

Howard County Board of Elections
9770 Patuxent Woods Dr. Suite 200
Columbia, MD 21046

April 5, 2012 – Absentee Canvass I

ATTENDEES:

Board of

Canvassers: Ann M. Balcerzak, President – Democratic Party
Donna K. Thewes, Vice-President, Republican Party
Raymond M. Rankin, Democratic Member
Donna L. Rice, Democratic Substitute
Charles M. Coles, Jr., Republican Substitute

Michael S. Molinaro, Esq., Board Counsel

LBE Staff: Guy Mickley, Charlotte Davis, Walter Maddox, Margaret Frost

Public: Jonathan Holton, James Holton, Carole Fisher, Sally Chea

Absent: Vivian L. Dixon
Donna L. Rice joined Canvassers at 11:03 AM.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers began at 10:15 am on Thursday, April 5, 2012 at Howard County Board of Elections Training Room 9770 Patuxent Woods Dr. Suite 200 Columbia, MD. 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

Margaret Rappaport, the Clerk of the Court for Howard County, administered and recorded the oath of each member of the Board of Canvassers on March 19, 2012.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Raymond Rankin made a motion that Ann Balcerzak serve as Chairman of the Board of Canvassers. Charles Coles seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. Raymond Rankin made a motion that Donna Thewes serve as Secretary for the Board of Canvassers. Charles Coles seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS

Ann Balcerzak noted that public notice of the first absentee canvass was provided and that the notice was provided by posting on door of election office, on the website and mailed to candidates.

VERIFICATION OF OPTICAL SCAN VOTING UNIT(S)

Walter Maddox presented documents to the Board of Canvassers showing that the optical scan voting unit being used in the canvass successfully passed Logic and Accuracy Testing on February 18, 2012. Walter Maddox reported that the memory cards created for this canvass were placed in the optical scan voting unit and sealed. Walter Maddox provided the Board of Canvassers with the results from the Logic and Accuracy Testing. Walter Maddox noted the following information from Logic and Accuracy Testing documentation for each optical scan voting unit being used in the canvass:

Voting Unit Serial Numbers	Seal Numbers
30898	113319, 14-079131

The Howard County Board of Canvassers verified that the seal on the optical scan voting unit(s) was/were intact, and recorded the optical scan voting unit’s serial number and seal number.

Voting Unit Serial Numbers	Seal Numbers
30898	113319, 14-079131

The Howard County Board of Canvassers noted that the voting units’ serial number and seal number from Logic and Accuracy Testing matched the voting units’ serial number and seal number before the canvass began.

The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the count on the voting unit was zero. The Board of Canvassers posted one copy of the Zero Report from the voting unit on the wall in the room where canvassing occurred. Walter Maddox printed a second copy of the Zero Report, which

remained attached to the voting unit. The Board of Canvassers signed the Zero Report attached to the voting unit.

CANVASSING

Overview of Canvass Process

Guy Mickey 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. 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 voting unit 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 reason for the referral to the Board of Canvassers is written on the envelope.

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

Guy Mickley 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 optical scan operating teams are listed.

Team Names of Bi-Partisan Ballot Processing Team Members

Team #1 Roy Smith and Justin Maddox
Team #2 Kimberly Phillips and Phyllis West
Team #3 Janet Ferrell and Jeannette Superczynski
Team #4 Tiffany Ferrell and Nicole Shifflett

Team Names of Bi-Partisan Duplicating Team Members

Team #5 Ann Balcerzak and Donna Thewes
Team #1 Roy Smith and Justin Maddox

Team #2 Kimberly Phillips and Phyllis West
Team #3 Janet Ferrell and Jeannette Superczynski
Team #4 Tiffany Ferrell and Nicole Shifflett

Team Names of Optical Scan Operating Team Members
 Team #1 Walter Maddox Guy C. Mickley
 Canvassing of Absentee Ballots

Guy Mickley reported that, to preserve the secrecy of the ballot for the remaining canvasses, five (5) absentee ballots of each ballot style were held back for the provisional canvass, and five (5) ballots of each ballot style were held back for the second absentee canvass. 541 absentee ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass.

Raymond Rankin made a motion to accept and approve the opening and tabulation of the ballots. Charles Coles seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board of Canvassers recessed at 12:52 pm and will reconvene the meeting on April 11, 2012 at 10 am. Walter Maddox recorded the public count, turned the optical scan voting unit(s) off, and affixed a seal.

Voting Unit Serial Numbers	Seal Numbers
30898	113319, 14-079131

Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted absentee ballots, Walter Maddox locked the voting unit(s) and printed an Election Results Report. The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the number of accepted ballots equaled the number of ballots counted by the optical scan voting unit(s). The Board of Canvassers signed the Election Results Report and posted a second copy of the report on the wall in room where canvassing occurred.

RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

The Board reconvened to announce the results. Ann Balcerzak announced the results from the first absentee canvass. Ann Balcerzak announced the following statistics from the first absentee canvass:

Absentee 1 Canvass Statistics
 Number of Ballots
 Total Absentee Ballots Presented at 1st Absentee Canvass 541
 Accepted Ballots 538
 Rejected Ballots 3

NEXT BOARD OF CANVASSERS' MEETING

The Board of Canvassers will meet on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. to canvass provisional ballots.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.