

CITY OF CRANSTON
BOARD OF CANVASSERS
Special Meeting of June 5, 2024 – OFFICIAL MINUTES

The Cranston Board of Canvassers met on June 5, 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 5:00 p.m. It was held in the Canvassing Authority Office, Room 100, at Cranston City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Piscopiello, Quilcia Moronta, Kirk McDonough

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Rivelli (Board Alternate), Nicholas Lima (Registrar / Director of Elections), Theresa Bucci (Canvassing Aide)

The chair declared a quorum present.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER (NO VOTES TAKEN)
- II. THE BOARD MAY CONVENE 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)
- III. ADJOURNMENT (VOTE MAY BE TAKEN)

THE BOARD MAY CONVENE 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. McDonough said there are six provisional ballots for the Board to adjudicate. Mr. Lima said we have all six election certificates and discrepancy reports from the polling locations to verify the number of provisionals and see if any notes related to them are marked on the reports.

MOTION: By Ms. Moronta and seconded by Mr. Rivelli to qualify or disqualify all provisional ballots adjudicated by unanimous consent.
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 4-0 – Ms. Moronta, Mr. Piscopiello and Mr. McDonough voting aye.

Ms. Bucci reviewed each of the provisional ballots with the Board and explained the situations and facts pertaining to each provisional. The Board qualified two provisional ballots, and disqualified four provisionals. Two of the six precinct polling locations had no provisionals at all.

There were no objections from Board members regarding the determination made by staff on the six provisional ballots, and all dispositions were passed by unanimous consent.

Mr. Lima noted that he checked with the state Board of Elections, and state law prevents the Board from qualifying provisional ballots cast at the wrong polling location, even though the ballot style was uniform throughout the city. Mr. Lima said this is nonsensical, and state law should be amended, because there's no valid reason to disqualify a provisional ballot that is identical to the voter's correct ballot simply because it was cast in the wrong location and has a different precinct identifier. In a statewide election, these ballots would have been counted for federal officers only.

Mr. Lima said he will discuss this issue with state election officials and consider proposing legislation in 2025 to allow provisionals to be qualified if the voter's ballot style in the same city or town is identical. This could apply to local special elections like we had on June 4, as well as to statewide special elections or the Presidential Preference Primary where, in Cranston and in most other communities except Providence, ballot styles are likewise uniform across the city. The Board members agreed that would be a good solution to remedy this issue, and regretted the need to disqualify some provisional ballots that could have otherwise been counted.

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 5:04 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