

ST. LUCIE COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD ACTION MINUTES
FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 SPECIAL ELECTION
CANVASSING OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

CANVASSING BOARD ATTENDEES:

- ❖ Gertrude Walker, Supervisor of Elections
- ❖ Ella Gilbert, Esq. (Alternate for City of Port St. Lucie City Attorney)
- ❖ Bryan Pankhurst (Alternate for City Clerk – City of Port St. Lucie)

ALSO PRESENT:

- ❖ Caroline Valentin, Esq. (St. Lucie County Assistant Attorney)
- ❖ Nicholas Gieseler, Esq. (Supervisor of Elections Attorney)
- ❖ Judith Durogene (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Kris Barcomb (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Debra Hall (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Neal Sullivan (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Tywann Clemons (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Kierstin Keighley (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Luke Scott (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ John Spradlin (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Dan Field (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Kathy Cabre Enloe (Court Reporter-Esquire Reporting, Inc.)

PUBLIC ATTENDEE SPEAKERS:

- ❖ Robert Barry Mucklow
- ❖ Mark Gotz
- ❖ Kenny Nail

CANVASSING BOARD BUSINESS:

- ❖ Meeting called to order at 7:10 A.M. Supervisor Walker introduces Board attendees and staff and advises this meeting was published 7/21/2021 and 8/18/2021 in the Tribune and 7/22/2021 in El Hispano. Notice of cancellation of September 14, 2021

meeting was published in 9/11/2021 News Tribune. Time change of 9/21/2021 meeting was published in the 9/11/2021 News Tribune.

- ❖ Supervisor Walker thanks the poll workers for assisting, gives instructions on processing of Vote-by-Mail ballots, and advises all workers have executed appropriate paperwork.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Robert Barry Mucklow inquired whether ballots in trays have been signature matched. Supervisor Walker advised they have all been signature matched. Mr. Mucklow also inquired if Vote-by-Mail ballots were segregated by precinct. Mrs. Walker advised the ballots are in date-received order only. Mr. Mucklow requested a more definitive time of when Vote-by-Mail ballot signature matching is performed by Elections staff. Supervisor Walker advised that time frame is dependent on USPS mail delivery.
- Mark Gotz expressed concern that public questions emanating from ballot inspection process now have to be in writing and also concern about the signature matching process. Mrs. Walker advised signature matching will now be viewed on two large TV screens recently purchased for that purpose. Mrs. Walker advised that although public comments/questions about the inspection of ballots are to be in writing, they will be read into the record.
- Kenny Nail suggested public comment be reopened after the inspection process has concluded.
- Public Comment Period was closed.

FURTHER BUSINESS:

- ❖ Supervisor Walker read a portion of Florida Statute 101.572 regarding opening of Vote-by-Mail ballots.
- ❖ Supervisor of Elections Counsel, Attorney Nicholas Gieseler read a portion of Florida Statute 101.68(c)(2)(4) governing the process for objecting to any Vote-by-Mail ballots.
- ❖ Supervisor Walker announced 4,360 Vote-by-Mail ballots are to be processed today, with 17 Vote-by-Mail ballots with Signature Cure Affidavits.

- ❖ Mr. Pankhurst moved to begin public inspection of Vote-by-Mail ballots and to begin tabulation of those ballots once inspected. Second by Ms. Gilbert. Motion carried unanimously.
- ❖ Cage containing Vote-by-Mail ballots was opened, with Seal #0426286 broken, and inspection and tabulation began.
- ❖ Canvassing Board member Ella Gilbert moved Supervisor Walker be appointed to serve as Chairman of today's meeting. Second by Mr. Pankhurst. Motion carried unanimously.
- ❖ Canvassing Board members reviewed each objection to VBM ballots and displayed the ballots on overhead projector, determining whether to accept or reject each ballot in question.
- ❖ Supervisor Walker thanked the poll workers who assisted with today's inspection and opening process and released them.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker explains the Signature Cure Affidavit process. The Canvassing Board inspects and canvasses the Vote-by-Mail ballots with Signature Cure Affidavits utilizing the overhead projector for persons present to view. Those ballots accepted were given to staff for tabulation.
- ❖ The Canvassing Board inspects and duplicates those Vote-by-Mail ballots needing to be duplicated due to stray marks, damaged ballots and reviews under or overvoted ballots. Those ballots that were eligible were sent for tabulation.
- ❖ Mr. Gotz inquired as to whether a ballot that was overvoted in one race, but properly voted in another race would be discarded and not counted at all. SOE Walker explained that the entire ballot is NOT discarded, but is tabulated for only the race that was correctly marked.
- ❖ The rejected log for the 9/8/2021 meeting indicated a blank ballot was rejected. Supervisor Walker advised a blank ballot is not to be rejected, rather is to be placed with ballots to be counted so that the VBM ballot count is correct. Therefore, Rejected Ballot Box under Seal 271, Cage Seal 0649703, was opened and examined. No such blank ballot was contained therein. Motion was made and seconded to correct the log. The rejected ballot log was corrected accordingly.

- ❖ Supervisor Walker announced a total of six sample ballots were returned in Vote-by-Mail envelopes and one ballot apparently photocopied. All seven of those ballots will be marked as “Illegal” and not be counted.
- ❖ Original ballots that were duplicated were placed in box under Seal #276, and signed off on by all Canvassing Board members.
- ❖ Signature Cure Affidavits and supporting documentation were placed in a sealed box under Seal #274, and signed off on by all Canvassing Board members.
- ❖ Box containing challenged and rejected ballots were re-sealed under Seal #275 and signed off on by all Canvassing Board members.
- ❖ All boxes were placed in cage and locked under Seal 648870.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker thanked everyone for attending and announced date and time of next meeting as September 21, 2021, at 3:00 P.M.
- ❖ Mr. Pankhurst made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Gilbert. Motion carries unanimously.
- ❖ Meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cabre Enloe, Court Reporter