

**MINUTES OF MEETING
ST. JOHNS COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026, 9:00 AM**

Proceedings of the Canvass of Vote-by-Mail Ballots, Session 1, 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

Also present: Eddie Creamer, Property Appraiser/Qualified Elector/Alternate; Wayne Fusco, Assistant SOE; Jennifer Reis, Election Services Specialist; Chris Leddy, Chief Deputy; Chase Ellis, IT Coordinator; Shelby Tucker, Vote-by-Mail Coordinator; Pamela Mann, Outreach Coordinator; Joe Sarmiento, GIS Technician; Linda Osborne, HR and Finance Officer; Erika Ward, SOE Staff; Kate Brown, SOE Staff; Anne Meredith Sevcik, SOE Staff; David Boyett, IT Technician; Gale Ashton, SOE Staff; Ken Sparks, Tab Tech; Alan Pouliot, Tab Tech; Walker Burnette, ES&S Staff; Jacqueline Emslie, Tab Tech; Gerry Field, Tab Tech; Ronald Bowen, Tab Tech; Mark Ebling, Tab Tech; Jamie Tio, Tab Tech; Jose Nunez, Tab Tech; Vonda Jewell, Tab Tech; and Kelly English, Bailiff.

Public Attendance: Michelle Spoonhour and Guiseppe Ford (Division of Elections Staff)

(08/12/26 – 9:00 AM)

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Christine called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Oakes, carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

1. CONSIDER APPROVING THE JULY 29, 2026, CANVASSING BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Oakes, carried unanimously to approve the July 29, 2026, Canvassing Board minutes.

2. CONDUCT CANVASSING OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS – SESSION 1

- a. Authorize scanning of early voting ballots cast into independent audit system

The Chair turned the floor over to Supervisor Oakes. Supervisor Oakes welcomed Canvassing Board staff and explained the duties of the Canvassing Board in overseeing the election and spoke about the importance of the 100% audit conducted by St. Johns County. During the process of early voting, ballots cast the day before are cataloged, sealed, brought to the Elections Office and stored in a secure room. The Clear Audit team upstairs, viewable on camera in the tabulation room, was given approval to begin the scanning of early voting ballots cast into the independent audit system so that when vote-by-mail ballots from today's session were ready to be scanned, early voting ballots have already been completed.

- b. Explanation of process by the Supervisor of Elections

Supervisor Oakes stated that there were 7,594 vote-by-mail ballots to be opened and processed. Beginning with housekeeping items, Supervisor Oakes explained the required completion of Ballot Duplication Observer Affidavits Forms by all staff and public in attendance – which states that no one is to discuss what votes may be seen in the meeting or release any election results prior to 7 PM on Election Night, as it is a 3rd degree felony. Supervisor Oakes explained the process as vote-by-mail ballots will be opened by the assigned opening teams, retrieved by staff to deliver to the tabulation teams for tabulation through the DS850 high-speed tabulators, and complete the process upstairs being scanned by the Clear Ballot Audit teams through the Clear Ballot independent audit system.

Supervisor Oakes then explained the process of ballot duplication, and the duty of the Canvassing Board to review and verify duplicated ballots.

IT Coordinator Chase Ellis provided the Canvassing Board with a zero report from the tabulation system for the Board to verify that all tabulators and scanners had a zero count.

Supervisor Oakes turned the floor over to Shelby Tucker, Vote-by-Mail Coordinator, to review the process for handling ballots with the vote-by-mail opening teams.

(08/12/26 – 9:11 AM)

Supervisor Oakes gave the go ahead to begin the opening process. Canvassing Board members verified the zero report against the machines to ensure that all tabulators had a zero count.

- c. Processing of accepted vote-by-mail ballots

d. Scanning of vote-by-mail ballots into independent audit system

Canvassing Board members began the ballot duplication process as needed.

(08/12/26 – 10:04 AM)

Canvassing Board decisions on the following ballots:

Pct. 406, Style U47	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 408, Style C49	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 310, Style F33	Blank ballot	Unanimous decision to duplicate because there was a signature on the ballot
Pct. 206, Style F15	Overvote on County Commission, District 2 Overvote on County Commission, District 4	Unanimous decision that both races were overvoted
Pct. 310, Style C40	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 207, Style U17	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 205, Style C14	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 209, Style F18	No ovals filled in on ballot, extraneous writing	Unanimous decision to duplicate as blank ballot
Pct. 510, Style C66	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 511, Style C67	Overvote on County Commission, District 2	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 408, Style U49	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Ballot #81-10027 Pct. 310, Style U40	Filled in all ovals for U.S. Senate and Representative in Congress, then circled their chosen selection	Unanimous decision to accept the circled selection as intent – Ballot was duplicated based on circled selections
Ballot #81-10025 Pct. 109, Style C9	Pen issue on Representative in Congress	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Hazen (Voter Intent) – Ballot duplicated based on voter intent

(08/12/26 – 10:53 AM)

Canvassing Board decisions on the following ballots:

Pct. 405, Style C46	Two different ballots received in one vote-by-mail envelope (One Pct. 405, Style C46; One Pct. 405, Style F39)	Unanimous decision to reject the vote-by-mail ballot. Stamped rejected and signed by Chair Christine.
Pct. 205, Style U14	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 211, Style U22	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 208, Style U18	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 208, Style U18	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 408, Style U49	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 406, Style U47	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 406, Style U47	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 303, Style U29	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 303, Style U29	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 308, Style U37	Overvote on County Commission, District 2	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 303, Style U29	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 405, Style U46	Overvote on County Commission, District 4	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Ballot #81-10032 Pct. 504, Style C54	Blank for County Commission, District 4	Unanimous decision that it is no vote
Pct. 301, Style U26	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote

(08/12/26 – 11:15 AM)

Canvassing Board decisions on the following ballots:

Pct. 509, Style C64	Overvote on Circuit Judge	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Ballot #81-10046 Pct. 403, Style U44	Voter had writing issues and filled in ovals but made extraneous meteor shaped pen marks on all races Overvote on County Commission, District 4	Unanimous decision that ballot was marked: Moody, Rutherford, Collins, Ingoglia, Simpson, Kendall, Burres, <i>Overvote on County Commission, District 4</i> , Stratis, McClafferty (Duplicated)
Pct. 104, Style U14	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 311, Style U41	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 405, Style U46	Overvote on County Commission, District 4	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 210, Style C21	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 503, Style U53	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 503, Style U53	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 210, Style C21	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Ballot #81-10044 Pct. 510, Style F57	Blank for City of St. Augustine, Seat 4	Unanimous decision for ballot to be duplicated as blank
Ballot #81-10041 Pct. 302, Style C27	Two ovals filled, one crossed out for County Commission, District 2	Unanimous decision to duplicate as vote for Martin Pyszczyk
Pct. 303, Style U29	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 309, Style F32	Overvote on County Commission, District 2	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 303, Style C29	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 506, Style C58	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote

(08/12/26 – 11:38 AM)

Decision on vote-by-mail ballot envelope with voted sample ballot inside. Elections Office staff verified the party, precinct, and style of the sample ballot and confirmed that it was identical to the official vote-by-mail ballot that was mailed to the voter. The voter signed their voter certificate, and the signature was previously verified as valid by staff. The Canvassing Board made the unanimous decision to duplicate and count the ballot. (Pct. 108, Style U8)

(08/12/26 – 11:44 AM)

Supervisor Oakes announced that opening and processing of vote-by-mail ballots had concluded and that the vote-by-mail opening teams can be released for the day.

Canvassing Board decisions on the following ballots:

Ballot #81-10057 Pct. 303, Style U29	Two ovals filled on Governor/Lt. Governor with a cross out on one selection	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Paul Renner (Duplicated)
Pct. 404, Style U45	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 404, Style U45	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 405, Style U46	Overvote on County Commission, District 4	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Ballot #81-10049 Pct. 507, Style U60	Two ovals filled on Governor/Lt. Governor, with a cross out on one selection	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Byron Donalds (Duplicated)
Ballot #81-10054 Pct. 403, Style U44	Voter shakily marked ballot	Unanimous decision to accept votes as: Perry, Kaye, Renner, Collige, Taylor, Kendall, Brofford, Williams, and blank for Circuit Judge, 7 th Judicial Circuit, Group 26, and School Board Member, District 4 (Duplicated)

Ballot #81-10059 Pct. 409, Style C50	Blank for County Commission, District 2	Unanimous decision that it is no vote
Ballot #81-10058 Pct. 309, Style U39	Two ovals filled in with one crossed out with initials for two races: County Commission, District 2, and County Commission, District 4	Unanimous decision to accept votes for Tim Burres and Sam Williams (Duplicated)
Ballot #81-10067 Pct. 205, Style U14	Two ovals filled in with one crossed out for Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Byron Donalds (Duplicated)
Ballot #81-10070 Pct. 507, Style U60	One oval outlined and one oval filled for Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Byron Donalds (Duplicated)
Ballot #81-10071 Pct. 311, Style U41	Two ovals filled in with one crossed out for Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Dotie Joseph (Duplicated)
Ballot #81-10074 Pct. 105, Style C5	Two ovals filled in with one crossed out for Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Dotie Joseph (Duplicated)
Ballot #81-10075 Pct. 306, Style U34	Selection messily marked for U.S. Senator	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Ashley Moody (Duplicated)
Ballot #81-10073 Pct. 309, Style U39	Two ovals filled in with one crossed out for County Commission, District 2	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Timothy Burres (Duplicated)

(08/12/26 – 12:15 PM)

Public attendee Michelle Spoonhour submitted a Ballot Protest to County Canvassing Board Form (Form EN2) to the Board for the sample ballot that was duplicated at 11:38 AM. The Canvassing Board determined the ballot protest was untimely, and there would be no action to be taken as the ballot had already been counted.

ANNOUNCE NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURN

(08/12/2026 – 12:18 PM)

Chair announced the next Canvassing Board meeting for Monday, August 17, 2026, at 2:00 PM. With there being no further business to come before the Board, the Chair recommended adjourning the meeting.

Carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.