

# Minutes

Talbot County Board of Canvassers  
215 Bay Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
May 4, 2106

## Present:

### Board

Joseph H. Secrist, President (R)  
Walter W. Black (D)  
Susan MacKinnon (D)  
Richard B. Bulman (R)  
John F. Hall (R)

### Staff

Patricia L. Mitchell, Election Director  
Norman Bauer, Election Technician

### State Board of Elections

Janet Smith, Manager of Audits, Voter Registration Division  
Desvin Gabbidon, Regional Manager, Field Support Division  
Mary Cramer Wagner, Director, Voter Registration Division

A meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on April 28, 2016, in Conference Room # 3 at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present. Ms. Mitchell stated that Mr. Cronan was available by telephone.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried unanimously, the minutes of the April 28, 2016 meeting of the Board of Canvassers were approved as written.

Ms. Mitchell announced the rules by which the Board of Canvassers was to judge the validity of provisional ballots. Ms. Mitchell announced, and Ms. MacKinnon verified, that all seals were intact. Mr. Bauer's demonstrated that the ballot box was empty. He printed a "confirmation report/zero report" to show that no votes had been entered in the scanner before canvassing began this date.

Ms. Mitchell stated that, initially, 24 provisional ballots had been rejected. However, the Board staff had determined that two had been incorrectly rejected and had accepted the ballots.

The Board then proceeded to review the remaining provisional ballots. Upon completion of its review, Mr. Bulman moved, and Mr. Hall seconded, that, out of 22 provisional ballots, 1 should be rejected as incomplete (as to physical address); 19 should be rejected as being cast by unaffiliated voters; two other ballots, cast on the regular Election Day, should be rejected as not being registered to vote in Maryland; and 1 ballot, cast by a voter who, while not a resident of Talbot County, was determined to be a resident of the First Congressional District, should be accepted by the Board with regard to all votes except for circuit court judge. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board then addressed absentee ballots. Upon completion of its examination of those ballots, Mr. Black moved, and Mr. Hall seconded, that 57 such ballots should be accepted in full and 9 accepted in part, the voters not being residents of Talbot County.

The Board was troubled by one absentee ballot, cast under authorization the voter's authorized agent. The Board noted that the authorized individual had followed the clear instructions for so voting. It accepted the ballot before being told that the ballot had to be signed by the voter. However, by that time, the ballot had been intermingled with other ballots and thus could not be identified. The Board asked Ms. Smith to inform the State Board that the instructions for casting a ballot when authorized by another should clearly state what the requirements are.

The Board then examined the ballots cast that had been downloaded from the State Board's website. All such ballots were accepted.


Mr. Bauer then fed the accepted ballots into the scanner. When he finished, he announced that 109 ballots had been so cast. Ms. Mitchell read the results of the votes. Mr. Bauer stated that the results would be posted at the State Board's website within an hour.

Mr. Secrist announced that next meeting of the Board of Canvassers would be held on May 6, 2016 beginning at 10:00 a.m., for the purpose of counting additional absentee ballots. Upon motion duly made (Mr. Black) and seconded (Mr. Bulman), the Board of Canvassers adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Attested,

  
Joseph M. Secrist, Chairman

Respectfully submitted,

  
John F. Hall, Secretary