

**MINUTES OF MEETING
ST. JOHNS COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD
THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026
3:00 PM**

Proceedings of the initial organizational meeting of the Canvassing Board of St. Johns County, Florida, held in the Supervisor of Elections Office, 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101, St. Augustine, Florida.

Present: Honorable Alexander R. Christine, Jr., County Judge, Chair
 Honorable Clay Murphy, County Commissioner
 Honorable Vicky Oakes, Supervisor of Elections
 Honorable Benjamin J. Rich, County Judge, Alternate

Also present: Jennifer Reis, Election Services Specialist; Wayne Fusco, Assistant SOE; Chris Leddy, Chief Deputy; Kelly English, Bailiff

Public Attendance: Nell Toensmann

(07/16/26 – 3:00 PM)
CALL TO ORDER

Judge Christine called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll: Judge Christine, Commissioner Murphy, Supervisor Oakes, and Judge Rich were present.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Supervisor Oakes requested the addition of Item #5 – Canvassing Board Membership
Motion by Murphy, seconded by Rich, carried unanimously to approve the amendment to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve by Murphy, seconded by Oakes, carried unanimously to approve the agenda with addition of Item #5 – Canvassing Board Membership.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

1. CONSIDER AND ADOPT ST. JOHNS COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD GUIDELINES FOR OBSERVERS

Motion by Oakes, seconded by Murphy, carried unanimously to approve the St. Johns County Canvassing Board Guidelines for Observers

2. CONSIDER AND ADOPT ST. JOHNS COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD RULES GOVERNING PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Oakes, carried unanimously to approve the St. Johns County Canvassing Board Rules Governing Public Comment

3. CONSIDER AND ADOPT ST. JOHNS COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD INFORMATION

Motion by Oakes, seconded by Murphy, carried unanimously to approve the St. Johns County Canvassing Board Information

4. DISCUSS CANVASSING BOARD MANUAL

Supervisor Oakes introduced the Canvassing Board Manual and provided the Canvassing Board members with portfolios containing all forms and documents the board will see during the process, as well as an opinion from the Florida Division of Elections, DE 09-07, which has to do with Canvassing Board membership and active participation in a campaign.

5. DISCUSS CANVASSING BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Supervisor Oakes announced that she has spoken to the County Attorney to discuss the potential replacement of Commissioner Whitehurst as an alternate member, noting concern given the current situation, and explained the process for appointment to the Canvassing Board. The St. Johns County Canvassing Board does not have the authority to remove a member. The Board of County Commissioners would notify the Chief Judge of the Circuit to appoint a qualified elector in his stead, so that an alternate is assigned in the circumstance that Commissioner Murphy is unable to attend a Canvassing Board meeting.

6. REMINDER: SIGNATURE VERIFICATION

Supervisor Oakes has received signature verification completion certificates from Judge Christine and Commissioner Murphy and has requested that the clerk resend signature verification training to Judge Rich to be completed by the August 12 Canvassing Board meeting.

The Board discussed the importance of signature verification training, and the process for curing vote-by-mail and provisional ballots. Supervisor Oakes explained the importance of the 93,000 signature letters and applications that were mailed out in late 2025, with a return of about 40,000 updated applications.

ANNOUNCE NEXT MEETING & ADJOURN

(07/16/26 – 3:14 PM)

Supervisor Oakes announced the Public Logic & Accuracy Test, scheduled for July 29, 2026, at 10:00 AM, and requested that one of the judges bring their bailiff when attending the Board meetings, as we need a law enforcement officer present.

(07/16/26 – 3:21PM)

Public attendee Nell Toensmann requested to make a public comment following the discussion of signature changes. Judge Christine allowed the address and explained the process for public comment for future meetings.

Nell Toensmann discussed signature changes and requested Supervisor Oakes reach out to local groups with known signature issues (i.e. Parkinsons groups) to provide signature update forms.

(07/16/26 – 3:24 PM)

With there being no further business to come before the Board, the Chair recommended adjourning the meeting.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Oakes, carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.