

CITY OF CRANSTON  
BOARD OF CANVASSERS  
Special Meeting of September 12, 2023 – OFFICIAL MINUTES

The Cranston Board of Canvassers met on September 12, 2023, in a meeting advertised in accordance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act on August 31, 2023. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, James Donahue, at 4:07 p.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)

The Chair declared a quorum present.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER (NO VOTES TAKEN)
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 8-10-2023 AND/OR PRIOR MEETINGS – (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. THE BOARD MAY CANVASS THE PRELIMINARY LIST OF CRANSTON VOTERS, HEAR OBJECTIONS TO THE INCLUSION OR OMISSION OF ANY PERSON AS A REGISTERED VOTER, AND MAKE A FINAL CANVASS AND CORRECTION OF THE VOTER LIST FOR THE CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL – WARD 6 SPECIAL ELECTION THAT IS TO TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023 IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS § 17-10-5 ET. SEQ (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
  - B. THE BOARD MAY HEAR AN UPDATE FROM THE REGISTRAR AND DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION REGARDING OPERATIONAL PLANS FOR PREVIOUSLY APPROVED POLLING LOCATIONS; EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES; IN-PERSON EARLY AND EMERGENCY VOTING; MAIL BALLOT APPLICATION PROCESSING; POLLING PLACE SET-UP AND LOGISTICS; POLL WORKER PAY, RECRUITMENT, AND TRAINING; MAIL BALLOT DROP BOXES; AND ELECTION SECURITY (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- V. ADJOURNMENT (VOTE MAY BE TAKEN)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. Lima noted for the record that Alternate Jeffrey Barone is traveling abroad.

MOTION: By Mr. McDonough and seconded by Mr. Donahue to approve the agenda as posted.  
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 2-0 – Ms. Moronta and Mr. Donahue voting aye.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 8-10-2023 AND/OR PRIOR MEETINGS (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. Donahue asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lima asked the Board as part of this motion to authorize him to post final minutes of previous meetings that took place before the current Board members were part of the body.

MOTION: By Mr. McDonough and seconded by Mr. Donahue to approve the minutes of 8-10-2023 and authorize the Registrar to file as final the previous minutes from before the current Board members were appointed.  
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 2-0 – Ms. Moronta and Mr. Donahue voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

A. THE BOARD MAY CANVASS THE PRELIMINARY LIST OF CRANSTON VOTERS, HEAR OBJECTIONS TO THE INCLUSION OR OMISSION OF ANY PERSON AS A REGISTERED VOTER, AND MAKE A FINAL CANVASS AND CORRECTION OF THE VOTER LIST FOR THE CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL – WARD 6 SPECIAL ELECTION THAT IS TO TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023 IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS § 17-10-5 ET. SEQ (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. Lima explained the purpose of the final canvass process to the Board, and that it is the duty of the Board to meet 21 days prior to an election to canvass and certify the official voting list that will be used, as prepared by the staff of the Canvassing Authority office. Mr. Lima said some registrations were received after the deadline via the mail and from state agencies, as is allowed by law, and were processed. He has posted a preliminary list and a final canvass list, and asked the Board to vote to certify and sign off on the final canvass list.

No voters appeared to challenge the inclusion or omission of any person as a registered voter, nor were any written challenges filed with the office as of the 4 p.m. deadline.

Mr. Lima said the list includes 8,910 voters, including 2,637 Democrats, 1,418 Republicans, 4,855 Unaffiliated, 8,157 Active voters, 139 Active with NCOA Change, 589 Inactive, and 25 Pending.

MOTION: By Mr. McDonough and seconded by Ms. Moronta to canvass and certify the final list of registered voters eligible to vote in the Cranston City Council – Ward 6 Special Election that is to take place on Tuesday, October 3, 2023.  
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 2-0 – Ms. Moronta and Mr. Donahue voting aye.

Mr. Lima shared the official election notice with the Board for them to sign. The list will be kept as a permanent record on a thumb drive and on the city server. Mr. Lima noted that the meeting notice for the final canvass was posted in accordance with law physically and online more than 10 days prior to the meeting, as well as prominently on the city website homepage.

**B. THE BOARD MAY HEAR AN UPDATE FROM THE REGISTRAR AND DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION REGARDING OPERATIONAL PLANS FOR PREVIOUSLY APPROVED POLLING LOCATIONS; EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES; IN-PERSON EARLY AND EMERGENCY VOTING; MAIL BALLOT APPLICATION PROCESSING; POLLING PLACE SET-UP AND LOGISTICS; POLL WORKER PAY, RECRUITMENT, AND TRAINING; MAIL BALLOT DROP BOXES; AND ELECTION SECURITY (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)**

Mr. Lima asked if the Board had any questions on the operational plans for the election. He noted that early voting begins tomorrow morning, which is also when the mail ballot drop box will be open 24/7.

Mr. Lima said in terms of poll worker pay, it was previously decided to pay supervisors and greeters \$200 for Election Day, and moderators and clerks \$250, for the Special Election, each representing an increase in pay of \$25 over 2022 rates. In reflecting the increasing state minimum wage, the number of total hours of work often exceeding 17 to 20 hours including mandatory training classes, the difficulty in recruiting and retaining poll workers, and the fact that multiple other communities are increasing pay rates to these same \$200/\$250 levels, that the Board vote to support his request to make these new rates permanent for future elections.

MOTION: By Mr. McDonough and seconded by Ms. Moronta to approve the agenda as posted.  
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 2-0 – Ms. Moronta and Mr. Donahue voting aye.

Mr. Lima reminded the Board that they will need to convene at 6 a.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, October 3 in the office in order to officially open and conduct election operations. He said Board members will be expected to visit and oversee both Ward 6 polling places all throughout the day. If any issues arise that require a formal action or discussion from the Board, the Board will need to return to the office to conduct that discussion and vote publicly. The Board may adjourn once all returns from the polls are brought back to the office and accounted for, likely around 9 p.m.

He said that the next morning at 11 a.m., the Board will need to reconvene to adjudicate provisional ballots and tabulate write-ins. With just two polls, Mr. Lima said he doesn't expect that process to take much more than a couple of hours.

If recounts are filed, which candidates have seven days to do following the election, Mr. Lima will notify the Board, which may be present at the state Board of Elections to view their conduct. Mr. Lima said he has arranged for police details to transport any live mail ballots, provisional ballots, and/or recount ballots from City Hall to the BOE.

ADJOURNMENT (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 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