

**MINUTES OF MEETING
ST. JOHNS COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026
3:00 PM**

Proceedings of the Canvass of Vote-by-Mail Ballots – Session 3, 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; Jennifer Reis, Election Services Specialist; Wayne Fusco, Assistant SOE; Chris Leddy, Chief Deputy; Chase Ellis, IT Coordinator; Pamela Mann, Outreach Coordinator; Walker Burnette, ES&S Staff; Joe Sarmiento, GIS Technician; David Boyett, IT Technician; Erika Ward, SOE Staff; Maria Alvarez, SOE Staff; Gale Ashton, SOE Staff; and Kelly English, Bailiff.

Public Attendance: Michelle Spoonhour and Lee Samuels

(08/18/26 – 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 Eddie Creamer were present.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Spoonhour addressed the Canvassing Board regarding a challenge made during ballot review, stating she did not feel the S's, the size of the signature, and the pen used represents what is standardly done by the voter. The attendee continued to mention her objections filed at previous

meetings to three duplicated sample ballots, submitting statutes she felt applied to these objections. Supervisor Oakes confirmed that she would be happy to review the information provided.

1. CONDUCT CANVASSING OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS

- a. Explanation of process by Supervisor of Elections
- b. Processing of vote-by-mail ballots
- c. Scanning of vote-by-mail ballots into independent audit system

(08/18/26 – 3:03 PM)

Judge Christine turned the floor over to Supervisor Oakes. Supervisor Oakes requested the vote-by-mail ballot that was protested for Canvassing Board review, with copies of the voter's signature and application from their voter file.

Supervisor Oakes announced that there were 375 vote-by-mail ballots ready for processing, including 3 cures. Supervisor Oakes gave the go ahead for the opening teams to begin opening.

The Canvassing Board reviewed the ballot protested earlier that day in ballot review and submitted during public comment. The ballot was previously accepted by staff, but because it was protested, it went to the Canvassing Board to be accepted or rejected. If rejected, the voter would be notified that their ballot was challenged and be given the opportunity to cure their ballot.

Upon reviewing the voter's signatures on file and voter registration application, the Canvassing Board unanimously voted to accept the voter's vote-by-mail ballot. (Pct. 206, Style U15)

(08/18/26 – 3:15 PM)

The Canvassing Board proceeded to review duplicated ballots as needed.

Canvassing Board decisions on the following ballots:

Pct. 310, Style U40	Two ballots in one vote-by-mail envelope, two signatures on envelope	Unanimous decision to reject the vote-by-mail ballot. Stamped rejected and signed by Chair Christine.
Pct. 511, Style U67	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 510, Style U66	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
Pct. 104, Style U4	Overvote on Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote

(08/18/26 – 3:22 PM)

Supervisor Oakes announced to release the vote-by-mail opening teams.

Canvassing Board decisions on the following ballots:

Pct. 213, Style U24 Ballot #81-10104	Ballot ripped near marked oval for Representative in Congress, District 6	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Randy Fine
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(08/18/26 – 3:33PM)

Supervisor Oakes announced that machine and vote-by-mail totals were balanced, and the remaining vote-by-mail ballots were moved upstairs to complete their process of being scanned through the Clear Ballot independent audit system.

(08/18/26 – 3:37 PM)

The Chair recessed the meeting until 6:00 PM.

❖ Reconvene Meeting – Call to Order by Chair

(08/18/26 – 6:00 PM)

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 6:00 PM. Judge Christine, Commissioner Murphy, Supervisor Oakes, and Mr. Creamer were present.

2. CONTINUE CANVASSING OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS

- a. Processing of accepted vote-by-mail ballots
- b. Scanning of vote-by-mail ballots into independent audit system

59 vote-by-mail ballots including 1 cure were brought into the Canvassing room. Supervisor Oakes gave the go ahead to open and process.

Canvassing Board decisions on the following ballots:

Pct. 213, Style U24	Overvote for Governor/Lt. Governor	Unanimous decision that it is an overvote
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(08/18/26 – 6:13 PM)

An additional 58 vote-by-mail ballots were brought into the room for opening and processing.

(08/18/26 – 7:02 PM)

Early voting and partial vote-by-mail results were uploaded into EMS after polls closed. Supervisor Oakes gave approval for the first results to be uploaded to our website. Results were also uploaded to the Division of Elections.

3. CONDUCT CANVASSING OF ELECTION NIGHT RETURNS

(08/18/26 – 7:21 PM)

Precinct results began being received by the Elections Office and uploaded to our website and the Division of Elections as they became available.

Vote-by-mail Coordinator Shelby brought 47 uncounted vote-by-mail ballots into the Canvassing Board for opening and processing. This batch of vote-by-mail ballots was received prior to 7 PM, and their signatures were verified by staff as valid.

Canvassing Board decisions on the following ballots:

Pct. 403, Style U44	Overvote for U.S. Senator, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Agriculture	Unanimous decision that all three races are overvotes
Pct. 503, Style C53 Ballot #81-10106	Extraneous marks for County Commission, District 2	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Will McMullan
Pct. 503, Style C53 Ballot #81-10105	Extraneous marks for County Commission, District 2	Unanimous decision to accept vote for Will McMullan

(08/18/26 – 7:51 PM)

34 of 55 Election Day precincts were reported and uploaded to our website and to the Division of Elections.

Precinct bags began to arrive. Judge Christine and Commissioner Murphy assisted with logging precincts as they arrived to the Elections Office. Throughout the night as precincts reported into the Elections Office, they were logged on the Certificate of Ballot Container Inspection Board by Commissioner Murphy, and the records transfer cases were opened by Judge Christine. Supervisor Oakes separated the items for distribution. All contents of the cases were accounted for and logged onto the sheet. Media sticks were given to SOE staff for processing. Results from each media stick were archived into EMS.

Media was processed throughout the night until all precincts had come into the Elections Office and were accounted for. Uploads to our website and to the Division of Elections were made throughout the night.

The 47 vote-by-mail ballots that were processed after polls closed balanced, and results were transferred to EMS, uploaded to our website, the Division of Elections, and included in results. A total of 539 vote-by-mail ballots were reviewed in Session 3, with 1 vote-by-mail ballot being rejected (for having two ballots in one envelope), and 538 processed and counted.

Ballot accounting forms and results tapes were forwarded to SOE Staff for review. A partial audit was conducted of each precinct. Ballots cast on each ballot accounting form were verified against the totals tapes printed at the precinct to assure that all ballots issued had been tabulated for each precinct. Miscellaneous paperwork and items received from the precincts were placed into storage containers by the SOE.

All precincts, regardless of whether they transmitted their results, were uploaded into EMS upon their arrival. Results of all 55 precincts were completed by approximately 9:33 PM.

ANNOUNCE NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURN

(08/18/26 – 9:49 PM)

Judge Christine announced the next meeting for August 20, 2026, at 3:00 PM.

With all business completed, the Canvassing Board adjourned.

Carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.