

Minutes of Meeting
County Board of Canvassers: Elections
November 17, 2022
11:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Leslie Duncan, Commissioner Bill Brooks and Commissioner Chris Fillios met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Clerk Jim Brannon, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Elections Manager Asa Gray, Elections Supervisor Christina Olesen and Elections Specialists Angela Terry and Linda Buffington, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Commissioner Brooks was present via teleconference.

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Action):**

Canvass of November 8, 2022 General Election – Pursuant to Idaho Code §34-1205

Clerk Jim Brannon remarked that this would be his last Election as Clerk. He complimented Elections Manager Asa Gray and his permanent staff members Elections Supervisor Christina Olesen and Elections Specialists Angela Terry and Linda Buffington. He also praised the temporary workers who returned season after season.

Mr. Gray reported that there were 63,231 votes cast in this Election, for a turnout of about 58.9%, which was about normal for a midterm election. He said that the first Logic and Accuracy tests were done on November 3, 2022, to allow staff more time to hand out supplies to poll workers and open and count absentee ballots. He stated that the test decks were 100% accurate on November 3, again on Election Day and a final time after all the ballots had been run.

Mr. Gray said there were 16,412 absentee ballots cast and 5,311 voters who had taken advantage of In-Person Early Voting at the Elections Office for the two weeks before the Election. He said there were two absentee ballots which were submitted in error by the voters, which were not included in the count. One of these was a photocopied ballot.

Mr. Gray said there had been two balloting errors on absentees, which occurred at one of the five Duplication Boards. He stated that there had been only minor discrepancies on Election Day: poll worker performance had been 99.9% accurate and none of the minor errors would have affected the outcome of any race. He added that there had been 4,246 new voter registrations during Early Voting and on Election Day, with only minor mistakes reported, giving a 93.9% accuracy rate in that area.

Mr. Gray described the circumstances unique to this election which led to it taking longer than usual to report the unofficial findings. He noted that the write-in candidates for Governor, Secretary of State and Kootenai County Assessor were the primary cause.

Clerk Brannon commented that, when he first became Clerk, there had been fewer than 70,000 total registered voters; now, there had been 63,231 votes cast in this election, which was just under 60% of the total registered voters in the County. He explained why the one ballot received that had been photocopied could not ever have passed scrutiny, since it did not have the correct paper weight or identification marks.

Clerk Brannon suggested additional education for voters regarding requesting a fresh ballot if an error was made, rather than trying to cross something out. He stated that this had been seen quite a bit in this Election and it caused a serious delay in the count, since the tabulating machines could not read them. Each one of those had to be examined by the Clerk, then sent to the Duplication Board. He stressed that the Elections staff always focused on accuracy, rather than speed, if a choice had to be made.

Assessor Bela Kovacs entered the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Commissioner Bill Brooks complimented Clerk Brannon on his performance managing Elections during his tenure.

Commissioner Chris Fillios voiced his praise for Clerk Brannon as well. He asked whether there had been any pressure brought to bear on him from people who preferred hand counts versus machine counts.

Clerk Brannon remarked that he disregarded any efforts made to pressure him. He added that some people just did not understand that human error is far more prevalent than machine error, making the machine counts much more reliable.

Chair Duncan also expressed her appreciation of the hard work done by Mr. Gray and his team. She said she had received a great deal of positive feedback from voters about how helpful and kind Elections staff had been.

Commissioner Fillios moved that the Board approve the Canvass of the November 8, 2022 General Election, pursuant to Idaho Code §34-1205. Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Ginorio called the roll:

- Commissioner Fillios: Aye
- Commissioner Brooks: Aye
- Chair Duncan: 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.

An individual identified as "Tunnellord1337" remarked online: "Oh, brother, Article 4 Section 4 says each state is a republic."

E. Adjournment (Action): Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk