

CITY OF CRANSTON
BOARD OF CANVASSERS
Meeting of August 19, 2026 – OFFICIAL MINUTES

The Cranston Board of Canvassers met on August 19, 2026, in a meeting advertised in accordance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act on August 3, 2026. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Kirk McDonough, at 4:37 p.m. It was held in Council Chambers, Third Floor, at Cranston City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anthony Mastantuono, Bill White (for Ms. Moronta), Kirk McDonough

MEMBERS ABSENT: Quilcia Moronta

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Case (Board Alternate), Nicholas Lima (Registrar / Director of Elections), and one member of the public in the gallery

The chair declared a quorum present.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda** (*votes may be taken*)
- II. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings** (*votes may be taken*)
- III. Items for Discussion, Vote, and/or Other Action** (*votes may be taken on all items*)
 - A. The Board may canvass the preliminary list of Cranston voters, hear objections to the inclusion or omission of any person as a registered voter, and make a final canvass and correction of the voter list for the Rhode Island Statewide Primary Election that is to take place on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 17-10-5 and 17-13-1 et. seq (*votes may be taken*)
 - B. The Board may issue its warrant for the September 9, 2026 Rhode Island Statewide Primary Election in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-15-17 (*votes may be taken*)
 - C. The Board may certify all mail ballot applications that are received by the deadline in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-10 (*votes may be taken*)
- IV. Updates from the Registrar / Director of Elections** (*no votes taken on any items*)
 - A. Status of election security and accessibility grant applications
 - B. Update on primary equipment allocations and poll worker staffing
- V. Adjournment** (*vote may be taken*)

I. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda (*votes may be taken*)

Mr. McDonough asked for a motion to approve the agenda as posted.

MOTION: By Mr. Mastantuono and seconded by Mr. White to approve the agenda as posted.
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0 – Mr. Mastantuono, Mr. White, and Mr. McDonough voting aye.

II. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings (votes may be taken)

Mr. Lima said the minutes of the prior meeting were still being drafted and will be presented to the Board for adoption at the next meeting.

III. Items for Discussion, Vote, and/or Other Action (votes may be taken on all items)

A. The Board may canvass the preliminary list of Cranston voters, hear objections to the inclusion or omission of any person as a registered voter, and make a final canvass and correction of the voter list for the Rhode Island Statewide Primary Election that is to take place on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 17-10-5 and 17-13-1 et. seq (votes may be taken):

Mr. McDonough asked Mr. Lima to give his report on the Final Canvass.

Mr. Lima said the list is also variable and subject to change, and the preliminary list as posted was at 60,011 voters, which included 18,599 Democrats, 9,069 Republicans, and 32,343 Unaffiliated voters. The list includes 53,679 Active voters, 546 who are Active with NCOA Change, 5,400 Inactive, and 386 Pending who are eligible to vote in the Sept. 9, 2026 Statewide Primary Election. The deadline to register to vote was Aug. 10, 2026.

Mr. Lima said no objections or corrections to the Preliminary List were filed with our office as of the 4 p.m. deadline today. Mr. Lima said we followed state law in advertising today's Final Canvass meeting and the posting of the Preliminary List on the city website for beyond the period required by law. The list has been posted at our front counter for public inspection.

MOTION: By Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Mastantuono to certify the Final Canvass for the Sept. 9, 2026 Statewide Primary Election.
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0 – Mr. Mastantuono, Mr. White, and Mr. McDonough voting aye.

B. The Board may issue its warrant for the September 9, 2026 Rhode Island Statewide Primary Election in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-15-17 (votes may be taken)

Mr. Lima said the warrant has been submitted to the Cranston Herald to run twice, which is more than the one time required under state law in order to ensure additional exposure for voters, and will also be posted in multiple public buildings throughout the city and on the city website. He said he included early voting information in the warrant, as well. The warrant lists all polling locations for Sept. 9, including changed locations from 2024. The warrant lists all offices that are on the Primary ballot.

MOTION: By Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Mastantuono to issue the Board's warrant for the Sept. 9, 2026 Statewide Primary Election.
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0 – Mr. Mastantuono, Mr. White, and Mr. McDonough voting aye.

C. The Board may certify all mail ballot applications that are received by the deadline in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-10 (votes may be taken)

Mr. Lima said the certification sheets are awaiting the Board's signature in the office. Today at 4 p.m. was the deadline to submit, and there is also a three-day transmittal period for those that arrive by Monday at 4 p.m. and are postmarked by today.

MOTION: By Mr. Mastantuono and seconded by Mr. White to certify all mail ballot applications received to date.
PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE – 3-0 – Mr. Mastantuono, Mr. White, and Mr. McDonough voting aye.

IV. Updates from the Registrar / Director of Elections (no votes taken on any items)

A. Status of election security and accessibility grant applications

Mr. Lima informed the Board that we have just been awarded two grants: \$20,000 in federal Help America Vote Act funding for election security by the Rhode Island Secretary of State, and \$15,000 from the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence to purchase election equipment to improve our efforts to attain the emergency management standard and improve accessibility for polling locations, including in the event of a disaster. This will include portable radios and generators, among other items and security enhancements.

Mr. Mastantuono asked about the radios. Mr. Lima said he has been working with the Fire Chief on ensuring the radios will be programmed to one of the city's existing frequencies. They would be on the same network used by the Highway Dept. and Transvan, and would allow us to still communicate on Election Day in the event of a cellular network outage, as happened nationally earlier this year with Verizon. Mr. Mastantuono asked how much they cost, and Mr. Lima said the quote he received from the Fire Chief was about \$5,500 for 10 radios with chargers.

Mr. Lima said before the age of cell phones, the Board and election staff used to borrow radios from Highway. This will ensure we have enough even if there is a major weather event that knocks out cell phone tower communications in parts of the city and the existing limited inventory of radios is needed by other city public works personnel and responders, ensuring the election can still operate as smoothly as possible.

Mr. Lima noted that after Hurricane Helene in North Carolina, and other hurricanes that have hit in Florida and other states close to Election Day, having radios and generators along with the appropriate gauge extension cords proved to be essential to keeping polling places running, since elections generally cannot be cancelled because of a disaster. In fact, Mr. Lima noted that in some parts of North Carolina that were significantly impacted by the hurricane in 2024, there were counties that increased their turnout because of how well election officials prepared for a disaster in advance by prepositioning equipment, and then worked closely with Emergency Management Agency personnel to ensure voters could cast their ballots.

B. Update on primary equipment allocations and poll worker staffing

Mr. Lima said the state BOE was able to provide some, but not all of the additional voting booths we requested. Mr. Lima said he is confident we will have sufficient equipment to ensure the Primary runs smoothly. We unfortunately could not be provided with the extra requested PollPad at the early voting site, which limits the upper number of poll workers we can have checking in voters on the busiest days towards the end, however for the Primary, he said he believes this

additional PollPad would have been a fallback but is not critical. The BOE said they did not have sufficient equipment available to meet all of our requests. Mr. Lima said he did add an additional staff member to the early voting crew to ensure there is sufficient coverage on days that some workers indicated they are unavailable due to other commitments or medical appointments.

Mr. Lima said if we were expecting over 1,000 early voters a day like we saw in the General in 2024, he would want the additional PollPad, but three supervisor pairs can handle the volume we are expecting for the Primary even at the high end.

As for Primary staffing for Election Day, he said we are still recruiting, but all of the most important positions are filled. We are still trying to fill some reserve positions, a few greeters, and one or two clerk and moderator positions. The goal is to have at least 20 or 25 back-up poll workers available due to attrition and call-outs, so he has reached out to the local parties and candidates to share, if they chose to, on social media that we are still hiring poll workers. An article is also running in the Cranston Herald.

V. Adjournment (vote may be taken)

MOTION: By Mr. Mastantuono and seconded by Mr. White to adjourn.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY – VOICE VOTE

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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