

Wednesday, July 27, 2022 - Provisional/Mail-in Ballot Canvass Minutes

**ATTENDEES:**

Board of Canvassers

Name	Position	Party
Griffith Manahan	Chairman	Republican
John Woodley	Secretary	Republican
Carol Coley	Member	Democrat
Samuel Foster	Member	Democrat
Harvey Tegeler	Member	Republican
Jay Gullo	LBE Attorney	

LBE Staff (in person):

Name	Position
Katherine Berry	Election Director
Erin Perrone	Deputy Director
Jennifer Bartholow	Election Program Supervisor
Olivia Smith	Election Program Assistant
Isaac Nogueron	Election Program Assistant
Kimberly Bullock-Jones	Election Program Supervisor
Eduardo DeLima	Election Program IT Specialist
Ian "Riley" Meyers	Election Program IT Specialist
Grant Procopio	Contingent Staff
Andrew Mombay	Contingent Staff
Flematu Fofana	Contingent Staff

Public

Name	Organization (if applicable)
Melissa Shaffer	
Mona Becker	
Richard Collins	

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 10 am on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at the Robert Moton Building, Gymnasium, at 300 S Center Street, Westminster, MD 21157. There was a quorum of the Board of Canvassers in-person, and at least one member of the Board of Canvassers who is a registered voter of the principal minority party was present.

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### **CONFIRMATION OF OATH**

Heather DeWees, the Clerk of the Court for Carroll County, administered and recorded the oath of each member of the Board of Canvassers on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 during the regular meeting of the Carroll County Board of Elections.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS**

At its meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 2022, the Board of Canvassers elected Mr. Manahan as Chairman of the Board of Canvassers and Mr. Woodley as Secretary.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS**

Ms. Berry noted that public notice of the mail-in ballot canvass was provided and that the notice was provided by email notice to the Republican and Democratic Central Committees, the State Board of Elections, on our website and social media accounts.

### **VERIFICATION OF BALLOT SCANNERS**

Ms. Berry presented documents to the Board of Canvassers showing that the ballot scanners being used in the canvass successfully passed Logic and Accuracy Testing on Monday, July 5, 2022. Ms. Berry reported that the memory cards created for this canvass were placed in the ballot scanners and sealed. Ms. Berry provided the Board of Canvassers with the results from the Logic and Accuracy Testing. Ms. Berry 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.

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

The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the counts on the ballot scanners were zero. Ms. Perrone posted one copy of the Zero Report from the ballot scanners at the entrance of the canvass room. Ms. Jones and Mr. DeLima printed a second copy of the Zero Report, which remained attached to the ballot scanners. The Chairman, Mr. Manahan and Secretary, Mr. Woodley of the Board of Canvassers signed the Zero Report attached to the ballot scanners. Ms. Berry 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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## **CANVASS OF BALLOTS**

### **Overview of Canvass Process**

Mr. Manahan explained the rules concerning public observation of the canvass. Mr. Manahan provided an overview of the canvassing process and noted that the rules were posted in the canvass room.

Ms. Berry 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.
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 duplicated onto a standard ballot. The canvassing team will copy onto the voter's correct ballot style the votes for the contests for which the provisional voter is eligible to vote.

Mr. Manahan explained that, to preserve the secrecy of the ballots, at least five mail-in ballots of each ballot style to the greatest extent practical were held back to be canvassed with the provisional ballots.

Ms. Berry explained that mail-in 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 ballot scanner are referred to the Board of Canvassers for acceptance. All other ballots are placed in a plain envelope, with the team number, ballot style, or other information identifying the group or unit to which the ballot belongs, and the reason(s) 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.

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The Board of Canvassers rules on whether to accept or unanimously reject the referred ballots. Ms. Berry 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 ballot scanner operating are listed in the table.

<b>Team Number</b>	<b>Canvasser #1</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Canvasser #2</b>	<b>Party</b>
1	Susan Whitcomb	Democrat	Norma Bair	Republican
2	Kristen McMasters	Democrat	Paula Stonesifer	Republican
3	Richard Riddle	Democrat	Rick Wills	Republican
4	N/A		N/A	
5	Michelle Moreau	Democrat	Sharon Glass	Republican
6	Precious Morrison	Democrat	Estelle Frederick	Republican
7	Stacy Jones	Democrat	Funmi Adejo	Republican
8	Anna Boblitz	Democrat	Marilyn Sawaya	Republican
9	Wallace Brown	Democrat	Phillip Saghy	Republican
Runner/Scanner		Democrat	Taylor Button	

**Board of Canvassers' Decision Meeting: Wednesday, July 27, 2022**

The Board of Canvassers convened at **10:03AM** to review ballots that were referred from the canvassers.

The Board of Canvassers ruled on whether to accept or reject the referred ballots. Please see **Appendix-A** for detailed information of ballot decision results.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>
Samuel Foster	Motion - Initiated	Made a motion to accept and approve the opening and tabulation of the ballots.
Carol Coley	Motion - Seconded	Seconded the motion.
<b>BOARD VOTE</b>	Motion - Passed	5 - 0

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### **Canvassing of Provisional Ballots**

Ms. Berry reported that 553 provisional ballots were cast. To preserve the secrecy of the ballots, Ms. Berry explained that five mail-in ballots of each ballot style were held back for the provisional portion of the canvass and will be counted with the provisional ballots. 553 provisional ballots and 458 mail-in ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass.

1. Ms. Berry presented 489 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. Ms. Berry presented 64 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 canvassing team.
3. Ms. Berry presented 6 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. Ms. Berry presented 72 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant voted the wrong primary ballot. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
5. Ms. Berry presented 4 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. Katherine Berry presented 3 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.
7. Katherine Berry presented 2 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because there was no provisional ballot in the envelope or more than one ballot in the envelope. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.

### **Canvassing of Held-Back Mail-in Ballots**

Ms. Berry distributed to canvassing teams the mail-in ballots reserved for this canvass to preserve the secrecy of the provisional ballots to review for timeliness and signatures. Ms. Berry presented 458 mail-in ballots with the recommendation to accept the mail-in ballots. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and voted to accept the ballots. Ms. Berry presented 0 mail-in ballots with the recommendation to reject.

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### Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted in full and accepted in part provisional ballots and all accepted mail-in ballots, Ms. Jones and Mr. DeLima 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. The Board of Canvassers signed the Voting Results Report and posted a second copy of the report at the entrance of the canvassing room.

### **RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS**

Mr. Manahan announced the results from the combined provisional and mail-in canvass. Mr. Manahan announced the following statistics from the provisional canvass:

Provisional Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
A) Total Ballots Presented in Provisional Part of Canvass	1,011
B) Total Provisional Ballots Presented	553
C) Total Held-back Mail-in Ballots Presented	458
D) Total Accepted Ballots	1,011
E) Accepted in Full Provisional Ballots	489
F) Accepted in Part Provisional Ballots	64
G) Accepted Held-back Mail-in Ballots	458
H) Total Rejected Ballots	
I) Rejected Provisional Ballots	87
J) Rejected Held-back Mail-in Ballots	0

Mail-in Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
Mail-in Ballots Presented in Mail-in Part of Canvass	458
Mail-in Ballots Accepted	458
Rejected Mail-in Ballots	0

Ms. Berry 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, July 29, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. to canvass all remaining ballots.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm.