

Minutes of Meeting
County Board of Canvassers: Elections
May 26, 2021
2:30 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Clerk Jim Brannon, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Elections Manager Asa Gray, Administrative Assistant Ronnie Davisson, BOCC Communications Manager Nanci Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 2:44 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Action):**

Canvass of May 18, 2021 Taxing District Election – Pursuant to Idaho Code §34-1205

Clerk Jim Brannon thanked the Elections Team and Elections Manager Asa Gray for their excellent work.

Mr. Gray also praised his staff for their efforts.

Mr. Gray reported that there were 18,875 votes cast in the Election, including the absentees, with a turnout average of 18.6%. He remarked that this was dramatically higher than the 6,175 votes they received in the May 2019 Election. He said the numbers varied from a low of 8.5% in Precinct 10 to a high of 30.4% in Precinct 66. He added that there had been an increase in absentee votes; early and absentee votes totaled 6,210.

Mr. Gray stated that they had provided 143 ballot types and among the 73 precincts only 6 incorrect ballots were handed out. He noted that Precinct 61 had 6 ballot types offered and had no errors at all.

Mr. Gray said that Precinct 8 and 16 each had one more ballot run through the tabulator than they had check-ins of voters and Precinct 28 had two more. He stated that there were blank ballots to match those, so it was probable that ballot pages stuck together when pulled off the pad. He said that Precinct 30 had one more ballot cast than check-ins and there were no blank ballots in the tabulator. He speculated that two ballots stuck together and the voter filled them both in or that one voter was not fully checked in. He added that they were still investigating this, but confirmed it did not negatively affect any race.

Mr. Gray stated there were 478 people that registered during early voting or on Election Day. He said there was a 97% accuracy rate for those and staff were completing verification for the information on the remainder.

Under "Unusual Factors in the Election," Mr. Gray commented there had been high interest in the Post Falls school levy which had led to a larger than normal turnout in those precincts. He said interest in the City of Hayden Lake's budget increase question on the ballot had made it necessary to take additional ballots over to their location. He stated that no voters needed to wait for ballots, thanks to the improved service made possible by the electronic poll books.

Mr. Gray said there were some instances of people handing out flyers or holding signs outside the precincts. He said he had driven out to one location to be certain the man handing out sample ballots was more than 100 feet away from the building, which he was. He reported that there were a couple of cases in which the judges needed to ask people to move to the proper distance.

Clerk Brannon expanded upon Commissioner Leslie Duncan's remark that, "Every vote counts in Kootenai County." He explained that those votes received in a timely fashion, with signature matches were counted. He reported that there were 110 ballots received late, after the 8 p.m. deadline and 22 signature mismatches which would not have been counted.

Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke stated that ballots that were mismarked, with too many selections made, for example, were flagged and individually examined to determine if there was clear voter intent indicated. She said that those questionable votes that could be clarified were added back into the count.

Clerk Brannon stated that he had personally reviewed the ballots where there was a question of voter intent and had worked on the duplication board. He explained the process by which duplicate ballots were generated and verified.

Clerk Brannon commented that there had been a challenge to the registration for a person who was elected. He said he had sent a letter asking for verification of primary residence to the person and received a response. He stated his next step was to verify the primary residence address or to call a hearing to review the information. He indicated he was scheduling a hearing to review the issue.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan moved that the Board approve and affirm the canvass of the May 18, 2021 Taxing District Election. Commissioner Bill Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye

Commissioner Duncan: Aye

Chairman Fillios: Aye

The motion carried.

- D. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
