

**MINUTES OF MEETING
ST. JOHNS COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026
9:00 AM**

Proceedings of the Canvass of Vote-by-Mail Ballots – Session 5, 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 Benjamin J. Rich, County Judge, Alternate
 Honorable Clay Murphy, County Commissioner
 Honorable Vicky Oakes, Supervisor of Elections

Also present: Jennifer Reis, Election Services Specialist; Chase Ellis, IT Coordinator; Wayne Fusco, Assistant SOE; Joe Sarmiento, GIS Technician; Chris Leddy, Chief Deputy; and Robert Kennedy, Bailiff.

Public Attendance: Michelle Spoonhour

(08/21/26 – 9:00 AM)

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Rich called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll: Judge Rich, 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. EXPLANATION OF PROCESS BY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
2. CONDUCT CANVASSING OF UNCOUNTED/UNSCANNED BALLOTS FROM EARLY VOTING AND ELECTION DAY

Judge Rich turned the floor over to Supervisor Oakes. Supervisor Oakes explained that a few items from the August 21st agenda were moved to the day prior and have already been completed. Supervisor Oakes directed staff to begin processing the uncounted/unscanned ballots that were reviewed yesterday.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF VOTE-BY-MAIL CURE AFFIDAVITS

Supervisor Oakes confirmed with Vote-by-Mail Coordinator Shelby that 14 cures (received ahead of the 5 PM cure deadline), and 1 fax ballot (received ahead of 7 PM on Election Night), were approved and ready for processing. Supervisor Oakes directed staff to begin processing.

4. CONDUCT CANVASSING OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

Supervisor Oakes asked that it be noted in the minutes that the deadline to receive information from a provisional voter was 5 PM yesterday, August 20, to present evidence of why their ballot should be counted. Nothing was received from any provisional voters, and therefore, the canvassing that was conducted at the August 20th meeting (Session 4) for the provisional ballots would stand. Supervisor Oakes gave the go ahead to staff to open and process the provisional ballots that were accepted yesterday by the Canvassing Board.

5. FINAL REVIEW OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS FOR THE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION – SESSION 5

Supervisor Oakes announced the final review of the vote-by-mail ballots. Some ballots were reviewed at yesterday's meeting that were ineligible for curing and could not be accepted.

(08/21/26 – 9:04 AM)

Canvassing Board decision on a ballot with inconsistent marking on Representative in Congress, District 5, unanimous decision to accept as is with an undervote. (Pct. 401, Style U42)

Canvassing Board decisions on the following ballots:

Pct. 109, Style F9	Blank ballot	Unanimous decision to accept as blank
Pct. 202, Style F11	Blank ballot	Unanimous decision to accept as blank

(08/21/26 – 9:09-9:50 AM)

13 vote-by-mail ballots with no signature were not cured and rejected by the Canvassing Board.

There was a total of 52 vote-by-mail ballots on the signature differ worksheet that were not cured and reviewed by the Canvassing Board. 10 of the 52 were accepted and counted, 42 were rejected. All decisions were documented via a Canvassing Board worksheet.

6. CONDUCT SCANNING OF ALL VOTED BALLOTS INTO INDEPENDENT AUDIT SYSTEM

(08/21/26 – 9:58 AM)

Staff finished running vote-by-mail ballots through tabulation and the independent audit system.

The Canvassing Board signed all decision worksheets after completing their final review. Supervisor Oakes included in the minutes that there were 191 vote-by-mail ballots received in the mail during the two days following the election, following the 7 PM, August 18th deadline. All 191 were stamped “received too late to count”.

7. CERTIFY UNOFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

(08/21/26 – 10:22 AM)

The results report was generated at 10:12 AM and uploaded to the State. Supervisor Oakes double-checked the results while waiting for the certificates to be prepared.

IT Coordinator Chase brought the Certificate of Canvassing Board, 1st set of unofficial results, for the Canvassing Board members to sign.

(08/21/26 – 10:28 AM)

All members completed signing and Judge Rich announced the next meeting for Wednesday, August 26th at 9:00 AM.

With all business completed, the Canvassing Board adjourned.

Carried unanimously to adjourn.