



**SKAGIT COUNTY
CANVASSING BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES¹**

DRAFT MINUTES

If Regarding Election Date/Type: N/A General Primary Special Election
Date

Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday 7/12/2022 12:30 PM
Day of week Date Time

Meeting Location: Skagit County Auditor's Office
Skagit County Administration Building, Room 201
700 S. Second Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

MINUTES

Start time: 12:32 PM **End time:** 12:43 PM

1. Members / County Staff Present:

- Auditor Designee: Sandy Perkins
- Commissioner Designee: Peter Browning
- Prosecutor Designee: Melinda Miller

County Staff: Gabrielle Clay
Emily Humbert

Commenters: Darryl Fuzzle*
Cody Hart

Number of citizens choosing not to identify themselves: _____

*unsure of the spelling of citizen's last name.

¹ Minutes of regular and special meetings must be promptly recorded and open to public inspection. (The statute does not specify any particular kind of "recording.") RCW 42.30.035

2. Issues Addressed:

CANVASSING BOARD MANUAL AMENDMENTS

Attendees introduce themselves:

Sandra Perkins, Skagit County Auditor and Chair of Canvassing Board; **Gabrielle Clay**, Elections Supervisor; **Emily Humbert**, Elections Administrator; **Peter Browning**, Chair of County Commissioners; **Melinda Miller**, Chief Deputy Civil Prosecuting Attorney.

Allowing public comment after board approval of amended rules. Three minutes per person for public comment.

Gabrielle provides recap to changes of Canvassing Board rules: updates to a few laws that have changed; data updated; additionally, added in some more specific rules on ballot duplication and audit of duplication. Those are majority of changes. Small grammar changes as well.

Sandra Perkins, Melinda Miller and Peter Browning all confirm they have had a chance to review a draft of the amended canvassing board manual. No questions from board members regarding draft.

Sandra moves to adopt amended rules as opposed. All in favor say aye. Three ayes, no opposition. Motion carries.

Sandra reads Delegation of Authority. See copy of delegation for details. Mel wants to confirm if this is a separate matter, but it goes along with amended rules; this is on the meeting agenda and is the implementation of the rules. Sandra proceeds to read the Delegation of Authority.

Reading of delegation completed. Sandra Perkins signs, Melinda Miller signs, Peter Browning signs acceptance of canvassing board amendments at 12:38 PM.

Board allows for public comments for anyone who would like to speak; three minutes per person.

3. Questions or Comments:

Darryl Fussle (sp?) asks: was there a public meeting in which these amendments to the canvassing board manual were discussed?

Sandra does not answer question but affirms this is a time for public comment, not questions. Darryl may have the remainder of his time to comment. Darryl replies, does not have anything else to say if there is no answer to his question; this is just a display the board wants the public to hear.

Cody Hart of Sedro-Woolley, WA. Bringing to canvassing board's attention email chain of April 4th 2022. He was first person to communicate with canvassing board in formal capacity. Publicly available records of past canvassing have found that Sandra Perkins did not document duped ballots in Nov. 2020 General Election. This is a violation of law. Also points out that following the 2020 election, processes have changed within canvassing process to eliminate tracking of UOCAVA ballots that were duped. That process should be reinstated. The canvassing board's refusal to require employees to categorize duped ballots is lack of disclosure to public and sheds doubt on Elections Office management. Also, nowhere in revised version of canvassing board manual has he seen that canvassing board indicated to election

office members that they are not to allow ballots to be accepted that do not have verification of the date the ballot was cast. In 2020 and 2021 he has seen proof that ballots were accepted without any time stamp on them, enough to turn over half the races in the county. This board is neglecting its duty. Add a section to the canvassing board manual to inform the public on proper process to address these violations of statute in the canvassing board manual. Regarding significant email chain from April 4th he has yet to get a response. He has identified laws that were broken. You are disenfranchising voters and neglecting your duty, you cannot ignore this; you are an elected official and you should step down/resign if you cannot do your duty. These are overseas and military members being disenfranchised.

Cody Hart also asks if Melinda Miller or Rich Weyrich is the canvassing board member.

Sandra responds that Melinda has been delegated to fill in for Mr. Weyrich.

Sandra Perkins adjourns meeting at 12:43 PM

4. Other Minutes:

n/a

5. Approval of Minutes from Meeting will occur at next canvassing board meeting

6. Meeting Adjourned



**SKAGIT COUNTY
CANVASSING BOARD
DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

The Skagit County Canvassing Board, pursuant to RCW 29A.60.140, hereby authorizes the full-time regular election staff of the Skagit County Auditor's Office ("election staff"), and temporary personnel hired by the Auditor as needed, to act as our representatives. Their duties shall be to examine the postmark, receipt mark, date of oath, and statement on the outer envelope containing the ballot, and to verify that the voter's signature thereon is the same as that on the voter registration record. These duties may be done prior to Election Day. These same representatives will also make determinations as to the disposition of the provisional and challenged ballots, i.e. proper voter registration, proper address, proper precinct, and whether or not the ballot should be submitted to the Canvassing Board for further action. The election staff are authorized to process and tabulate ballots and to supervise and assist temporary personnel, as directed by the Auditor.

All of the above delegated authority is to be exercised under the supervision of the Skagit County Auditor in accordance with the Administrative Rules adopted by the Canvassing Board and administrative regulations of the Secretary of State.

All issues which cannot be resolved to a reasonable certainty by supervisory personnel shall be decided by the Canvassing Board. This delegation of authority by the Canvassing Board for opening and subsequent processing of ballots shall begin upon receipt of returned ballots for any special, primary, or general election and shall end upon final certification of the elections results, inclusive of all applicable recounts.

This general delegation of authority shall be in effect for each special, primary, and general election held from July 12, 2022 through December 31, 2022

Dated this 12th day of July, 2022 in Mount Vernon, Washington.

Skagit County Canvassing Board

Skagit County Auditor/Designee

Skagit County Commissioner/Designee

Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney/Designee