

MIAMI BEACH

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH NOVEMBER 16, 2021 RUN-OFF ELECTION

CANVASSING BOARD MEETING AFTER-ACTION

November 15, 2021
Office of the Supervisor of Elections
2700 NW 87th Avenue
Miami, FL 33172

Canvassing Board Members:

Honorable Raul Cuervo, County Court Judge	Present
Judy Hoanshelt, Qualified Miami Beach Elector	Present
Rafael E. Granado, City of Miami Beach City Clerk	Present

Substitute and Alternate Members:

Honorable Lizzet Martinez, County Judge	Absent
Farosha Andasheva, Qualified Elector	Present

Staff to Canvassing Board:

Jean Olin, Esq., Outside Counsel	Present
Regis Barbou, Executive Office Associate II	Present

Elections Staff:

Elizabeth Prieto - Elections Coordination Manager, Miami-Dade County Elections	Present
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Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Approval to commence Vote-by-Mail ballot opening, processing, and duplication.

The Miami Beach Run-Off Election Canvassing Board (Canvassing Board), composed of Raul Cuervo, County Court Judge; Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk; and Judy Hoanshelt, Qualified Miami Beach Elector, authorized the Miami-Dade Elections Department staff to commence the Vote-by-Mail opening, processing, and duplication.

2. Vote-by-Mail ballot opening and processing.

Miami-Dade Elections staff, in the presence of the Canvassing Board, opened the valid Vote-by-Mail ballots.

3. Canvassing of presumed invalid Vote-by-Mail ballots.

Elizabeth Prieto, Elections Coordination Manager, notified the Canvassing Board that as of November 15, 2021, 2,626 Vote-by-Mail ballots had been processed. Of which, 2,612 were deemed valid and 14 were presumed invalid. The alleged deficiencies for said Vote-by-Mail ballots are:

Signature does not match	13
Voters precinct not voting	1
Total Amount	14

Jean Olin, Attorney representing the Canvassing Board, explained to the Canvassing Board, before reviewing the 14 presumed invalid Vote-by-Mail ballots, that signatures declared not matched must be determined by a majority vote of the Canvassing Board and beyond a reasonable doubt.

Ms. Prieto explained to the Canvassing Board that 13 Vote-by-Mail ballots were determined by the Miami-Dade County Elections Department Vote-by-Mail Section that the signatures on the Vote-by-Mail Voter Certificate did not match what is on file at the Miami-Dade Elections Department. Of the 13 Vote-by-Mail ballots, 2 Vote-by-Mail ballots were unanimously accepted by the Canvassing Board as matching the signature in the voter registration system and 1 Vote-by-Mail ballot was accepted by a majority of the Canvassing Board as matching the signature in the voter registration system (Vote: 2-1; Against: Judge Cuervo). The 3 Vote-by-Mail ballots were marked across the face of the envelope "Accepted as Legal" by Judge Cuervo. The remaining 10 Vote-by-Mail ballots were unanimously "soft rejected" by the Canvassing Board, as not matching the signature in the voter registration system beyond a reasonable doubt.

Ms. Prieto stated that until 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd day after an election, the Supervisor of Elections will allow an elector who has returned a Vote-by-Mail ballot that does not include the elector's signature or has a signature mismatch to complete and submit an affidavit to cure the unsigned or signature mismatch Vote-by-Mail ballot. The elector shall provide identification to the Supervisor and must complete a Vote-by-Mail Ballot Cure Affidavit. As such, the Vote-by-Mail ballots that the Canvassing Board deemed that the signatures did not match could only receive a "soft reject" at this time.

Ms. Prieto explained to the Canvassing Board that 1 of the voters who returned a Vote-by-Mail ballot had subsequently to receiving their Vote-by-Mail ballot, but before the voted Vote-by-Mail ballot had been received by the Elections Department, registered to vote in a location outside the City of Miami Beach, and thus not illegible to vote in the November 16, 2021 Miami Beach Run-Off Election. The Canvassing Board unanimously rejected the 1 Vote-by-Mail Ballots with a voter currently not registered in a precinct in Miami Beach. This 1 Vote-by-Mail ballot was marked across the face of the envelope "Rejected as Illegal" by Judge Cuervo.

Ms. Ollin commented that the Canvassing Board's action in rejecting the ballot of the voter whose precinct was not voting was consistent with the actions the Board took during the General and Special Elections of November 2, 2021.

Below is a summary of the Canvassing Board's action:

	Presented to the Canvassing Board	Accepted as Valid by the Canvassing Board
Signature Does Not Match	13	3
Voters Precinct Not Voting	1	0
Total Amount	14	3

4. Duplication of ballots.

Miami-Dade Elections personnel showed the Canvassing Board 1 ballot that had been marked by the voter in a way that the electronic vote-counting equipment could not properly count the

ballot. The Canvassing Board first looked at the entirety of each ballot for consistency to determine whether the voters had made a definite choice in a contest. After unanimously determining that voter intent was clear in the race for which the voting equipment could not detect voter intent in the ballot, the Canvassing Board oversaw the duplication of the ballot.

Ms. Olin reminded the Canvassing Board and staff not to discuss with anyone the vote seen today during the duplication of the ballot until tabulation is complete on Election night.

Canvassing Board Meeting concluded at 3:51 p.m.

Name Badges - Florida Statute 102.141(9) requires that each member, substitute member, and alternate member of the Canvassing Board and all clerical help must wear identification badges during any period in which the Canvassing Board is canvassing votes or engaging in other official duties. The identification badges should be worn in a conspicuous and unobstructed area and include the name of the individual and his or her official position. Judge Raul Cuervo, Rafael E. Granado, Judy Hoanshelt, Farosha Andasheva, Jean Olin, Esq., and Regis Barbou wore their identification badge while engaging in their official duties.

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