

ST. LUCIE COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD ACTION MINUTES
FOR AUGUST 20, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

AUGUST 9, 2024

CANVASSING BOARD ATTENDEES:

- ❖ Judge Daryl Isenhower (County Court Judge)
- ❖ Judge Dan Vaughn (Senior Circuit Court Judge)

ATTORNEYS:

- ❖ Katherine Barbieri, Esq. (Assistant St. Lucie County Attorney)
- ❖ Caroline Valentin, Esq. (Assistant St. Lucie County Attorney)
- ❖ Nicholas Gieseler, Esq. (Supervisor of Elections Counsel)

ELECTIONS STAFF:

- ❖ Kris Barcomb (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Amber McCants (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Peter Lomonaco (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Neal Sullivan (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Tywann Clemons (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Javier Munett (OPEX)
- ❖ Other SOE staff
- ❖ Kathy Cabre Enloe (Court Reporter-Esquire Reporting, Inc.)

PUBLIC ATTENDEE SPEAKERS:

- ❖ Debra Swanson
- ❖ Robert “Barry” Mucklow

CANVASSING BOARD BUSINESS:

- ❖ Meeting called to order at 8:02 A.M. Mrs. Walker introduced Canvassing Board members and counsel.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker announced dates of publication of the Canvassing Board Meeting on July 12, 2024, in the News Tribune, and on July 18, 2024, in El Hispano, and on the SOE website.

- ❖ Attorney Valentin reminded everyone of rules of decorum governing meetings.
- ❖ Judge Isenhower asked for public comment. Debra Swanson noted sometimes persons present at 7:00 for envelope inspection are not getting in at 7:00 A.M. because of the need to go through security. She requested the sign-in process take place as persons are waiting in line to go through security checkpoint. Ms. Swanson inquired as to a tray she observed on top of locked cage. After conferring with VBM Coordinator, Mrs. Walker advised those items in tray were ballots recently received that staff determined needed review by the Board. Attorney Gieseler advised that the tray containing envelopes had been locked in the SOE's office pending review by the Board.
- ❖ Robert "Barry" Mucklow inquired whether public would be permitted to inspect the aforementioned group of ballot envelopes. Mrs. Walker advised they must first be reviewed by the Board to determine eligibility. Once accepted, that grouping may be presented for inspection at the Board's pleasure. Mr. Mucklow also inquired as to changes in the Canvassing Board schedule and the sufficiency of authorized observer forms in the event of a scheduling change. Mrs. Walker indicated the forms properly filed would be accepted for the rescheduling, if any, of a particular meeting. Mr. Mucklow also requested the Board take steps to ensure all conversations during meetings are had using microphones so all discussions can be heard.
- ❖ Judge Isenhower made motion to accept the 8/2/2024 Canvassing Board minutes. Second by Judge Vaughn. Motion carried unanimously.
- ❖ Judge Isenhower moved to commence opening of ballots for today's session. Second by Judge Vaughn. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Walker advised total number of ballots presented today is 3,025.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker requested the Board undertake review of ballot envelopes brought forward by staff. Included in that grouping was one overseas ballot, four damaged ballots, 17 signature cure affidavits. Those envelopes were reviewed by the Board, displayed for observers on the overhead projector, voted on individually by the Board and logged appropriately. SOE staff then presented 24 mismatched signature/household ballot envelopes. Attorney Valentin confirmed those can be accepted without the need for Board review if the signatures have been verified by SOE staff. Mrs. Barcomb affirmed that process had occurred. Judge Isenhower stated those

would be accepted per Board criteria. Two previous election cycle envelopes reviewed and opened. Both envelopes containing ballots for previous election were rejected.

- ❖ The Board reviewed paperwork packet for one potentially ineligible voter. After review of paperwork, the Board rejected the ballot and logged accordingly,
- ❖ Mrs. Walker displayed the mismatched signature envelopes for observers to view.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker advised two additional previous election cycle envelopes had been received, but that those two voters had also returned ballots for the correct August 20th Primary. The incorrect previous cycle envelopes were pulled and marked rejected and will not be opened, since valid ballots by same voters received.
- ❖ The cage under Seal #0649871 was opened and Box under Seal #95-003 opened to begin process of duplicating ballots held from previous meeting awaiting enactment of criteria determining voter intent.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker advised there had been eight challenges from this morning's public inspection. However, once observers were able to view voter signatures on screen, the eight challenges were dismissed. There were three remaining challenges reviewed by the Board; two because of placement of signatures outside the signature block on envelope and one because name on envelope did not match signature on file. Board directed staff to pull paperwork on that voter. Board counsel provided citation of rule pertaining to signatures on a ballot envelope. After discussion, Judge Isenhower moved to accept the two ballots with improperly placed signatures, determining that the signatures while not in the designated signature block were in close proximity thereto. After review of paperwork on name/signature discrepancy, the Board voted it was a matched signature and accepted that ballot.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker thanked poll workers for their assistance with ballot opening and excused them.
- ❖ The Board commenced review and duplication, where necessary, of 79 ballots from previous meeting, logging accordingly. The Board continued review and duplication of 30 ballots from today's session, again logging accordingly. The Board was presented with two envelopes that contained no ballot. Those envelopes were marked rejected and staff instructed to notify the voters.
- ❖ Upon completion, signature cure affidavits, rejected ballots, log sheets and unused duplicated ballots were placed in box under Seal #95-004. Original ballots that had been duplicated were placed in box under Seal #95-005.

- ❖ Before sealing of cage, the staff brought to Board's attention one ballot originally thought not to need duplication had smudge marks and indeed did need duplicating. Duplication was done and the Box 95-005 was opened, original ballot placed therein, and the box then re-sealed under Seal #95-006. The boxes were placed in cage and sealed under Seal #0649868.
- ❖ Judge Isenhower announced the next meeting would be August 13, 2024, at 8:00 A.M., following public inspection held at 7:00 A.M.
- ❖ Judge Isenhower made a motion to adjourn at 12:35 P.M. Second by Judge Vaughn. Motion carried.
- ❖ Meeting adjourned at 12:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cabre Enloe, Court Reporter