

BEDFORD COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD Vote Canvass November 3-6, 2021.

Electoral Board members Chair Janeta Dudley, Vice Chair Carleen Bowyer, Secretary Mike Waldmann, and General Registrar Barbara Gunter were present. Others present were Assistant Chief of Precinct 302 Janet Carter to assist in the vote canvass and members of the public to observe.

The Electoral Board met to:

- Canvass the vote from the November 2, 2021 general election.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dudley at 1:00 p.m.

Due to Election night running into the early morning hours GR Gunter did not have sufficient time to research provisional ballots. GR Gunter asked if we could address any provisional votes for persons in attendance that wanted to speak in regard to their provisional ballot and postpone review of the remaining provisional ballots until she has had time to complete her research. Chair Dudley asked if there was anyone present who wanted to speak to the Board about their provisional ballot. There being none, Vice Chair Bowyer made a motion to postpone Provisional Ballot review until GR Gunter had completed her research. Sec. Waldmann seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At 1:10 p.m. the Board began reviewing Statement of Results (SORs) for each precinct. The Board reviewed the Statement of Results (SOR), Electronic Poll Book tapes, and Vote Scanning Machine tapes with appropriate numbers being recorded for each precinct. All results were recorded on three separate result forms. Any discrepancies discovered on precinct Statement of Results were resolved and appropriate comments made on the respective SOR. The Electoral Board also reviewed write-in vote tapes where write-in votes exceeded 10% of the total vote for each respective office.

Due to having one School Board Districts with no candidate names on the ballot and two School Board Districts with active write-in campaigns School Board votes for local Districts 2 and 3 had significant numbers of write-in votes. This resulted in thousands of write-in votes which needed to be counted and grouped by write-in names.

The Board Began with Precinct 203 as the Chief of that precinct was leaving town the following day. After completing Precinct 203 the Board moved on to Precinct 201 and completed review of that precinct at 4:20 p.m.

4:30 p.m. After some discussion the Board decided to adjourn for the day. Vice Chair Bowyer moved that the Board adjourn for the day and resume the canvass the following day at 10:00 a.m. Sec. Waldmann seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Chair Dudley declared the canvass in recess until the following morning.

November 4th, 2021 at 10:15 a.m. The board reconvened and Chair Dudley declared the canvass back in session. Electoral Board members Chair Janeta Dudley, Vice Chair Carleen Bowyer, Secretary Mike Waldmann, and General Registrar Barbara Gunter were present. Others present were Assistant Chief of Precinct 302 Janet Carter to assist in the vote canvass and members of the public to observe. The Board resumed the vote canvass with Precinct 202.

11:45 a.m. The Board determined that the SORs and machine report print-outs for Precinct 205 were not in the proper envelope. Janet Carter was sent to the Clerk of Courts to make copies of the SOR from Envelope 2A, the public record held by the Clerk of Courts. The Board continued reviewing the write-in tape for Precinct 205.

13:01 p.m. The Board completed its review of all SORs and write-in tapes for Local District 2. During review of the write-in tapes the Board determined that in the race for School Board District 2, voters had indicated their vote by sometimes writing in the first name only or the last name only and sometimes using both first and last names, in addition there was evidence that portions of their write-ins were outside of the write-in box identified on the ballot. In view of the fact that in no race did write-in candidates have similar or the same first or last names the Board acknowledged it was their duty to determine voter intent. Sec. Waldmann made a motion that write-in votes using the first or last names or the first and last name together of a known candidate should be grouped together to determine the total vote for that candidate and furthermore that this determination should apply equally and fairly to all write-in candidates. Vice Chair Bowyer seconded the motion which passed unanimously. All write-in votes were counted consistently by this policy.

The Board resumed the canvass with Precinct 301.

1:50 p.m. Vice Chair Bower moved that the canvass go into recess for lunch. Sec. Waldmann seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Chair Dudley declared the canvass in recess for lunch.

2:20 p.m. The Board returned and Chair Dudley declared the canvass back in session. The Board resumed its review of Precinct 301 returns.

5:30 p.m. Having completed the review of Precinct 304 Vice Chair Bowyer moved that the Board go into recess until the following day at 10:00 a.m. Sec. Waldmann seconded the motion which passed unanimously and Chair Dudley declared the Board in recess until the following morning.

November 5th, 2021 at 10:40 a.m. The Board reconvened and Vice Chair Bowyer declared the vote canvass back in session. Electoral Board members, Chair Janeta Dudley, Vice Chair Carleen Bowyer, Secretary Mike Waldmann, and General Registrar Barbara Gunter were present. Others present were Assistant Chief of Precinct 302 Janet Carter to assist in the vote canvass and members of the public to observe.

The Board continued the canvass by reviewing the results for Precinct 305.

12:10 p.m. The Board completed its review of Precinct 306 results completing all precincts in Local District 3.

12:20 p.m. The Board determined that there were 5,141 votes for School Board in Local District 4 with 303 write-in votes. With write-in votes less than 10% of the total vote, the Board determined it was not necessary to review the write-in tapes for Local District 4 School Board.

2:25 p.m. Vice Chair Bowyer moved that the Board recess for lunch. Sec. Waldmann seconded the motion which passed unanimously and Chair Dudley declared the Board in recess.

2:55 p.m. The Board reconvened and Chair Dudley declared the Board back in session.

5:20 p.m. The Board completed review of all precincts and the Central Absentee Precinct (CAP) Early and Mail-in Vote count, excluding CAP write-in tapes. Vice Chair Bowyer moved that the Board go into recess until 10:00 a.m. the following morning. Sec. Waldmann seconded the motion which passed unanimously and Chair Dudley declared the Board in recess until the next morning.

November 6th, 2021 at 10:04 a.m. The Board reconvened the vote canvass. Electoral Board members Chair Janeta Dudley, Vice Chair Carleen Bowyer, Secretary Mike Waldmann, and General Registrar Barbara Gunter were present. Others present were Assistant Chief of Precinct 302 Janet Carter to assist in the vote canvass and members of the public to observe.

The Board continued the canvass with the Early and Mail-in Vote write-in tapes from the CAP.

1:10 p.m. The Board completed review of all precincts and the CAP. Public observers left the canvass as the Board moved on to the Provisional Ballot meeting.

All members of the canvass verified that the Provisional Ballot Box was empty and then locked. The board began by reviewing and considering provisional ballots cast during the election from each precinct. Provisional Ballots that had been researched to determine qualification to vote were acted on by the Board with a decision to count the ballot or reject the ballot. The board indicated action taken on the provisional vote log and back of the Provisional Ballot envelope 2A from each precinct. Provisional ballots approved for counting were placed in the locked ballot box for later counting.

3:45 p.m. The Board completed its review of all Provisional Ballots. The Provisional Ballot box was unlocked and all votes within the Provisional Ballot box were manually counted. All members of the canvass verified that the Provisional Ballot box was empty at the end of the process.

Provisional ballot SORs for the 5th and 6th Congressional Districts were completed and placed in an envelope #2. Counted Provisional ballots were separated by Congressional District and placed in separate envelopes with a #3 label for counted ballots.

4:45 p.m. With the Canvass now complete, Vice Chair Bowyer moved that the EB vote canvass be adjourned. Waldmann seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote. Chair Dudley asked Registrar Gunter to prepare the Vote Abstracts for signature and declared the Canvass complete and adjourned the meeting of the Electoral Board.

Steven M. Waldmann
Secretary, Electoral Board