

Frederick County Board of Canvassers
8490 Progress Drive, Frederick MD

Friday, May 24, 2024 - Mail-In Ballot 2 Canvass
Minutes- Final Canvass Day – Day 3

ATTENDEES

Board of Canvassers:

Name	Position	Party
Mary Costello	Board Chairperson	Democratic
Nathaniel C.W. Wilson	Board Vice-Chairperson	Republican
Shirley McDonald	Board Secretary	Democratic
Michael Sowell	Board Member	Democratic
Dan Loftus	Board Counsel	

Board of Canvassers Absent:

Name	Position	Party
Ted Neeves	Board Member	Republican

LBE Staff (in person):

Name	Position
Barbara Wagner	Election Director
Anthony Gutierrez	Deputy Director
Tom Coogan	Program Manager
Dan Callahan	Voter Registration Supervisor
Marc Welch	Voting Ops Manager
Shakir Satterfield	Voting Ops Supervisor
Diane Zepp	Recording Secretary
Tracey Leef	MIB Team
Stanley Kumah	DS200 Operator

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Public

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization (if applicable)</u>
Graham Cullen	Frederick News Post
Amanda Stine – Gines	Frederick County Democratic Central Committee
Mari Lee	Frederick County Democratic Central Committee
Veronica Lowe	Self
Becky Thompson	Self
Ceoli Jacoby	Frederick News Post

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 vote by mail canvass reconvened on Friday, May 24, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the Frederick County Board of Elections office, 8490 Progress Dr, Frederick MD. A quorum of the Board of Canvassers was present 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

On Wed, March 6, 2024, Sandra Dalton, the Clerk of the Court for Frederick County MD, administered and recorded the oath of each member here and of their board counsel.

Administer the Oath to all members of the Canvassing Teams, ballot processing, duplicating, and ballot scanner operating teams (unless they were sworn-in at previous meeting.)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICERS

On Wednesday, March 6, 2024, the Board of Canvassers elected Mary Costello as Chairman; Nate Wilson as Vice Chairman; and Shirley McDonald as Secretary.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS

Public notice of the canvass was provided on April 4, 2024, by posting at the Frederick County Board of Elections office; on the Board website; by transmittal to the Maryland State Election Administrator; to the chair of the Frederick County Democratic Central Committee; the Frederick County Republican Central Committee; and the non-partisan candidates running in the 2024 Primary election.

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VERIFICATION OF OPTICAL SCAN VOTING UNIT(S)

Barbara Wagner explained the rules concerning public observation of the canvass. Marc Welch and Shakir Satterfield verified that the seal(s) was/were intact and that the seal number matched the seal number attached and that the public count matched the public count recorded before the prior day's canvass recessed. Shirley McDonald motioned to open the polls. Nate Wilson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

CANVASSING OF BALLOTS

Overview of Canvass Process

Barbara Wagner provided an overview of the canvassing process and noted that the rules were posted in the canvass room.

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, [*ballot style or district and precinct*], or other information identifying the group or unit to which the ballot belongs, and the reason(s) 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.

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

Barbara Wagner explained the process to provide information to the Board of Canvassers or challenge a decision of the Board.

Canvass Participants

Canvasser	Names of Ballot Processing Canvasser
Team #1	Elisa Marsh/Mike Rusk

Team	Names of Ballot Scanner Operating Team
Team #1	Shakir Satterfield

Canvassing of ballots resumed.

Canvassing of Mail-In Ballots

The Election Director, Barbara Wagner, distributed the mail-in ballots to canvassing teams to review for timeliness and signatures. The Election Director, Barbara Wagner, presented

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approximately 128 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 ballot(s). The Barbara Wagner presented one (1) mail-in ballots with the recommendation to reject. Mary Costello moved to accept sixteen (16) mail-in ballots and five (5) web ballots. Michael Sowell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

We received two (2) ballots in the mail today. One (1) is timely stamped, and the other is not timely.

Barbara Wagner presented 80 mail-in ballots that were untimely stamped. Shirley McDonald motioned to accept one ballot as timely after comparing signature and date on envelope. Nate Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Wagner presented five (5) no ballots. Mary Costello motioned to reject all five (5) ballots. Michael Sowell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Wagner presented eleven (11) uncured ballots that Board had already looked at and canvassed. Shirley McDonald motioned to accept two (2) ballots with signature. Mary Costello seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Shirley McDonald motion to reject the remaining nine (9) uncured ballots. Nate Wilson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

One permanent mail-in ballot was accepted as voted.

Motion to rescind the two (2) previously rejected provisional ballots due to verification of their identification per staff was made by Shirley McDonald. Michael Sowell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Wagner presented one (1) in a previous, opened ballot envelope with no ballot. The provisional has a ballot enclosed. Shirley McDonald motioned to rescind the mail-in ballot as rejected and approve the provisional ballot with accepted in full. Michael Sowell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Wagner presented one (1) voter who received a polling place credit and voter has a polling place credit that will be deleted and accept the provisional in part. State has already handled in the system. Shirley McDonald motioned to accept the provisional in part. Michael Sowell seconded the motion; motion was passed with a 3 to 1 vote. Nate Wilson abstained.

Barbara Wagner presented one (1) mail-in ballot where the voter voted in person at early voting and submitting an online ballot application and changed party affiliation. Voter received a mail-in ballot via mail. Shirley McDonald made a motion to reject the mail-in ballot

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and send all documentation to State for investigation. Nate Wilson seconded; the motion was passed unanimously.

Shirley McDonald motioned to accept the corrected envelope for the web delivery presented under correct voter and reject the one under the incorrect voter. Michael Sowell seconded; the motion was passed unanimously.

Nate Wilson made a motion to accept this ballot as signed voter and not the voter's name on envelope. Shirley McDonald seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Shirley McDonald made a motion to Duplicate as marked/voted for two (2) ballots missing a page from web delivery. Michael Sowell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Nate Wilson motioned to accept and duplicate the BMD as is and spoil the ballot based on the clarification of the provisional judge that the voter voted on the BMD device and not an original ballot. Michael Sowell seconded the motion, and the board passed unanimously.

Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted ballots, Shakir Satterfield locked the ballot scanner(s) and printed an Election Results Report. The Board of Canvassers reviewed the daily canvass minutes and confirmed that for each day, the number of accepted ballots equaled the number of ballots counted by the ballot scanner. Barbara Wagner signed the Voting Results Report and posted a second copy of the report on Frederick County Board of Elections Training Room, 8490 Progress Drive, Frederick, MD 21701.

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

DAILY CANVASSING RESULTS

Mail-In Ballot Canvass Statistics- Day 3	Number of Ballots
A) Total Ballots Presented	
B) Total Mail-in Ballots Presented	128
D) Total Ballots Accepted	
G) Accepted Mail-in Ballots	34
H) Total Rejected Ballots	
J) Rejected Mail-in Ballots	1

RELEASE OF UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

Mary Costello announced the results from the entire mail-in ballot canvass.

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Mail-In Ballot Canvass Statistics	Number of Ballots
A) Total Ballots Presented	
B) Total Mail-in Ballots Presented	34
D) Total Ballots Accepted	
G) Accepted Mail-in Ballots	34
H) Total Rejected Ballots	
J) Rejected Mail-in Ballots	

RECONVENE

Mary Costello asked to recess at 12:04 p.m. and reconvene at 3:30 p.m., Friday, May 24, 2024.

Shirley McDonald motion to close the polls at 12:05 p.m. Nate Wilson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

RECONVENING

Mary Costello announced at 3:32 p.m. that we are reconvening for the 2024 Presidential Primary.

VERIFICATION OF VOTE COUNT

Barbara Wagner explained that staff conducted several post-election verifications and audits performed. 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. Barbara Wagner confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Barbara Wagner 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. Barbara Wagner confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Barbara Wagner presented the Board of Canvassers with the verification results, and the Board of Canvassers reviewed the results. Shirley McDonald made a motion to accept the verification results for 2024 Presidential Primary. Michael Sowell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

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POST ELECTION AUDITS

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

Barbara Wagner 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. Barbara Wagner confirmed that all of the numbers matched except for 02-014 (it appears the voter may have inadvertently left with their VAC) 13-001 and 13-003 (this is a consolidated precinct and it appears the Election Judges may have mistakenly handed out the ballot style for the opposite precinct from the voter's registration; however, since all contests were the same county-wide, the voters did vote their correct contests. In addition, as above, 2 voters may have inadvertently left with their VACs)

Barbara Wagner 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. Barbara Wagner confirmed that all of the numbers matched.

Barbara Wagner 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 voting system against the precinct-level results from the re-tabulation, and these reports show any differences between the two sets of results. Barbara Wagner 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

Barbara Wagner 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.

Michael Sowell made a motion to certify the results of 2024 Presidential Primary. Shirley McDonald seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Director Barbara Wagner presented the canvass sheets to the Board President and Secretary for their signatures.

NEXT BOARD OF CANVASSERS' MEETING

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If additional ballots are received, the Board of Canvassers will convene at the next meeting of local board of elections. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Frederick County Board of Elections, 8490 Progress Drive, Frederick MD 21701.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m. on Friday, May 24, 2024.