

CITY OF CRANSTON  
BOARD OF CANVASSERS  
Election Meeting of November 5, 2024 – OFFICIAL MINUTES

The Cranston Board of Canvassers met on November 5, 2024, in a meeting advertised in accordance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act on September 24, 2024. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Kirk McDonough, at 5:31 a.m. It was held in the Canvassing Authority Office, Room 100, at Cranston City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Piscopiello, Quilcia Moronta (arrived shortly after roll call), Kirk McDonough, Peter Rivelli (voting for Ms. Moronta until 5:33 a.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin Erickson (Board Alternate), Nicholas Lima (Registrar / Director of Elections), Theresa Bucci (Deputy Registrar), Maria Madonna (Election Operations Coordinator), Emerson Brito (Bilingual Elections Specialist), Thomas Rotella (Election Technician), Thomas Lima (Election Technician), Officer PJ Bessette (Cranston Police Election Security Detail Officer), and a Member of the Public who did not wish for their name to be recorded

The chair declared a quorum present.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER (NO VOTES TAKEN)
- II. THE BOARD MAY CERTIFY EMERGENCY MAIL BALLOT APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS § 17-20-10 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- III. THE BOARD MAY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS – 10-15-2024 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- IV. THE CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS WILL CONVENE TO CONDUCT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ELECTION, AND WILL REMAIN IN SESSION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DAY UNTIL THE CLOSE OF BOARD BUSINESS PERTAINING TO THE ELECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS § 17-8-9. THE BOARD MAY HEAR AND CONSIDER ANY ELECTION MATTER THAT REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE RULING OR DETERMINATION. POLLING LOCATIONS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. AT ASSIGNED PRECINCTS. (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- V. ADJOURNMENT (VOTE MAY BE TAKEN)

THE BOARD MAY CERTIFY EMERGENCY MAIL BALLOT APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS § 17-20-10 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. McDonough asked for a motion to approve all emergency mail ballot applications that were processed by the staff and received by the deadline of 4 p.m. on Nov. 4.

MOTION: By Mr. Piscopiello and seconded by Mr. Rivelli to certify all emergency mail ballot applications received by the deadline for the Nov. 5, 2024 Rhode Island General Election in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-10. PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0 – Mr. Piscopiello, Mr. Rivelli, and Mr. McDonough voting aye.

THE BOARD MAY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS – 10-15-2024  
(VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. Lima informed the Board he has not had any time to work on these minutes since Oct. 15 and will prepare and present them to the Board for approval at a future meeting. No vote was taken.

THE CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS WILL CONVENE TO CONDUCT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ELECTION, AND WILL REMAIN IN SESSION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DAY UNTIL THE CLOSE OF BOARD BUSINESS PERTAINING TO THE ELECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS § 17-8-9. THE BOARD MAY HEAR AND CONSIDER ANY ELECTION MATTER THAT REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE RULING OR DETERMINATION. POLLING LOCATIONS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. AT ASSIGNED PRECINCTS.  
(VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. McDonough asked for a motion to enter recess so the Board members can leave to start visiting polling locations.

Mr. Lima informed members of the public present that if at any time the Board needs to reconvene from recess, it will be done so in this office and any members of the public present or waiting in the City Hall lobby will be alerted prior to reconvening. Mr. Lima said if there are no public discussion or actions necessary, the Board will reconvene after the polls close to adjourn once all returns are accounted for and there is a reasonable assumption that there is no need for votes on emergency actions to be taken.

MOTION: By Mr. Piscopiello and seconded by Mr. Rivelli to recess. PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0 – Mr. Piscopiello, Mr. Rivelli, and Mr. McDonough voting aye.

The Board members, Mr. Lima, and field technicians monitored all 27 precinct polling locations throughout the day to respond to any issues, supply shortages, and verify election laws were being complied with. Staff remained in the office to run the election operations center and take calls from voters and poll workers, and oversee operations for the President/Vice President-only and Limited polling places at City Hall.

Mr. Lima placed over 230 signs around the city at the 27 locations prior to Election Day. This included nearly 60 highway cones with poll distance markers and setting up temporary ADA parking at locations that required them, 10 A-Frame voting signs, over 90 VOTE HERE lawn signs, and dozens of laminated and wall signage, including directional arrows and city-created POLLING PLACE signage. Several informational signs were also placed at the Dutemple School and CLCF Gym, as each location was

not being used but were last utilized for the General Election in 2022. All signs were picked up and recovered for inventory and placement in storage after the election.

All polling locations were open for voters at 7 a.m. Back-up poll workers were deployed to locations that had last-minute call-outs of poll workers, but overall nearly all locations were fully staffed.

There were no actions of the Board taken that required the Board to reconvene for a public discussion or vote at City Hall during the election, so the Board remained in recess throughout the day. While in recess, Board members individually visited all polling locations across the city and spoke with poll workers, candidates, and voters. Board members also were tasked with bringing empty ballot boxes and security seals to the moderators at all 27 polling locations.

The Highway Dept. and Parks and Rec. Dept. assisted in placing 50-foot radius chalk lines at all locations prior to the Election Day to keep candidates and campaign staff outside the marker. Building Maintenance and the School Dept. each provided personnel to assist with polling place set-ups the day prior to the election. Cranston Police provided detail officers and patrols at polling locations throughout the day for security. Multiple staff from the City Clerk, Tax Assessor, Purchasing, Information Technology/GIS, and Public Works also assisted Canvassing Authority staff with election operations.

The state BOE had several technicians in the field to respond to issues and ensure compliance. Several issues were noted with the PollPads, which at some locations had difficulty charging due to aging battery bases. Board members and Cranston field staff brought additional extension cords and floor tape to these locations so they could be plugged into wall outlets. Some PollPads had WiFi connectivity issues. Mr. Rivelli drove to the state BOE to pick up replacement MiFi units for these locations, which resolved the issue.

Canvassing Authority staff emptied, secured, and locked the City Hall mail ballot drop box at exactly 8 p.m. Mr. Lima and Mr. McDonough reviewed the state BOE transmission data to ensure all precinct locations properly reported their results. Staff received returns from the polling locations and answered any trouble shooting calls from poll workers.

Early voting reporting transmission was significantly delayed, as the DS-200 vote tabulators had to first print lengthy write-in vote tapes before transmitting. Despite the machines being closed at 8:01 p.m., the tapes took nearly 90 minutes to fully print including requiring the tape rolls to be changed out. Because of this, all other precinct locations reported online results prior to early voting. However, anyone from the public present at early voting was able to receive early voting results shortly after 8 p.m. from the reading and posting of the results tapes, which print prior to write-ins.

At the close of polls, the Board members completed chain of custody documentation to receive mail ballots from polling place receptacles. The Board remained in open session in recess until all returns were received and accounted for from the 27 polling locations and poll workers travelling back to City Hall, and until all results were transmitted and

accounted for and it was clear no public discussions or actions would be necessary prior to closing out Election Day operations.

MOTION: By Mr. Piscopiello and seconded by Ms. Moronta to reconvene from recess at 9:44 p.m.  
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0 – Mr. Piscopiello, Mr. Rivelli, and Mr. McDonough voting aye.

Mr. Lima informed the Board that all election returns had been received at City Hall and were properly accounted for, and no further votes or actions of the Board would be required this evening, and it was now OK to adjourn for the night.

Immediately following adjournment, Mr. Lima transported the physical thumb drives from all vote tabulators and all drop box mail ballots in sealed containers to the RI BOE at Plainfield Pike in Cranston, secured by a multi-vehicle Cranston Police escort. Chain of custody documentation was completed by the state BOE, and all thumb drives and Election Day drop box mail ballots were accounted for.

ADJOURNMENT (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

MOTION: By Mr. Piscopiello and seconded by Ms. Moronta to adjourn.  
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY – VOICE VOTE

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas J. Lima  
Registrar / Director of Elections  
Cranston Board of Canvassers

APPROVED by the Cranston Board of Canvassers: December 5, 2024