

Prince George's County Board of Canvassers  
1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A  
Largo, MD 20774

July 25, 2022 - Vote by Mail Canvass Minutes  
2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election  
Canvass Day 4

## **ATTENDEES**

Board of Canvassers (In-Person):

Name	Position	Party
Roberta B. Deegan	President	Republican
Beatrice P. Tignor	Vice President	Democrat
Harold Ruston	Member	Republican
Tom Slezak	Member	Republican
Jaime Vazquez-Saldana	Member	Republican
Lucille V. Gaither	Alternate Member	Republican
Clement A. Gaynor, Jr.	Alternate Member	Republican
Terri L. Williams	Alternate Member	Democrat

Michael Adams	Board Attorney
Anita C. Jones	Board Recording Secretary

LBE Staff (in person):

Name	Position
Alisha L. Alexander	Elections Administrator
Wendy Honesty-Bey	Manager of Elections Operations
Christian Robertson	Data Coordinator
Freddie Colston	Floor Runner/Opener
Joe Young	Floor Runner/Opener
Beulah Williams	Floor Runner/Opener
Donald Benton	Floor Runner/Opener
Marcus Ike	Floor Runner/Opener

A list of all canvassers, duplicating team members, and ballot scanner operating team members in attendance is attached.

## **DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT**

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers began at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 25, 2022, at the Lake Arbor Elementary School, 10205 Lake Arbor Way, Bowie, MD in the multipurpose room. There was a quorum of the Board of Canvassers in-person, and at least one member of the Board of Canvassers who is a registered voter of the principal minority party was present.

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## **PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANVASS**

Ms. Alexander opened the canvass and noted that public notice of the vote by mail canvass was provided and that the notice was provided by agenda posted on door of the election office and on the Prince George's County Board of Election's website.

Ms. Alexander noted to the Board of Canvassers and observers that scanning teams were cleaning the scanners and Mr. Gaynor and Ms. Williams observed the process.

The Board of Canvassers confirmed that the counts on the ballot scanners were zero. Ms. Alexander posted one copy of the Zero Report from the ballot scanners on the wall of the canvassing room. Mr. Colbert printed a second copy of the Zero Report, which remained with the integrity reports.

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

### Overview of Canvass Process

Ms. Alexander explained the rules concerning public observation of the canvass. Ms. Alexander provided an overview of the canvassing, the suggested COVID-19 procedures and the ballot and facility security process. She also noted that the rules were posted in the canvass room. It was explained that ballots are distributed to the ballot processing canvassers in batches of 25 (when possible). Also, the canvass teams were asked to review the envelopes first to determine whether it was received on time.

For timely received ballots, each canvasser determines whether the voter signed the oath. After verifying that the oath is signed, each canvasser opens the envelopes. With the envelope face down, each canvasser 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 canvasser reviews the ballots for compliance and tabulating acceptability.

Ballots that were printed online are duplicated and verified by a bi-partisan ballot duplication team. The bipartisan team of canvass workers or the Board of Canvassers, whichever is responsible for ballot duplication will manually duplicate the ballot the ballot on to an official ballot. It is imperative that the two ballots are compared to ensure that the ballot printed during the canvass matches the ballot returned by the voter.

Ballots that are untimely or are otherwise not in compliance are wrapped in a referral sheet, with the batch number and the canvassers' team number, or other information identifying the canvasser to which the ballot belongs, and the reason(s) for the referral

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written on the referral sheet. The wrapped envelope with the ballots inside is referred to the Board of Canvassers for later review.

Ms. Alexander noted that ballot packages would be kept together, including the envelopes and ballots. Any ballots referred to the Board of Canvassers will be reviewed prior to moving onto a new ballot package. Accepted ballots would be returned to the package and rejected ballots would be noted on the package cover sheet.

All ballot packages in each sealed/locked box will be completed before another box is opened. If a ballot has a tear or stain, please refer it to the Board of Canvassers for review and duplication. Ms. Alexander explained that the ballot scanner cannot accept tears, stains, etc. A bi-partisan team will recreate the ballot selections. The clean, duplicated ballot will be included for scanning and the old ballot will be voided. There should not be any extraneous marks on the ballot, only the filled-in bubble by the candidate's name.

Ms. Alexander explained the process to provide information to the Board of Canvassers or challenge a decision of the Board.

Ms. Alexander explained the "challenge" form and how it is completed and presented.

Reminder – Vote by mail ballots must be date stamped or post-marked on or before July 19, 2022. If the batch processing date is July 19, 2022, or earlier, the ballots are timely received.

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### Canvassing of Ballots

Mr. Ruston made a motion to reconvene the mail-in ballot canvass. Ms. Gaither seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jones removed the following seals from the ballot cabinets:

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17-310226	17-310229	17-310230
17-310227	17-310231	17-310232
17-310228		

Fifteen (15) locked boxes of mail-in ballots were presented for canvass. The seal tapes were put on the Ballot Integrity Transfer Chain of Custody forms by Ms. Jones.

The canvass room was closed from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch.

Board of Canvassers' Decision Meeting

Mr. Adams presented the following ballots for review and determination:

1. This ballot envelope did not have a post office cancellation date, a date at the signature line, or a date stamp.	A motion was made by Mr. Slezak, seconded by Ms. Tignor, and duly passed to reject this ballot.
2. This ballot envelope did not have a signature.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed to refer the ballot envelope to staff for follow-up.
3. This ballot had a note.	A motion was made by Mr. Gaynor, seconded by Mr. Ruston, and duly passed to accept this ballot and remake according to the voters note.
4-5. This voter returned two ballot envelopes – one for the County Council Primary Election and one for the Gubernatorial Primary Election.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed to reject the County Council Primary Ballot and accept the Gubernatorial Primary Ballot.
6. This voter returned two ballot envelopes.	A motion was made by Ms. Tignor, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed to reject one ballot and accept one ballot.
7. This ballot envelope did not have a signature.	A motion was made by Mr. Slezak, seconded by Ms. Tignor, and duly passed to refer the ballot envelope to staff for follow-up.
8. This ballot envelope did not have a signature.	A motion was made by Mr. Slezak, seconded by Ms. Tignor, and duly passed to refer the ballot envelope to staff for follow-up.
9. This ballot envelope had a good date at the signature.	A motion was made by Ms. Tignor, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed to accept this ballot. This is a standing motion for any future ballots with this issue.
10. This ballot envelope did not have a signature.	A motion was made by Ms. Tignor, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed to refer the ballot envelope to staff for follow-up.
11-12. This voter returned two ballot envelopes.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Mr. Gaynor, and duly passed to accept one ballot and reject one ballot.
13. This ballot was referred to the Board of Canvassers to clarify voter intent.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Ms. Tignor, and duly passed to accept this ballot.

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14. The date stamp and batch processing date were after July 19, 2022. The voter used a birthdate at the signature on this ballot envelope.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed to reject this ballot.
15. This ballot envelope was presented for clarification.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed to accept this ballot.
16. The date stamp and batch processing date were after July 19, 2022. The voter used a birthdate at the signature on this ballot envelope.	A motion was made by Ms. Tignor, seconded by Mr. Ruston, and duly passed to reject this ballot.
17. The date stamp and batch processing date were after July 19, 2022. The voter used a birthdate at the signature on this ballot envelope.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Ms. Tignor, and duly passed to reject this ballot. This is a standing motion for any future ballots with this same issue.
18. This ballot envelope had the birthday at the signature, the date stamp was late; however, the signed oath had a good date.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Mr. Gaynor, and duly passed to accept this ballot.
19. The ballot envelope had a good date at the signature.	Standing motion to accept.
20. Two separate ballot envelopes with no date at signature, no date stamp, and batch sheet date after July 19, 2022.	Standing motion to reject.
21. Ballot presented with mark outside of the bubble.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed to accept this ballot for remake.
22. Ballot presented with mark outside of the bubble.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed to accept this ballot for remake.
23. Ballot presented with unclear marks at one contest.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Mr. Gaynor, and duly passed to accept this ballot with no selection for the one contest.
24. Three ballot envelopes returned sample ballots.	A motion was made by Mr. Slezak, seconded by Mr. Ruston, and duly passed to reject these ballots.
25. Twenty (20) ballot envelopes returned with no ballots.	A motion was made by Ms. Deegan, seconded by Mr. Gaynor, and duly passed to reject these ballots. This is a standing motion for any future ballot envelopes with this same issue.
26. Voided/spoiled ballots that were separated from the package.	Return to staff to be retained with election material.
27. Comments written on ballot.	A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed to accept this ballot for remake without the comments. Ms. Tignor voted no.
28-29. Two ballot envelopes presented.	Process the good ballot envelop and hold the bad ballot envelope. Adjust the batch sheet accordingly.
30. Comments written on ballot.	A motion was made by Mr. Slezak, seconded by Mr. Gaynor, and duly passed to accept this ballot for remake without the comments.
31. Voter returned one ballot envelope for the City of Hyattsville and one ballot envelope for the Gubernatorial Primary.	A motion was made by Ms. Tignor, seconded by Mr. Ruston, and duly passed to accept the Gubernatorial Primary ballot and file the City of Hyattsville ballot with election material.

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32. Voter returned a faxed ballot.	A motion was made by Mr. Slezak, seconded by Mr. Ruston, and duly passed to reject this ballot. This is a standing motion for any future ballots with this issue.
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The canvassing teams were dismissed.

Ms. Deegan, Mr. Ruston, and Ms. Williams stayed to observe the scanning and printing of results.

The ballot cabinets were locked, and the following seals were affixed:

17-043631	17-043634	17-043636
17-043632	17-043635	17-043637
17-043633		

### Printing Canvass Results

After scanning all accepted vote by mail ballots, Mr. Colbert locked the ballot scanners and printed an Election Results Report. Ms. Alexander confirmed that the number of accepted ballots equaled the number of ballots counted by the ballot scanners. Ms. Alexander 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 RESULTS**

Vote by Mail Canvass Statistics- Day Four	Number of Ballots
Total Ballots Presented	6,936
Accepted Ballots	6,917
Recommended Rejected Ballots	16

### **RECESS**

The canvass recessed at 5:30 p.m. and will reconvene on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Colbert recorded the public count, turned the optical scan ballot scanners off, and affixed seals.