

CITY OF CRANSTON
BOARD OF CANVASSERS
Election Meeting of October 3, 2023 – OFFICIAL MINUTES

The Cranston Board of Canvassers met on October 3, 2023, in a meeting advertised in accordance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act on September 6, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, James Donahue, at 6 a.m. It was held in the Canvassing Authority Office, Room 100 at Cranston City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Donahue, Quilcia Moronta

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicholas Lima (Registrar / Director of Elections), Kirk McDonough (Board Alternate), Maria Madonna (Data Entry and Maintenance Specialist), Emerson Brito (Bilingual Elections Specialist)

The Chair declared a quorum present.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER (NO VOTES TAKEN)
- II. THE CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS WILL CONVENE TO CONDUCT THE OCTOBER 3, 2023 CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL WARD 6 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR AN UNEXPIRED TERM, 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. POLLING LOCATIONS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. AT ASSIGNED WARD 6 PRECINCTS. (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- III. ADJOURNMENT (VOTE MAY BE TAKEN)

THE CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS WILL CONVENE TO CONDUCT THE OCTOBER 3, 2023 CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL WARD 6 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR AN UNEXPIRED TERM, 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. POLLING LOCATIONS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. AT ASSIGNED WARD 6 PRECINCTS. (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. Lima provided instructions to the Board on how the election will be conducted throughout the day. Each Board member was also provided equipment and back-up supplies to be used as needed, in addition to inventory and emergency contact lists for the Board's legal counsel, police detail, state election offices and technicians, and all field personnel.

The Board were instructed to complete affidavits of ballot box inspection after the DS-200 voting machines were cleared by poll workers after the close of polls at each precinct and at Cranston City Hall. Two DS-200s were in use at each polling place,

Central Library and the Schofield Armory, with a further three at City Hall for early voting, only one of which was actually used due to the light turnout. The Board also received instructions on the procedure to count and document the quantity of any polling place drop box mail ballots after 8 p.m., to be prepared for transport to the state Board of Elections for certification and tabulation.

Turnout was light at both locations throughout the day, and fairly steady at the Armory as a larger location. Due to the addition of extra poll workers, including 8 supervisors, 2 moderators, 2 clerks, and 2 greeters at the Armory and 6 supervisors, 2 moderators, 1 clerk, and 1 greeter at the Central Library, voters were able to quickly enter the locations to be checked in and vote immediately, without any lines forming.

In the morning, the BOE technician replaced a MiFi device at the Armory in order to get a better signal for the PollPads. It was quite warm in the Armory, so doors were propped open to ensure airflow. A loud overhead HVAC unit was turned off, and party checker tables were moved six feet closer to the supervisors, so that party checkers could better hear the names and addresses of voters. The police detail kept order outside of both polling locations, and provided security for the open and close of the election at City Hall. Unofficial results were received from the BOE less than an hour after polls closed.

Combined polling places were set up with extra privacy booths and exterior directional signage, and signs were placed at all Ward 6 polls not in use. Candidates and their volunteers generally obeyed the 50-foot marked chalk line throughout the day.

There were no major incidents, discussions, or decisions that required the Board to reconvene at City Hall to consider any formal actions while polls were open.

ADJOURNMENT (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

MOTION: By Mr. Donahue and seconded by Mr. McDonough to adjourn.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY – VOICE VOTE

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

APPROVED by the Cranston Board of Canvassers: October 10, 2023