, Election Supervisor
- Thomas Moran, Election Supervisor
- Erika Myrick, Election Technician
- John O'Hara, Canvasser
- Jacqueline Poore, Canvasser
- Danyell Smith, Canvasser
- Patricia Spence, Canvasser
- Jeffrey Stevens, Election Information System Specialist
- Ronald Stotler, Canvasser
- Ann Marie Stratton, Administrative Officer
- Tracey Tanner, Canvasser
- Charleen Tooten, Canvasser
- Mary-Frances Vavra-Alcoser, Election Data Application Specialist
- Rena' M. Waggoner, Deputy Director
- Rita Walczyk Evans, Election Data Application Specialist
- John Wales, Election Data Application Specialist
- Amanda White, Information System Specialist

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DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers began at 10:00 am on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at the office of the Baltimore County Board of Elections located on the 3rd floor of the Bloomsbury Community Center 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, the Clerk of the Court for Baltimore County, administered and recorded the oath of each member of the Board of Canvassers on November 6, 2014. Substitute members of the Board of Elections were also sworn-in on the same day. James McCormick administered and recorded the oath of the Board Attorney, Andrew Bailey on November 6, 2014. Bruce Harris, President of the Board of Elections, administered and recorded the oath of each member of the Baltimore County Board of Elections staff on November 6, 2014 and November 12, 2014.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS

At its meeting on November 6, 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, Director noted that public notice of the first absentee canvass was provided and that the notice was provided by written notice posted in the main lobby of the Baltimore County Election office and also on the Baltimore County government and Baltimore County Election websites. Katie Brown further explained that confirmation of the canvass date and time was sent to the Democratic and Republican parties and to State Board of Elections on September 15, 2014.

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 October 22, 2014 and October 23, 2014. Katie Brown reported that the memory cards created for this canvass were placed in the optical scan voting units and sealed. Katie Brown provided the Board of Canvassers with the results from the Logic and Accuracy Testing. Jeffrey Stevens noted the following information from Logic and Accuracy Testing documentation for each optical scan voting unit being used in the canvass:

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Voting Unit Designation	Voting Unit Serial Number	Seal Number
#1 In Part Ballots	87673	953624
#2 In Full Ballots	87677	953252
#3 In Full Ballots	41224	17213

Ruie Marie Lavoie verified that the seals on the optical scan voting units were intact, and recorded the optical scan voting units' serial numbers and seal numbers.

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Amanda White 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 voting units were zero. The Board of Canvassers posted one copy of the Zero Report from the voting units on the wall next to the entrance of the room where the canvass occurred. Amanda White 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 unit. 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 and provided an overview of the canvassing process.

Danna Archie-Williams 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.

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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 voting unit, 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.

Diana Moran explained that 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 or other information identifying the group or unit to which the ballot belongs, and the reasons 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.

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 operating teams are listed below:

Team	Bi-Partisan Ballot Processing Team Members
Team #1	Glynn Faith (Democrat) and John O’Hara (Republican)
Team #2	Danyell Smith (Democrat) and Patricia Spence (Republican)
Team #3	Ronald Stotler (Democrat) and John Wales (Unaffiliated)
Team #4	Roberta Hawkins (Democrat) and Cynthia DeJesus (Republican)
Team #4	Mary-Frances Vavra- Alcoser (Democrat) and Larry Clevenger (Republican)

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Team	Bi-Partisan Duplicating Team Members
Team #1	Jacqueline Poore (Democrat) and Rita Walczyk (Republican)
Team #2	Timothy Hickman (Democrat) and William Lane (Republican)
Team #3	Leronia Josey (Democrat) and Joi Matthews (Republican)
Team #4	Nakia Barnes (Democrat) and Jeanne Turnock (Republican)
Team #5	Vonzella Holland (Democrat) and Tracey Tanner (Republican)
Team #6	Charleen Tooten (Democrat) and Tina Bryant (Republican)
Team #7	Tiarra Henry (Democrat) and Tiffany Guthrie (Republican)

Team	Bi-Partisan Optical Scan Operating Team Members
Team #1	Amanda White (Unaffiliated) and Andrew Bailey (Democrat)
Catchers	Thomas Moran (Democrat) and Olaoluwa Bello (Unaffiliated) Erika Myrick (Democrat) and Rena' Waggoner (Republican)

Canvassing of Provisional Ballots

Danna Archie-Williams reported that 4,426 provisional ballots were cast. To preserve the secrecy of the ballot for this canvasses, Katie Brown explained that five absentee ballots of each ballot style were held back for this provisional canvass and will be counted with the provisional ballots. 4,425 provisional ballots and 200 absentee ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass.

Leronia Josey made a motion to begin presenting provisional ballot applications. Joseph Karey seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Danna Archie-Williams presented 2,824 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. Danna Archie-Williams presented 1,252 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. Danna Archie-Williams presented 271 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because staff could not confirm that the applicant was a registered voter. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.

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4. Danna Archie-Williams presented 19 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant returned a voted absentee ballot or already voted. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
5. Danna Archie-Williams presented 8 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the voter failed to sign the provisional ballot application. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
6. Danna Archie-Williams presented 7 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant was not eligible to receive a provisional ballot. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
7. Danna Archie-Williams presented 5 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant did not provide identification or personal identification information in time. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
8. Danna Archie-Williams presented 16 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant provided incomplete information on the provisional ballot application. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
9. Danna Archie-Williams presented 2 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.
10. Danna Archie-Williams presented 7 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because there was no evidence to support alleged voting unit malfunction. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
11. Danna Archie-Williams presented 9 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the voter was underage. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.

The Board of Canvassers reviewed 11 ballots referred by the ballot processing teams. The Board of Canvassers determined 6 ballots should be duplicated and/or processed through the optical scan voting units. On a motion by Leronia Josey and a second by Joseph Karey, 5 ballots were unanimously rejected because the ballots were identifiable.

Canvassing of Absentee Ballots

Diana Moran and Staff distributed the absentee ballots to canvassing teams to review for timeliness and signatures. Diana Moran presented 200 absentee ballots with the recommendation to accept the absentee ballots. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and voted to accept the ballots.

The Board of Canvassers recessed the meeting at 12:30 pm for a lunch break. Bi-Partisan teams remained in the canvassing room for the duration of the lunch break. The meeting reconvened at 1:15 pm. Canvassing of provisional and absentee ballots resumed.

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Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted in full and accepted in part provisional ballots and all accepted absentee ballots, Jeffrey Stevens locked the voting unit and printed an Election Results Report. The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the number of accepted two page in full and accepted two page in part provisional ballots and accepted two page absentee ballots equaled the number of two page ballots counted by the optical scan voting units with a variance created because one provisional ballot was held back for further review and a single page ballot was processed through 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 next to the entrance of the room where the canvass occurred.

RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Bruce Harris announced the results from the provisional canvass. Bruce Harris announced the following statistics from the provisional canvass:

Provisional Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
Total Ballots Presented at Provisional Canvass	4,620
Total Provisional Ballots Presented	4,420
Total Absentee Ballots Presented	200
Total Accepted Ballots	4,270
Accepted in Full Provisional Ballots	2,824
Accepted in Part Provisional Ballots	1,246
Accepted Absentee Ballots	200
Total Rejected Ballots	349
Rejected Provisional Ballots	349
Rejected Absentee Ballots	0

Katie Brown 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 Friday, November 14, 2014 at 10:00 am to canvass all remaining ballots.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.