

Howard County Board of Canvassers
8900 Columbia 100 Parkway
Columbia, MD 21045
November 10, 2008 – Provisional Canvass Minutes

Board of Canvassers:

Ann M. Balcerzak, Esq. – Democratic Member, Chairman
Donna K. Thewes - Republican Member, Secretary
Raymond M. Rankin - Democratic Member
Charles M. Coles, Jr. – Republican Substitute Member
Donna L. Rice – Democratic Substitute Member
Michael S. Molinaro, Esq. - Board Attorney
Vivian L. Dixon – Board Secretary

LBE Staff:

Betty L. Nordaas – Election Director
Guy C. Mickley – Election Deputy Director
Walter Maddox – BOE Staff
Carol Hart – BOE Staff
Margaret Frost – BOE Staff

Public: Allen Dyer

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers began at 10:02 AM on Monday November 10, 2008 at Howard County Board of Election Office at 8900 Columbia 100 Parkway Columbia, Maryland 21045. 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, Clerk of the Court for Howard County, administered and recorded the oath to Members, Ann M. Balcerzak, Raymond M. Rankin, Donna K. Thewes and Substitute Members, Charles J. Coles, Jr. and Donna L. Rice, each as a member of the Board of Canvassers on October 27, 2008. Board Counsel, Michael S. Molinaro and Board Secretary, Vivian L. Dixon were also sworn-in on the same day.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS

On November 06, 2009, Ann K. Balcerzak was nominated as Canvass Board Chairman, and Donna K. Thewes, as Canvass Board Secretary.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS

Ms. Balcerzak noted that the public notice of the Provisional Canvass Agenda was posted in Election Office Lobby, County's Website, and each Major Political Party, Board of Education and unaffiliated candidates, were provided the same.

VERIFICATION OF OPTICAL SCAN VOTING UNITS:

Mr. Mickley noted the following information from the absentee canvass for each optical scan voting unit being used in the canvass:

Voting Unit Serial Number(s)	Seal Number(s)
0017776	14-01433
0017777	14-01442

Mr. Maddox and the Board of Canvassers verified that the seals were intact and that the seal numbers matched the seal numbers attached and that the public count matched the public counts recorded before the Board of Canvassers recessed on November 06, 2008.

Mr. Maddox printed Zero Reports from each optical scan voting unit. The Board of Canvassers confirmed that all contests and candidates on the reports were zero and also confirmed that the counts on the voting units were zero. The Board of Canvassers posted one copy of the Zero Reports from the voting units on the wall in the canvassing room. Mr. Maddox printed a second copy of the Zero Reports, which remained attached to the voting units. The Board of Canvassers signed the Zero Reports attached to the voting units.

CANVASSING

Overview of Canvass Process

Ms. Nordaas explained the rules concerning public observation of the canvass and provided an overview of the canvassing process. Ms. Nordaas 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 election district and precinct. At this canvass, the provisional ballot applications will be presented to the Board of Canvassers with a recommendation. The recommendations will be:

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 correct election district but incorrect 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 voting unit, 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. Nordaas explained the process to provide information to the Board of Canvassers or challenge a decision of the Board. Rules of conduct for Canvass observers are posted on two (2) walls.

Canvass Participants

The members of the ballot processing, duplicating, and optical scan operating teams are listed below.

Team	Names of Bi-Partisan Ballot Processing/Duplicating Team Members
Team #1	Sandra Robinson (Democrat), Jerry Kissel (Republican)
Team #2	Cynthia Dodgen (Democrat), Donald Bandel (Republican)
Team #3	Robert Cooney (Democrat), Merrie Frances Miller Republican)
Team #4	Janet Zerhusen (Democrat), Jan Smith (Republican)
Team #5	Monica Thomas (Democrat), Margaret Frost (Unaffiliated)
Team #6	Reginald Jefferies (Democrat), Kathy Buckus (Republican),
Team #7	Martha Calabrese (Democrat), Veronica Lorentz (Republican)
Team #8	Jean Evansmore (Democrat), Dorothy M. Bobart (Republican)
Team #9	Tressie Rooks (Democrat), Mary Ellen Zielinski (Unaffiliated)

Team	Names of Ballot Batching Team Members
Team #1	Charlotte Davis, Carol Hart

Team	Names of Optical Scan Operating Team Members
Team #1	Walter Maddox, Guy Mickley, Randy Clinton

Reginald E. Jefferies (Democrat), who left at 11:25 AM, was replaced with Monica Thomas, (Democrat).

Canvassing of Provisional Ballots

To preserve the secrecy of the ballot for this canvass, Ms. Nordaas explained that five absentee ballots of each ballot style were held back for this provisional canvass and will be counted with the provisional ballots. Ten (10), absentee ballots were presented for canvassing at this canvass.

Mr. Coles' motion to begin reviewing provisional ballot applications was seconded by Mr. Rankin and passed unanimously.

1. Ms. Nordaas presented 2254 provisional ballots with the recommendation to accept 1675 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 to accept and count the provisional ballots in full.
2. Ms. Nordaas presented 255-Code #1 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because staff could not confirm that the applicant was a registered voter. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot(s).
3. Ms. Nordaas presented 236-Code #2 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant voted the provisional ballot in the wrong election district (or ward). The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot(s).
4. Ms. Nordaas presented 47-Code #5 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant failed to sign application. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot(s).
5. Ms. Nordaas presented 4-Code #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 ballot(s).
6. Ms. Nordaas presented 2-Code #7 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant did not provide identification or personal identification information in time. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot(s).
7. Ms. Nordaas presented 2-Code #8 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 ballot(s).
8. Ms. Nordaas presented 1-Code #9 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant provided his or her driver's license or social security number but the number was not verified. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot(s).
9. Ms. Nordaas presented 1-Code #10 provisional ballots with the recommendation to reject because the applicant provided identification but the identification provided did not satisfy the requirements. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation and reject the ballot(s).

Printing of Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted in full and accepted in part provisional ballots, Mr. Maddox locked the voting units and printed an Election Results Report. The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the number of accepted in full and accepted in part ballots equaled the number of ballots counted by the optical scan voting units. The Board of Canvassers signed the Election Results Report and posted a copy of the report on Canvass Room door.

RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Ms. Balcerzak announced the results from the Provisional canvass. Ms. Balcerzak announced the following statistics from the provisional canvass:

Provisional Canvassing Statistics	Number of Ballots
Total Provisional Ballots Presented - Provisional Canvassing	2254
Accepted In Full Ballots	1675
Rejected Ballots	546
Accepted in Part Ballots	33
Total Ballots Counted	2254

Ms. Nordaas 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, November 14, 2008 at 10:00 AM to canvass remaining absentee ballots.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Canvassers adjourned at 2:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed – May 12, 2009
Donna K. Thewes, Secretary

Signed – May 12, 2009
Ann M. Balcerzak, Chairman