

CITY OF CRANSTON
BOARD OF CANVASSERS
Election Meeting of June 4, 2024 – OFFICIAL MINUTES

The Cranston Board of Canvassers met on June 4, 2024, in a meeting advertised in accordance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act on May 6, 2024. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Kirk McDonough, at 6:20 a.m. It was held in the Canvassing Authority Office, Room 100, at Cranston City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Piscopiello, Quilcia Moronta, Kirk McDonough, Peter Rivelli (Voting for Ms. Moronta after 8:30 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicholas Lima (Registrar / Director of Elections), Theresa Bucci (Canvassing Aide), Maria Madonna (Data Entry and Maintenance Specialist), Emerson Brito (Bilingual Elections Specialist), Lou Pezzullo (Cranston Police)

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 JUNE 4, 2024 CRANSTON SPECIAL REFERENDUM 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)
- III. THE BOARD MAY CERTIFY EMERGENCY MAIL BALLOT APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS § 17-20-10 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- IV. THE BOARD MAY APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS – 5-14-2024 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- V. THE BOARD WILL CONVENE AFTER THE CLOSE OF POLLING LOCATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE DISPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS CAST DURING THE CRANSTON SPECIAL REFERENDUM ELECTION OF JUNE 4, 2024, IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS § 17-19-24.3 AND 410-RICR-20-00-13 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)
- VI. ADJOURNMENT (VOTE MAY BE TAKEN)

THE CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS WILL CONVENE TO CONDUCT THE JUNE 4, 2024 CRANSTON SPECIAL REFERENDUM 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 and Mr. Lima monitored parking and traffic at Cranston East from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. due to school being in session while polls were open. The Board also monitored the situation at East during bus pick-up in the afternoon. No issues were reported. Canvassing Authority staff placed 20 parking cones along Park Ave along the bus port to facilitate voter parking.

Turnout across the city was exceptionally light, at less than 4%. Some polling locations had incorrect supplies provided by the state Board of Elections, including the wrong-sized ExpressVote blank ballot cards. These issues were remedied quickly in the morning by BOE technicians who provided working cards and replacement supplies.

Extra signage was placed at all polling locations due to the combinations. Multiple signs were also emplaced at all 22 locations not in use by Mr. Lima. An extra greeter was assigned at Hope Church due to the construction there requiring the use of a side entrance. The National Guard was undergoing training at Schofield Armory, however Mr. Lima prearranged with Guard officers for all military personnel to park their vehicles at a nearby city park for the day. Because of these mitigations, there were no issues reported at the polling locations on Election Day.

There were no actions of the Board taken that required the Board to reconvene for a discussion or vote at City Hall during the election. Board members visited polling locations throughout the day.

At the close of polls, Board members inspected mail ballot receptacles transported back to City Hall to verify there were no mail ballots inside of them.

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 certify the emergency mail ballot applications.

MOTION: By Mr. Rivelli and seconded by Ms. Moronta to certify all emergency mail ballot applications received by the deadline for the June 4, 2024 Cranston Special Referendum Election in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-10. PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 2-0 – Ms. Moronta and Mr. McDonough voting aye.

THE BOARD MAY APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS – 5-14-2024 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. Lima said no minutes were ready to be voted on at this time and will be prepared for the next meeting.

THE BOARD WILL CONVENE AFTER THE CLOSE OF POLLING LOCATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE DISPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS CAST DURING THE CRANSTON SPECIAL REFERENDUM ELECTION OF JUNE 4, 2024, IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.I. GEN. LAWS § 17-19-24.3 AND 410-RICR-20-00-13 (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

Mr. Piscopiello arrived at 7 p.m. due to a professional obligation earlier in the day.

Due to the late hour and the need to organize returns and forms from the polling locations prior to processing provisionals, the Board chose to not adjudicate provisional ballots at this time. A meeting was previously posted for 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5 in expectation of that possibility.

Ms. Moronta had to attend to a personal matter and left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

The Board remained in open session until all returns were received and accounted for from the six polling locations and poll workers back at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT (VOTES MAY BE TAKEN)

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

APPROVED by the Cranston Board of Canvassers: June 11, 2024