

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Canvassers
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
November 28, 2016

Present:

Board

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

Staff

Teresa Goode,
Norman Bauer, Election Technician

State Board of Elections

Janet Smith, Manager of Audits, Voter Registration Division
Cortnee Bryant, State Board of Elections

Public

Jeffrey Barron

The meeting of the Talbot County Board of Canvassers began at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, November 28, 2016 in the office of the Board of Elections in the County office Building at the address above. All members of the Board of Canvassers were present, such that a quorum existed (as was declared by Mr. Secrist) and at least one member of the Board of Canvassers who is a registered voter of the principal minority party was present.

Mary Ann Shortall, the Clerk of the Court for Talbot County, had administered and recorded the oath of each member of the Board of Canvassers prior to the conduct of the primary election canvas which began April 28, 2106. At the meeting on April 28, 2016, the Board of Canvassers elected Joseph H. Secrist as Chairman of the Board of Canvassers and John F. Hall as Secretary.

Ms. Goode stated that public notice of the canvassing had been given, by notice on the Board's webpage and by a sign on the office door.

In response to a question by Mr. Bulman inquiring as to the need for Ms. Smith to be present, Ms. Smith said that she had heard nothing from Ms. Mitchell regarding the latter's availability to assist in the canvassing.

VERIFICATION OF OPTICAL SCAN VOTING UNIT

At the November 10, 2016 meeting of the Board of Canvassers, Ms. Patricia Mitchell, Election Director, had presented documents to the Board of Canvassers showing that the ballot scanner being used in the canvass successfully passed Logic and Accuracy Testing. Mr. Bauer reported that the memory devices created for this canvass was placed in the ballot scanner and sealed. Mr. Bauer noted the following information from Logic and Accuracy Testing documentation for each ballot scanner being used in the canvass:

Ballot Scanner Serial Number	Seal Number
0315331072	121560

Mr. Bauer verified that the seal on the ballot scanner was intact, and recorded the ballot scanner's serial number and seal number.

Ballot Scanner Serial Number(s)	Seal Number(s)
0315331072	121560

Mr. Bauer noted that the ballot scanner's serial number and seal number from Logic and Accuracy Testing matched the ballot scanner's serial number and seal number before the canvass began. He further advised that the main bottom seal was 121559, and the Serial Number 127905 prevented entry into the front access compartment.

The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the count on the ballot scanner was zero. The Board of Canvassers posted one copy of the Zero Report from the ballot scanner on the wall in the room where canvassing occurred. Mr. Bauer 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. Mr. Bauer demonstrated that the ballot box was empty.

CANVASSING

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	Joseph H. Secrist (R) and Cortnee Bryant (D)
Team #2	Susan MacKinnon (D) and Richard B. Bulman (R)
Team #3	Walter W. Black (D) and John F. Hall (R)

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Duplicating Team Members
Team #1	Same as above
Team #2	Same as above
Team #3	Same as above

Team	Names of Ballot Scanner Operating Team Members
Team #1	Norman Bauer and Teresa Goode

Canvassing of Provisional Ballots

Ms. Smith explained that a review of the provisional ballots revealed that forty ballots which were to have been held back from canvassing of absentee ballots to assure confidentiality of the absentee ballots, had not been so excluded and thus were not a part of the count of provisional ballots as originally intended.

Ms. Smith stated that two absentee ballots had been received after the November 10, 2016, 10:00 a.m. deadline and were excluded for that reason. The envelopes showing the dates of receipt were circulated among the Board members. Mr. Bulman moved that the two ballots be rejected; Mr. Black seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Another provisional ballot had been scanned by the Election Judges on Election Day. Since the ballot could not be retrieved, and had been added to the total vote on Election Day, the Board, upon motion duly made and seconded, unanimously approved that provisional ballot.

Three provisional ballots had been discovered in the bag of provisional ballots that were cast in the Primary Election. Ms. Smith stated that the exclusion of those ballots had not occurred in the polling place. Instead, it had occurred in the Election Board office when the bag of provisional ballots was emptied less than completely. Upon motion duly made (Mr. Hall) and seconded (Mr. Bulman), the Board unanimously approved the exclusion of those three ballots from the General Election canvass.

She presented the Board with 209 additional ballots at this canvass-

Ms. Smith recommended that twenty-seven ballots be rejected: twenty-three were cast by voters who were not registered; one was cast by a voter who returned an absentee ballot which was counted; one had not produced identification within the deadline for so doing; two had provided identification which could not be verified.

Mr. Black suggested that the voters who were not registered may have previously been registered, but had been removed from the list of active voters for one reason or another. In response to a question from Mr. Secrist, Ms. Smith stated that the number of unregistered voters was fairly typical for the number of registered voters in Talbot County.

Mr. Black moved that the twenty-three ballots cast by non-registered voters be rejected. Ms. MacKinnon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Black moved that the remaining four ballots of the twenty-seven be rejected for the reasons stated. Mr. Bulman seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Smith advised that eighteen ballots were cast by voters who used the wrong ballot style. She recommended that those ballots be accepted in part. Upon motion by Mr. Black, seconded by Ms. MacKinnon, the ballots were accepted in part.

Ms. Smith presented 164 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. Upon motion duly made (Mr. Hall) and seconded (Ms. MacKinnon), those ballots were unanimously accepted.

In addition, one blank ballot was sent through the scanner to determine if the orange circle which had been improperly affixed to the ballot would affect the ability of the scanner to read the ballot. Mr. Bauer reported that the blank ballot increased the number of ballots cast by one, but did not record any votes.

In summary, after the elimination of two absentee ballots which arrived after the deadline, and 3 ballots cast during the Primary Election, Ms. Smith presented

1. **164** 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. **18** 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 or school district. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation, and the ballots were referred to the duplicating team.
3. **23** 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 ballot(s).
4. **1** provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant returned a voted absentee ballot. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot.
5. **1** 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 ballot(s).
6. **2** provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant provided identification but the identification provided did not satisfy the requirements. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot(s).

One blank ballot was scanned to determine whether the presence of the orange dot prevented the scanner from reading the ballot.

Canvassing of Absentee Ballots

As noted above, Ms. Smith distributed two absentee ballots to canvassing teams to review for timeliness and signatures, with the recommendation to reject the absentee ballots. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and voted to reject accept the ballots.

Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted in full and accepted in part provisional ballots and all accepted absentee ballots, Mr. Bauer locked the voting unit and printed a Voting Results Report. The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the number of accepted in full and accepted in part provisional 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 [describe where Zero Report was posted (e.g. wall in room where canvassing occurred)].

RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

[Chairman of the Board of Canvassers] announced the results from the provisional canvass. [Chairman] announced the following statistics from the provisional canvass:

Provisional Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
Total Ballots Presented at Provisional Canvass	209
Total Provisional Ballots Presented	209
Total Absentee Ballots Presented	0
Total Accepted Ballots	182
Accepted in Full Provisional Ballots	164
Accepted in Part Provisional Ballots	18
Accepted Absentee Ballots	0
Total Rejected Ballots	27
Rejected Provisional Ballots	27
Rejected Absentee Ballots	0

As noted above, one blank ballot was scanned which increased the number of votes by one, without affecting the canvassing results.

Ms. Smith 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.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETINGS' MINUTES

Mr. Secrist asked that the minutes for November 18, 2016 include the statement that Ms. Janet Smith was present to secure the room and the ballots while the Board was at lunch. With that amendment, upon motion duly made (Ms. MacKinnon) and seconded (Mr. Bulman) the Board of Canvassers' minutes for November 10, November 16 and November 18 were approved as presented.

NEXT BOARD OF CANVASSERS' MEETING

The Board of Canvassers will meet on Tuesday, December 6, at 10:00 a.m. to certify the election results.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:



Joseph H. Secrist, Chairman



John F. Hall, Secretary