

Queen Anne's County Board of Canvassers
 110 Vincit St
 Centreville, MD 21617

November 13, 2024 – Provisional Canvass Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Board of Canvassers

Name	Position	Party
Mary Walker	Board President	Democrat
Bill Stoops	Board Vice President	Republican
Dorotheann Sadusky	Board Secretary	Democrat
Jane Sparks	Member	Republican
Marion Grier	Member	Democrat

LBE Staff:

Name	Position
Christine Jones	Director
Kim Spence	Deputy Director
Erin Fee	Election Program Specialist I
Jena Anthony	Election Program Specialist I
Kelly Eichelberger	Election Program Assistant II
Colby Martin	Election Program Assistant II
Kyle Durham	Election Program Assistant I
Lindsay Guiberson	County Tech
Jim Campbell	County Tech

Public [include here or attach to minutes]

Name	Organization (if applicable)
None	

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 at 10:00 am on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 110 Vincit St Centreville, MD 21617. 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

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Katherine Hager, the Clerk of the Court for Queen Anne's County, administered and recorded the oath of each member of the Board of Canvassers on September 26, 2024. Substitute members of the Board of Elections were also sworn-in on the same day.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS

At its meeting on September 26, 2024, the Board of Canvassers elected Bill Stoops as Chairperson of the Board of Canvassers and Dorotheann Sadusky as Secretary.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS

Christine Jones noted that the public notice of the provisional canvass was provided and that the notice was provided by mail, on our website and posted for public view.

VERIFICATION OF SCANNING UNITS

Christine Jones presented documents to the Board of Canvassers showing that the ballot scanners being used in the canvass successfully passed Logic and Accuracy Testing on September 25, 2024. Christine Jones reported that the memory devices created for this canvass were placed in the ballot scanners and sealed. Christine Jones provided the Board of Canvassers with the results from the Logic and Accuracy Testing. Christine Jones noted the Ballot Scanner Serial Number and Seal Number from Logic and Accuracy Testing documentation for each ballot scanner being used in the canvass.

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

The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the counts on the ballot scanners were zero. Christine Jones posted one copy of the Zero Report from the ballot scanners on the wall in the conference room. Colby Martin printed a second copy of the Zero Report, which remained attached to the ballot scanners. At the direction of the Board of Canvassers, Christine Jones and Mary Walker signed the Zero Report attached to the ballot scanners. Christine Jones 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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CANVASSING OF BALLOTS

Overview of Canvass Process

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

Christine Jones 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 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.

Christine Jones 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 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, or other information identifying the group or unit to which the ballot belongs, and the reasons 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.

Christine Jones explained that, to verify the accuracy of the voting system, some provisional ballots will be hand counted and the results of that hand count will be compared against the results from the voting system. The number of provisional ballots to be hand counted is at least 1% of the number of provisional ballots cast in the previous comparable general election. For this election, 15 provisional ballots will be hand counted. The first provisional ballot applications to be reviewed and ballots counted will be the provisional ballots randomly selected for this audit. Once these ballots are scanned, results will be printed and the results and the ballots will be stored for the manual audit. The manual audit will be conducted no later than 120 days after the general election.

Christine Jones 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 teams are listed.

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Ballot Processing Team Members
Team #1	Monica Graves and George Sewell
Team #2	Trudy Hoxter and Theresa Russ
Team #3	Vera Dozier and Sherrie Von Strongberg
Team #4	
Team #5	
Team #6	

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Duplicating Team Members
Team #1	Bettina Gilbert and Lisa O'Malley
Team #2	

Team	Names of Ballot Scanner Operating Team Members
Team #1	Colby Martin and Jim Campbell
Team #2	

Canvassing of Provisional Ballots

Christine Jones reported that 698 provisional ballots were cast. To preserve the secrecy of the ballots, Christine Jones 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. 698 provisional ballots and 55 mail-in ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass.

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Dorotheann Sadusky made a motion to begin presenting provisional ballot applications. Jane Sparks seconded the motion, and the motion passed *unanimously*.

1. Christine Jones presented 697 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. Christine Jones presented 86 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 duplicating team.
3. Christine Jones presented 1 provisional ballot 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 ballot.
4. Christine Jones presented 6 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.
5. Christine Jones 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 ballots.

Canvassing of Mail-In Ballots

Christine Jones distributed the mail-in ballots to canvassing teams to review for timeliness and signatures. Christine Jones presented 55 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. Christine Jones presented 0 mail-in ballots with the recommendation to reject.

Challenges During Canvass

Document any challenges brought forth in the canvass.

Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted in full and accepted in part provisional ballots and all accepted mail-in ballots, Colby Martin 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 wall in the conference room.

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RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS- PROVISIONAL BALLOT CANVASS

Bill Stoops announced the results from the provisional canvass. Bill Stoops announced the following statistics from the provisional canvass:

Provisional Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
A) Total Ballots Presented at Provisional Canvass	846
B) Total Provisional Ballots Presented	791
C) Total Mail-in Ballots Presented	55
D) Total Accepted Ballots	838
E) Accepted in Full Provisional Ballots	697
F) Accepted in Part Provisional Ballots	86
G) Accepted Mail-in Ballots	55
H) Total Rejected Ballots	8
I) Rejected Provisional Ballots	8
J) Rejected Mail-in Ballots	0

Christine Jones 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 November 15, 2024, last day of mail in ballot canvass at 10:00 a.m. to canvass all remaining ballots.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37pm