

Allegany County Board of Canvassers
701 Kelly Road, Room 100
Cumberland, MD 21502

November 15, 2024 - Mail-In Ballot Canvass
Minutes- Final Canvass Day – Day 5

ATTENDEES

Board of Canvassers:

Name	Position	Party
Lisa Lyons	Chairman	Republican
Cecilia Pittman	Secretary	Democratic
Richard DeVore	Member	Republican
Debbie Johnson	Member	Democratic
John Stakem	Member	Democratic

LBE Staff:

Name	Position
Diane Loibel	Election Director
Armand Pannone	Board Attorney
Wendy Maddux	Deputy Director
Nicole Gordon	Registrar
Sarah Loar	Registrar
Melissa Smith	Clerk

Public:

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.

RECONVENING THE MEETING

The mail-in ballot canvass reconvened on November 15, 2024 at 10:00am. A quorum of the Board of Canvassers was present and least one member of the Board of Canvassers who is a registered voter of the principal minority party was present.

CONFIRMATION OF OATH

Dawne Lindsey, the Clerk of the Court for Allegany County administered and recorded the oath of each member of the Board of Canvassers on October 1, 2024.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS

At a meeting on October 1, 2024, the Board of Canvassers elected Ms. Lisa Lyons as Chairperson of the Board of Canvassers and Mrs. Cecilia Pittman as Secretary.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS

Mrs. Loibel noted that public notice of the mail-in ballot canvass was provided and that the notice was provided to the local central committees, any candidate not represented by a party, Ms. Allison Layton, City of Cumberland Clerk and Mr. Jared DeMarinis. Public notice was provided by written notice, posted on the bulletin board outside the election office and posted on the website.

VERIFICATION OF THE SCANNING UNITS

Mrs. Loibel presented documents to the Board of Canvassers showing that the ballot scanner being used in the canvass successfully passed Logic and Accuracy Testing on October 7, 2024. Mrs. Loibel reported that the memory stick created for this canvass was placed in the ballot scanner and sealed. Mrs. Loibel provided the Board of Canvassers with the results from the Logic and Accuracy Testing. Mrs. Loibel noted the Ballot Scanner Serial Number and Seal Numbers from the Logic and Accuracy Testing documentation for each ballot scanner being used in the canvass.

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

The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the count on the ballot scanner was zero. Mrs. Loibel posted one copy of the Zero Report from the ballot scanner on the wall in the room where canvassing occurred. Staff 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. Mrs. Loibel also confirmed that the ballot boxes were empty.

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

CANVASSING OF BALLOTS

Overview of Canvass Process

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

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canvass room. Ballots were distributed to the ballot processing canvassing teams in batches. Each canvassing team reviewed the envelope first to determine whether it was timely received.

For timely received ballots, each canvassing team determined whether the voter signed the oath. After verifying that the oath is signed, each canvassing team opened the envelopes. With the envelope face down, each canvassing team removed the ballot, taking care that the envelope stays face down. After removing all of the ballots in the batch, the ballot envelopes were set aside. Each canvassing team reviewed the ballots for compliance and tabulating acceptability.

Web delivered ballots were duplicated by a bi-partisan ballot duplication team and verified for accuracy.

Ballots that were untimely or otherwise not in compliance were placed in a folder/envelope, with the canvassing team's number, or other information identifying the canvassing team to which the ballot belonged, and the reason(s) for the referral written on the envelope. The envelope with the ballots inside was referred to the Board of Canvassers for later review.

Those timely ballots that were in compliance and could be read by the ballot scanner were referred to the Board of Canvassers for acceptance.

The Board of Canvassers ruled on whether to accept or unanimously reject the referred ballots.

Mrs. Loibel 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 were presented to the Board of Canvassers with a recommendation. The recommendations were 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 voted 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 were distributed to the bi-partisan ballot processing teams to open and review the ballots. The "accepted in full" ballots were scanned into the ballot scanner, and the "accepted in

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part” ballots were referred to a duplicating team. The duplicating team copied onto the voter’s correct ballot style the votes for the contests for which the provisional voter is eligible to vote.

Mr. DeVore made a motion to begin presenting provisional ballot applications. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Mrs. Loibel presented 1 provisional ballot with the recommendation to accept in full. The recommendation was based on the fact that staff had confirmed that the 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 ballot in full.
2. Mrs. Loibel presented 8 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. Mrs. Loibel 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. Mrs. Loibel presented 1 provisional ballot 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 ballot.
5. Mrs. Loibel presented 2 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant was not eligible to receive a provisional ballot. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
6. Mrs. Loibel 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. Mrs. Loibel presented 2 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because there was no provisional ballot in the envelope. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballots.
8. Mrs. Loibel 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.

Mrs. Loibel explained the process to provide information to the Board of Canvassers or challenged a decision of the Board.

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Canvass Participants

Canvasser	Names of Ballot Processing Canvassing Teams
Team #1	Nicole Gordon & Dick DeVore
Team #2	Melissa Smith & Debbie Johnson
Team #3	Cecilia Pittman & Sarah Loar

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Duplicating Team Members
Team #1	Melissa Smith & Debbie Johnson
Team #2	Cecilia Pittman & Sarah Loar

Team	Names of Ballot Scanner Operating Team
Team #1	Lisa Lyons & John Stakem

Canvassing of Ballots

Mr. DeVore made a motion to accept and approve the opening and tabulation of the ballots. Mr. Stakem seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Challenges During Canvass

No challenges were made during this canvass.

Canvass Closing

Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted ballots, staff locked the ballot scanner and printed an Election Results Report. Mrs. Loibel confirmed that the number of accepted ballots equaled the number of ballots counted by the ballot scanner. The Board of Canvassers signed the Voting Results Report and attached it to the Zero Report.

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

DAILY CANVASSING STATISTICS

Ms. Lyons announced the results from the Mail-in Ballot Final Day Canvass. Ms. Lyons announced the following statistics from the Mail-in Ballot Final Day Canvass:

Provisional Canvass Statistics (If canvassed)	Number of Ballots
A) Total Ballots Presented in Provisional Part of Canvass	22
B) Total Provisional Ballots Presented	22
C) Total Held-back Mail-in Ballots Presented	0

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D) Total Accepted Ballots	9
E) Accepted in Full Provisional Ballots	1
F) Accepted in Part Provisional Ballots	8
G) Accepted Held-back Mail-in Ballots	0
H) Total Rejected Ballots	13
I) Rejected Provisional Ballots	13
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	62
Mail-in Ballots Accepted (including 4 FWABs and a cured ballot from a previous canvass.)	51 + 1 = 52
Rejected Mail-in Ballots (4 of these were loose ballots found in a drop box and unable to identify in MDVOTERS and 2 ballots that did not receive a cure presented at a previous canvass.)	11+ 2 = 13

Mrs. Loibel 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.

RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Mrs. Loibel announced the results from the entire mail-in ballot canvass.

Mail-In Ballot Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
A) Total Ballots Presented	5497
B) Total Mail-in Ballots Presented	5475
C) Total Provisional Ballots Presented (During Mail-in Ballot Canvass ONLY)	22
D) Total Ballots Accepted	5460
E) Accepted in Full Provisional Ballots (During Mail-in Ballot Canvass ONLY)	1
F) Accepted in Part Provisional Ballots (During Mail-in Ballot Canvass ONLY)	8
G) Accepted Mail-in Ballots	5451
H) Total Rejected Ballots	38
I) Rejected Provisional Ballots (During Mail-in Ballot Canvass ONLY)	13

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J) Rejected Mail-in Ballots	25
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Please note that the total number of ballots presented and number of mail-in ballots presented is off by one because in the Pre MIB1 Canvass on October 18, 2024 there were two ballots with two oaths in the same envelope. (Because there was an oath for each ballot, the board's decision was to count both ballots.) I was advised by SBE not to adjust the number of ballots presented for that day but to make note in the minutes.

VERIFICATION OF VOTE COUNT

Mrs. Loibel explained that staff conducted several post-election verifications and audits. Staff manually added the Voting Results Reports from each ballot scanner in the precincts previously randomly selected by the local board of elections and compared the manually added totals with the totals produced by the election database for those precincts. Mrs. Loibel confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Mrs. Loibel explained that a similar verification was performed on each ballot scanner used on the canvassing day randomly selected by the Board of Canvassers for the canvass. Staff manually added the Voting Results Reports printed from each ballot scanner used on the canvassing day randomly selected by the Board of Canvassers for the canvass and compared the manually added totals to a report printed from the election database for the canvass. Mrs. Loibel confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Mrs. Loibel presented the Board of Canvassers with the verification results, and the Board of Canvassers reviewed the results. Mr. Stakem made a motion to accept the verification results. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

POST ELECTION AUDITS

Mrs. Loibel explained that post-election audits were performed on the polling places of certain randomly selected precincts, and on select mail-in and provisional ballots.

Mrs. Loibel explained that for the polling places, in the randomly selected precincts and any polling place where the difference between the number of voters that checked in to vote and ballots cast is five or more, that staff compared the number of signed voter authority cards for each ballot scanner against the number of ballots cast. Mrs. Loibel confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Mrs. Loibel explained that staff reviewed a sample of accepted mail-in ballots to determine if the ballot was timely received. Staff also reviewed a sample of rejected mail-in ballots to determine if the ballot was untimely received or was rejected for another valid reason. Mrs. Loibel confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

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Mrs. Loibel explained that a sample of accepted provisional ballots were reviewed to determine whether the provisional voter was registered to vote at the time of the election, voted the ballot for the precinct in which the voter resides, and all other applicable criteria were met. A sample of partially accepted provisional ballots was also reviewed to confirm that a voter was registered to vote at the time of the election, did not vote the ballot for the precinct in which the voter resides, and all other applicable criteria were met. Staff also reviewed a sample of rejected provisional ballots to confirm that the voter was not registered to vote at the time of the election or the voter's ballot was rejected for another valid reason. Mrs. Loibel confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Mrs. Loibel explained that all ballot images from early voting, election day, and all mail-in ballots canvassed and tabulated prior to election day were sent to a third-party for re-tabulation. The vendor produces reports comparing precinct-level results from the voting system against the precinct-level results from the re-tabulation, and these reports show any differences between the two sets of results. Mrs. Loibel showed the reports and confirmed that any differences between the two sets of results were less than 0.5%, the threshold for additional auditing.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Mrs. Loibel explained that the post-election verifications and audits had no discrepancies or the discrepancies were less than the vote margin of any contest on the ballot in that precinct and presented the Board of Canvassers with the election results. The Board of Canvassers reviewed the election results.

Mr. DeVore made a motion to certify the results of the 2024 Presidential General Election. Mr. Stakem seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Loibel presented the canvass sheets to the Board of Canvassers.

NEXT BOARD OF CANVASSERS' MEETING

If additional ballots are received, the Board of Canvassers will convene before the next meeting of the local board of elections. The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. at the Allegany County Office Complex, 701 Kelly Road, Room 230, Cumberland, MD 21502.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M. on November 15, 2024.