

CITY OF CRANSTON
BOARD OF CANVASSERS
Special Meeting of June 3, 2020 – APPROVED MINUTES

The Cranston Board of Canvassers met on June 3, 2020, in a meeting advertised in accordance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act on May 29, 2020. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Randall Jackvony, at 12:24 p.m. It was held in the Canvassing Department Office, Room 100, at Cranston City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Randall Jackvony, Gary Vierra, Fred Joslyn

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicholas Lima (Registrar / Director of Elections), Alice Petrone (Alternate, Ex-Officio), Theresa Bucci (Canvassing Aide), Maria Madonna (Data Entry & Maintenance Specialist), Emerson Brito (Elections Assistant)

The chair declared a quorum present.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 5-7-2020 AND 5-12-2020
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. THE CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS WILL CONVENE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE DISPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS CAST IN CRANSTON DURING THE RHODE ISLAND PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION OF JUNE 2, 2020
 - B. THE CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS WILL TABULATE WRITE-IN VOTES CAST IN CRANSTON DURING THE RHODE ISLAND PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION OF JUNE 2, 2020
- V. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Jackvony asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION: By Mr. Vierra and seconded by Mr. Joslyn to approve the agenda as posted.
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jackvony asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 7, 2020. Mr. Lima said the May 12, 2020 minutes were not yet available for review and would be on the agenda for approval at a future meeting.

MOTION: By Mr. Vierra and seconded by Mr. Joslyn to approve the meeting minutes of 5-7-2020.

PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0

NEW BUSINESS

A. THE CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS WILL CONVENE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE DISPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS CAST IN CRANSTON DURING THE RHODE ISLAND PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION OF JUNE 2, 2020

The Board reviewed 72 provisional ballots cast at the two Cranston vote centers, 0711 Western Hills Middle School and 0727 Scottish Rite Masonic Lodge. Ms. Bucci presented the provisional ballots to the Board that had been reviewed by the office.

Ms. Bucci and Ms. Madonna presented context from their research on provisionals to the Board whenever there were questions. The Board qualified and disqualified ballots by unanimous consent, depending on the individual circumstances related to each ballot.

Uniquely to this election, because there were only two polling locations in the city and Board members were present at each location continuously throughout the day, the Board members were already familiar with many of the individual provisional ballots they were now adjudicating.

In one instance, the Board members disagreed on the qualification for a ballot related to whether the signature on the ballot application, for Natasha DeJesus, matched the signature on file in the Central Voter Registration System. Discussion ensued. Ms. Madonna presented the Board with signatures on file from the system.

Mr. Joslyn felt the signatures do not look the same. Mr. Vierra said there are similarities, and some of the differences may be due to the electronic pad signature. He felt caution should side with the voter on this matter.

MOTION: By Mr. Jackvony and seconded by Mr. Vierra to count Natasha DeJesus's provisional application as a Full Ballot based on signature match.
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 2-1 – Mr. Joslyn voted No.

The Board continued to adjudicate provisional ballots by unanimous consent based on the facts of the individual applications and voter registration data.

Because the state Board of Elections had not yet completed certification of its received mail ballots from the predominantly mail ballot primary, provisionals that were cast who were marked as also having voted by mail could not be adjudicated. Mr. Lima suggested to the Board that any other issues that could affect the qualification of those provisionals be adjudicated now, and the Board grant the office staff the authority to qualify the remainder upon receipt from the state Board of Elections of whether or not a ballot was received for those voters, as that is not subject to discretion.

Mr. Vierra asked if there is a certification for this election that the Board signs. Mr. Lima said there is not. Mr. Jackvony clarified that if both the eligible party of the voter matches and the status of whether a mail ballot was received is known, then the staff would have the authority granted by the Board to qualify or disqualify the remaining provisionals once the Board of Elections provides this information, that being a non-discretionary matter.

MOTION: By Mr. Jackvony and seconded by Mr. Vierra to, for the remainder of mail ballot-related provisionals, if after investigation, staff determines the Board of Elections did not receive a mail ballot, and the voter is eligible for the party applied for on the provisional application, the provisional will be counted as a Full Ballot, and otherwise disqualified, and if any fall outside of these narrow parameters, the provisionals will be referred back to the Board of Canvassers to determine final disposition.
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE by Mr. Joslyn: To clarify, there were 72 total provisional ballots adjudicated by the Board today.

B. THE CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS WILL TABULATE WRITE-IN VOTES CAST IN CRANSTON DURING THE RHODE ISLAND PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION OF JUNE 2, 2020

The Board reviewed the write-ins for President and tabulated them for the record and for the state Board of Elections. Mr. Lima reminded the Board that the state's regulations instruct tabulations to include write-ins that have similar nicknames together, provided that the last names are the same and the voter intent is clear.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Mr. Joslyn and seconded by Mr. Jackvony to adjourn.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY – VOICE VOTE

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

APPROVED by the Cranston Board of Canvassers: December 1, 2020