

CITY OF CRANSTON
BOARD OF CANVASSERS
Election Meeting of November 8, 2022 – APPROVED MINUTES

The Cranston Board of Canvassers met on November 8, 2022, in a meeting advertised in accordance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act on October 9, 2022. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Randall Jackvony, at 6:24 a.m. It was held in the Canvassing Authority Office, Room 100 at Cranston City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Randall Jackvony, Quilcia Moronta, Dolores DiMeo Carroll (Board Alternate – Acting Member)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicholas Lima (Registrar / Director of Elections), Alice Petrone (Board Alternate), Canvassing Staff

The chair declared a quorum present.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. THE CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS WILL CONVENE TO CONDUCT THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ELECTION IN THE CITY OF CRANSTON, AND WILL REMAIN IN SESSION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DAY UNTIL THE CLOSE OF BOARD BUSINESS PERTAINING TO THE ELECTION. POLLING LOCATIONS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. AT ALL PRECINCTS ACROSS THE CITY.
- III. ADJOURNMENT

THE CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS WILL CONVENE TO CONDUCT THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022 RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ELECTION IN THE CITY OF CRANSTON, AND WILL REMAIN IN SESSION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DAY UNTIL THE CLOSE OF BOARD BUSINESS PERTAINING TO THE ELECTION. POLLING LOCATIONS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. AT ALL PRECINCTS ACROSS THE CITY.

Mr. Jackvony, Ms. Moronta, Ms. DiMeo Carroll, and Ms. Petrone joined Mr. Lima and technician Thomas Rotella in the office before deploying as-needed to various polling locations around the city. Staff, including Ms. Bucci, Ms. Madonna, Mr. Brito, and Mr. Lima, arrived at approximately 5 a.m. A city police detail was present throughout the morning.

All 26 Cranston precincts opened on-time at 7 a.m. There was initial confusion at the double Western Hills precinct location about ballots, but was quickly resolved. Several ballots were placed into a manual count envelope to be later tabulated successfully by the Board of Elections.

Turnout was steady but mild throughout the day. Some larger locations, particularly Orchard Farms, Scottish Rite, Park View, Hope Highlands, Scottish Rite, and Edgewood Highlands, saw numbers approaching or exceeding 60%. Across the entire city, turnout overall was in excess of 49% for the 2022 elections. Continued use of mail ballots and early voting resulted in fewer voters at the polls on Election Day.

There was an evening rush at some polls, which were fairly busy between 5 and 6 p.m. before tapering off into the evening; this included Kelley-Gazzerro VFW post, which briefly had a line that reached the door but was resolved within 10 minutes. Throughout the city, no substantial lines or difficulties were observed at any polling locations. Over 250 poll workers did an outstanding job on behalf of the city, and there were fewer call-outs as compared to 2020 despite a recent uptick in COVID-19 cases.

Board members and staff received numerous calls regarding political signage at polling locations. Upon initial direction from the City Solicitor, signs on public property were removed by police details. By the evening, the volume of calls complaining about the existence of – or removal of – campaign signage reached a point where it was distracting from the operations of the election itself. At this time, Mr. Lima advised the Board to cease any requests related to campaign signs so that focus could remain on supporting poll workers and voting operations.

The office staff fielded calls from voters and polling locations and operated the City Hall limited precinct. Any polls in need of extra supplies were provided them by the roving Board members and technicians. There were no significant voting equipment issues that resulted in lines. State technicians responded to any equipment breakdowns or jams quickly and without disruptions.

Mr. Lima remained in regular contact with the state Board of Elections and the Secretary of State's office throughout the day. He visited all 26 precincts in the city prior to polls closing at 8 p.m. Assistance was provided in poll set-ups and breakdowns by the Building Maintenance, Parks and Recreation, Highway, Library, Senior Center, and School Departments. Staff from Purchasing, Assessor's, Personnel, City Clerk, Finance, and the Administration assisted with additional logistics related to the election.

New procedures required the transport of precinct drop box mail ballots to the state Board of Elections along with evening election result returns. The Board members individually inspected each ballot box upon their return to the Canvassing Authority office and signed chain of custody paperwork to that effect.

Mr. Lima arranged for a police escort and transport vehicle to bring those ballots and returns to the BOE for tabulation at approximately 9:45 p.m. Afterwards, Mr. Lima and Mr. Brito retrieved city Vote Here signage and cones from the polling locations to ensure it would not be lost or stolen.

The Board had no actions throughout the day that required convening in the office to take an official vote. Overall, even with redistricting earlier in the year, it was an extremely smooth election and no major issues were reported. Voters by and large went to their correct precincts and there was a normal amount of provisional ballots.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

APPROVED by the Cranston Board of Canvassers: March 22, 2023