

Carroll County Board of Canvassers  
300 S Center Street, Rm 212  
Westminster, MD 21157

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 - Provisional Canvass Minutes

**ATTENDEES:**

Board of Canvassers:

Name	Position	Party
Carol Coley	Member	Democratic
Karen Donaldson	Member	Republican
Mitch Edelman	Member	Democratic
Samuel Foster	Chairman	Democratic
Benjamin Watson	Secretary	Republican
Jack "Jay" Gullo	Board Counsel	

LBE Staff:

Name	Position
Jennifer Bartholow	Deputy Director
Eduardo DeLima	Election IT Specialist III
Lukas Faber	County Technician
Kimberly Bullock-Jones	Election Program Supervisor II
Isaac Nogueron	Election Program Specialist II
Erin Perrone	Election Director

Members of the Public:

Name	Organization (if applicable)
Katherine Adelaide	Carroll County Republican Central Committee
Corynne Courpas	Carroll County Democratic Central Committee
Sallie Taylor	Maryland GOP

All canvassing teams, duplicating team members, ballot scanner operating team members, envelope openers, and runners in attendance are listed under the Canvass Participants section below.

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT**

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers began at 10 am on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at the gymnasium of the Robert Moton Building, 300 S Center Street, Westminster. 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**

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, April 17, 2024. Ms. DeWees administered and recorded the oath for Board of Canvasser Coley on Friday, April 5, 2024. Ms. DeWees administered and recorded the oath for Board Counsel Jack Gullo on Monday, May 13, 2024.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS**

At a meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, the Board of Canvassers elected Samuel Foster as Chairman of the Board of Canvassers and Benjamin Watson as Secretary.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS**

Mr. Foster noted that public notice of the mail-in ballot canvass was provided and that the notice was provided via the website, social media, and an email to various parties including candidates, central committees, and elected officials.

### **VERIFICATION OF SCANNING UNITS**

Ms. Perrone presented documents to the Board of Canvassers showing that the ballot scanners being used in the canvass successfully passed Logic and Accuracy Testing on Friday, April 5, 2024. Ms. Perrone reported that the memory sticks created for this canvass were placed in the ballot scanners and sealed. Ms. Perrone provided the Board of Canvassers with the results from the Logic and Accuracy Testing. Ms. Perrone 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 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. Mr. DeLima posted one copy of the Zero Report from the ballot scanners on the inside of the front doors to the Robert Moton Building. Ms. Jones and Mr. DeLima printed a second copy of the Zero Report, which were detached from the ballot scanners and attached to the *Scanning Unit Opening Integrity Report*. At the direction of Ms. Jones and Mr. DeLima, the Board of Canvassers signed the zero reports that were attached to the *Scanning Unit Opening Integrity Report*. Ms. Perrone also confirmed that the ballot boxes were empty.

A copy of the *Scanning Unit Opening Integrity Report* is attached to the minutes.

### **CANVASSING**

#### Overview of Canvass Process

Ms. Perrone explained the rules concerning public observation of the canvass. Ms. Perrone provided an overview of the canvassing process and noted that the rules were posted in the canvass room. Ballots were distributed to the bipartisan team of election judges operating the envelope openers.

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Ms. Perrone 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 279 provisional ballot applications in full – recommend counting all votes cast on the provisional ballot.
2. Accept 6 provisional ballot applications in part – recommend counting some but not all votes cast on the provisional ballot. This is because the voter voted in the wrong precinct and the voter is registered in a different Congressional District.
3. Reject 227 provisional ballot applications – 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 bipartisan 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 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.

Ms. Perrone explained that, to preserve the secrecy of the ballots, at least five mail-in ballots of each ballot style were held back to be canvassed with the provisional ballots. The held-back 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 time 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 were in compliance and could be read by the ballot scanner were referred to the Board of Canvassers for acceptance. All other ballots are placed in an orange folder, with the team number and other information identifying the group or scanner number wot which the ballot belongs, and the reason for the referral to the Board of Canvassers. The orange folder with the ballots inside is referred to the Board of Canvassers.

The Board of Canvassers convened at 12:00 noon to review referred ballots from the Thursday, May 16, 2024, Mail-in Ballot 1 Canvass and the Provisional Ballot canvass. The Board of Canvassers ruled on whether to accept or unanimously reject the referred ballots. See the table below showing the ballots presented to the Board of Canvassers.

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<b>Batch Number</b>	<b>Referral Reason</b>	<b>Contest</b>	<b>Board Action</b>	<b>Vote</b>
263 MIB 1	Voter Intent – Mismark/Overvote	US Senator	Duplicate to remove the light extra mark	Unanimous Consent
433 MIB 1	Voter Intent – Overvote, identifying mark, post-it note on ballot	Representative Congressional District 2	Scan ballot without duplication, overvote that contest	Unanimous Consent
251 MIB 1	Voter Intent – Overvote/Correction by voter	US Senator	Duplicate to remove the “X” section	Unanimous Consent
244 MIB 1	Voter Intent – Mismark/Overvote	Alternate Delegate RNC District 2	Duplicate to remove 1 light mark and leave 3 full marks	Unanimous Consent
Prov 4	Voter Intent – Incorrect markings, voter used “Xs” instead of filling in bubbles	Entire Ballot	Duplicate to fill in bubbles completely	Unanimous Consent
Prov 1	Voter Intent – Extra marks/Overvote	Del RNC District 2	Duplicate to light mark and leave remaining full markings	Unanimous Consent
Prov 8	Voter Intent – Overvote/voter correction	Delegate RNC District 3	Duplicate to remove “X” and leave remaining choices	Unanimous Consent
Prov 16	Voted provisional ballot and included mail-in ballot in same envelope	Entire Ballot	Reject both ballots – cannot determine which ballot is the legally sufficient ballot	Unanimous Consent

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Canvass Participants

Canvasser	Names of Bi-Partisan Ballot Processing & Duplicating Canvassing Team Members
Team #1	E. Beth Bowman & Norma Bair
Team #2	Elena Hodgkiss & Paula Stonesifer
Team #3	Robert Moddy & Richard Wills
Team #4	Martha Hankins & Lori Anderson
Team #5	Deborah Chatham & Estelle Frederick
Team #6	Fay Davis & Danielle Unglesbee
Team #7	Marcia Heyman & Delores Blubaugh
Team #8	Stacey Jones & Sylvia Bellak
Team #9	Betsy Scott & Barbara Phelps
Team #10	Deborah Palm & Kathy Hajnos
Team #11	Judith Caldwell & Cindy Hirshberg
Team #12	Cheryl Steinbacher & Deborah Sabatino
Team #13	Precious Morrison & Donna Schott
Team #14	Richard Caldwell & Bruce Westervelt
Team #15	Wendy Raith & Judy Cook

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Envelope Openers & Floor Runners
Team #1	Pamela Malkin & Sandra Ebbs
Runner #1	Chris Catterton
Runner #2	Robert Boblitz
Runner #3	Sandra Custen
Runner #4	Kimberly Smithson
Runner #5	Kimberly Frock
Runner #6	Delaney Bartholow

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Ballot Scanner Operating Team Members
Team #1	Andrew DeMario & Dave Traenkner
Team #2	Jeffrey Haugh & Phillip Saghy
Team #3	Rodney Morris & Patrick McCourt

Canvassing of Provisional Ballots

Ms. Perrone reported that 512 provisional ballots were cast. To preserve the secrecy of the ballots, Ms. Perrone explained that five mail-in ballots of each ballot style were held back for this provisional canvass and will be counted with the provisional ballots. A total of 512 provisional ballots and 506 mail-in ballots were presented for canvassing during this part of this canvass.

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Ms. Coley made a motion to begin presenting provisional ballot applications. Ms. Donaldson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Ms. Perrone presented 279 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. Perrone presented 6 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 and the voter is registered in a different Congressional District. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation, and the ballots were referred to the duplicating team.
3. Ms. Perrone presented 4 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. Perrone presented 221 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. Perrone presented 1 provisional ballot 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 ballot.
6. Ms. Perrone presented 1 provisional ballot with the recommendation to reject because the applicant did not provide proof of residency in time. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot.

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

The staff 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. Perrone presented 506 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.

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### Challenges During Canvass

Ms. Adelaide submitted four challenge forms. A summary of the challenges are in the table below.

Challenge Number	Reason for Challenge	Board Decision	Director Comments
1	Unable to observe or hear discussions	Rejected – unanimous	This challenge does not pertain to a ballot.
2	Unable to observe both sides of the ballot – Refusal to answer question regarding criteria for ballot style	Rejected – Unanimous	Observer failed to identify ballots. Information was not provided.
3	No proof that residency is not attached	Rejected – Unanimous	No information was provided to overturn rejection of ballot.
4	No determination of intent	Rejected – Unanimous	No information was provided on original ruling based on 2 ballots in one envelope.

### 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 on the inside of the front doors to the Robert Moton Building next to the Zero Reports.

### RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Mr. Foster announced the results from the combined provisional and mail-in canvass, and the separate mail-in canvass. Ms. Perrone announced the following statistics from the combined provisional and mail-in canvass:

Provisional Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
A) Total Ballots Presented at Provisional Canvass	1,018
B) Total Provisional Ballots Presented	512
C) Total Held-back Mail-in Ballots Presented	506
D) Total Accepted Ballots	790
E) Accepted in Full Provisional Ballots	278
F) Accepted in Part Provisional Ballots	6
G) Accepted Held-back Mail-in Ballots	506
H) Total Rejected Ballots	228
I) Rejected Provisional Ballots	228
J) Rejected Held-back Mail-in Ballots	0

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Ms. Perrone 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, May 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. to canvass all remaining ballots.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 pm with a motion from Mr. Foster, seconded by Ms. Donaldson. The motion passed unanimously.