

Minutes of Meeting
County Board of Canvassers: Elections
March 22, 2023
2:00 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Leslie Duncan, Commissioner Bruce Mattare and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Clerk Jennifer Locke, Chief Deputy Clerk Grace Blomgren, Elections Manager Asa Gray, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and County Assistance Specialist/Deputy Clerk Sierra Hansen.

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Action)**

Canvass of March 14, 2023 School Election – Pursuant to Idaho Code §34-1205

Clerk Jennifer Locke praised the efforts of the poll workers, Elections Staff and Elections Manager Asa Gray.

Mr. Gray reported that logic and accuracy tests were performed on the tabulating machines on March 8, 2023 and March 10, 2023, with Commissioner Bruce Mattare observing. He said that they had been tested again before any votes were counted on Election Day and again after all the ballots had been run. The final, unofficial results were posted at 11:13 p.m. on March 14, 2023, with precinct results posted the next morning.

Mr. Gray said that there were a total of 28,131 ballots cast, including early voting and absentee ballots. This reflected a 27% average turnout across the County, with the low of 12.28% in Precinct 510 in Post Falls and the high in Precinct 410 in Coeur d’Alene. Early voting accounted for 1,787 ballots and there were 4,655 absentee ballots received.

Mr. Gray offered an explanation of why Ada County and Canyon County were able to post their election results earlier than Kootenai County. He said it was partly because they had tabulation machines on site at their precinct locations, while in Kootenai County all the ballots had to be transported to the Elections Office for counting. He pointed out that Ada and Canyon County were also both on Mountain Time, so they had a one hour advantage.

Mr. Gray moved on to poll worker performance and stated that no ballot errors had affected the outcome of any race. He said that 21,689 ballots had been cast on Election Day, with an accuracy of 99.9%. He noted that there had been a few cases in which ballots had stuck together and one case in which a voter was checked in, but it was then discovered that the person had been at the present address for fewer than 30 days and so were sent to their prior precinct to vote.

Mr. Gray said that 1,048 voter registrations had been received during early voting and on Election Day. There had been 117 missing items found on registration cards; in a number of cases, there was more than 1 error on the same card. He added that very few of the errors had been serious.

Mr. Gray noted that there had been a higher turnout than seen in similar elections in the past, indicating an increase in voter engagement. He said that several precincts had run low on ballots during the course of the day, but thanks to the ePollbook system, the Elections Office became aware of this in plenty of time to provide additional ballots at those locations. He confirmed that no precinct ever ran out of ballots.

Mr. Gray added his praise to the poll workers and judges who assisted in the election.

Mr. Gray reported that some Absentee Ballots had been judged invalid. He said there were 26 signatures which did not match their records and for which the voters did not come in to correct the errors in time for the ballots to be counted. 98 absentee ballots arrived after the close of voting on Election Day. There were five instances where couples signed each other's ballot, two missing signatures entirely and one absentee ballot which was set aside as spoiled/returned in accordance with the voter's request.

Mr. Gray listed the Election results:

- Both of the Coeur d'Alene School District #271 levies failed.
- Kootenai Joint School District #274 passed its one levy request.
- Both of the Lakeland Joint School District #272 levies failed
- Post Falls School District #273 levy request passed.

Commissioner Bruce Mattare moved that the Board accept the Canvass of the March 14, 2023 School Election pursuant to Idaho Code §34-1205. Commissioner Bill Brooks seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Deputy Clerk Hansen called the roll:

Commissioner Brooks: Aye
Commissioner Mattare: Aye
Chair Duncan: Aye

The motion carried.

D. Public Comment: This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER LOCKE, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk