

City of Auburndale Canvassing Board Minutes November 14, 2023

Minutes of the Auburndale Canvassing Board for the 2023 Municipal Election related to the Voting System Post-Election Audit. The Meeting was held November 14, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the Supervisor of Elections' Elections Operations Center, 70 Florida Citrus Blvd., Winter Haven, FL, after having been properly advertised, with the following members present: Mayor Dorothea Taylor Bogert, Commissioners: Keith Cowie, Richard Hamann, and Bill Sterling. Commissioner Jack Myers was absent. Also, present were: City Manager Jeffrey Tillman, City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr., and City Clerk Brandon Henry. Supervisor of Elections staff present were: Supervisor of Elections Lori Edwards, Deputy Supervisor of Elections Casondra Oneal, and Election Administration Director Cathy Bridges.

Canvassing Board Chair/Mayor Dorothea Taylor Bogert declared a quorum present for the audit of the selected race – Seat #5.

Deputy Supervisor of Elections Casondra Oneal passed out copies of Florida Statute 101.591 for the manual audit and went over the process for the manual count. She went over the security procedures for the ballots, both precinct votes and Vote-by-Mail ballots. The City had to post a Notice of the Audit including the date, time, and location of the audit – the Supervisor of Elections Office posted notices as well.

Motion by Commissioner Hamann, seconded by Commissioner Sterling, to authorize the opening of the ballots for a manual count. Upon vote, all ayes.

Recess from 11:07 a.m. to 11:28 a.m. for the manual count to be completed by the Supervisor of Elections' staff. The Supervisor of Elections' staff began to count the ballots in two groups, one for Precinct Ballots and one for Vote-by-Mail ballots.

Canvassing Board Chair/Mayor Taylor Bogert called the Meeting to order.

Deputy Supervisor of Elections Casondra Oneal said after the count, the Vote-by-Mail ballots came out correct. On the Precinct count, the counting team found one ballot short. She explained that Operations Manager Curtis Hatfield took a call from the Precinct on Election Day regarding a mishandled jam, so it is not unreasonable to see this. We were somewhat expecting this differentiation due to the mishandled jam.

Supervisor of Elections Lori Edwards explained how a ballot machine jam can cause an under- or over- count. She explained that what likely happened is that the ballot was jammed after it was counted, pulled out of the machine incorrectly, and counted again. She explained that this is why there are recounts prior to certification if it was a very close election.

Deputy Supervisor of Elections Oneal said the ballot counters might have miscounted. She called them back in to redo the manual count.

Recess from 11:32 a.m. through 11:37 a.m. for another manual count to be completed by the Supervisor of Elections' staff.

Supervisor of Elections Edwards explained that a ballot that the machine counted as an undervote in Seat #5 may have been counted by staff as a vote for Alex Cam.

Deputy Supervisor of Elections Oneal said it is her opinion that she thinks the machine jam is the most likely issue. You are going to be one vote over for Alex Cam and one vote under contributed to the jam.

Supervisor of Election Edwards said it will be recorded that it was off by one likely due to the jam.

Deputy Supervisor of Elections Oneal said this does not change the results of the election as the election has already been certified. This is just an audit. This specific instance was a known issue on Election Day.

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Supervisor of Election Edwards said the forms will be completed by the City Clerk to be sent to the State Division of Elections.

Deputy Supervisor of Elections Oneal said we have one vote over for Alex Cam and one vote under for undervotes. The likely cause is a mishandled jam – which was a known issue on the DS200 equipment on Election Day. We have recommended training for election workers.

The Voting System Post-Election Audit Report was signed and certified by the Canvassing Board (Attachments: Voting System Post-Election Audit Report and Precinct Summary for Manual Audit).

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are true and correct.



Brandon Henry, City Clerk