

APPROVED

11/10/2022

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS
RECOUNT OF OFFICE OF ROSS TOWNSHIP CLERK**

September 1, 2022

Kalamazoo County Administration Building, 201 W Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Canvassers Present: Francie Brown, Vince Lavieri, Tony Lorentz, Wendy Flora

Canvassers Absent: None

Staff Present: Meredith Place, County Clerk/Register of Deeds; Shardae Chambers, Elections Coordinator; Elizabeth Byrd, Chief Deputy Clerk/Register of Deeds

Others Present: Carin J Louis, Ross Township Clerk; Bear Priest, Richland Township Clerk; Theresa Paddock, Richland Township Deputy Clerk; Nicole B , Comstock Township Clerk; Nicole S Comstock Township Deputy Clerk, Shelby Moss City of Kalamazoo Deputy Clerk, Jeanette Sage, City of Kalamazoo; Mary Sage, Candidate for Ross Township Clerk, Members of League of Women Voters

1. Call to Order; Chair Flora called meeting of the Kalamazoo County Board of Canvassers to order at 9:05 a.m.

- a. This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act.
- b. *Question to the County Clerk:* Has the meeting notice been posted? Clerk responded, "Yes."
- c. Introductions
 - i. Members of the County Board of Canvassers
 - ii. County Clerk and other Representatives of the County Board of Canvassers
- d. *Question to all in attendance:* Have all candidate and their representatives signed in?
Explain: Name tags are specific to candidate. We ask the name tags be worn at all times throughout these proceedings.

2. Roll Call

Indicated the presence of a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Canvasser Lavieri, supported by Canvasser Lorentz to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

4. Statement of Purpose

- a. We are here to recount the votes cast for the Republican party nomination to the office of Clerk in Ross Township.
- b. Authority: This recount is being conducted under the authority of the Kalamazoo County Board of Canvassers.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Instructions to Recountability and Recount Team Members

- a. Role of Recountability/Recount Team – To determine the recountability of each precinct
 - i. Recountability/Recount team members will direct *any and all* procedural questions to a representative of the County Board of Canvassers.
 - ii. Recount Process: The ballots will be recounted via hand count.
 - iii. Recountability Standards: Refer to ITEM II – “Recount Statement of Returns” form.
 1. If precinct is recountable – Complete Columns A and B under ITEM VII. Return all ballots and special envelopes to the ballot container and deliver to Recount Team along with “Recount Statement of Returns” form, Poll Book, Statement of Votes and Canvass Report.
 2. If precinct is not recountable – Original election results stand. Complete columns A and B under ITEM VII. Complete and sign “Precinct Not Recountable Determination” form. Staple completed form to “Recount Statement of Returns” form. Return all ballots and special envelopes to ballot container (if removed) and reseal container. Record new seal number and initial 1) Ballot Container Certificate 2) ITEM VI of “Recount Statement of Returns” and 3) Poll Book.
- b. Validity Standards
 - i. Optical Scan – Review Handout

6. Challenge Process

- a. Two representatives will be allowed to observe the work of each recountability/recount team, one of which will be designated as the spokesperson.
 - i. Candidates and their representatives may not touch ballots, seals, poll books, statements of votes or recount documents.
 - ii. It is the responsibility of the designated spokesperson to voice his/her intent to challenge a decision made by a recountability/ recount team *at the time that the decision is made*.
 - iii. Decisions made by a recountability/recount team will not be revisited for the purpose of entering a challenge.
- b. All challenges will be fully documented at the time that the challenge is made.
 - i. At that time, a “Challenge Exhibit” form will be completed by a member of the recountability/recount team and will contain the following information:
 1. Team decision that is the basis of the challenge
 2. Office
 3. Township
 4. Precinct #
 5. Exhibit #
 6. Reason for Challenge (description of challenge)
 7. Challenged by
 - ii. The completed “Challenge Exhibit” form is reviewed by the challenger for accuracy.
 1. If the challenger agrees with the information he/she will be asked to sign the form on the designated line.

2. If the challenger disagrees with any of the information, the necessary corrections will be made and the challenger will be asked to sign the form on the designated line.
- iii. Each challenged ballot shall be secured inside an exhibit envelope with the completed and signed "Challenge Exhibit" form affixed to the outside. The envelope will be sealed with an official red paper seal that has been initialed by two recount team members. The sealed exhibit envelope will then be placed along with the other ballots cast according to the recount team's decision.
- iv. All "Challenge Exhibit" forms and envelopes will be retained by the representative of the County Board of Canvassers.
- v. All challenges will be presented to the County Board of Canvassers at the conclusion of the recount.

7. Recount for the office of Ross Township Clerk

Recountability/Recount Team declared Ross Township 1 as recountable.

Jurisdiction	Precinct	ORIGINAL RESULTS			RECOUNT RESULTS		
		Alexander D. Harris	Carin J. Louis	Mary A. Stage	Alexander D. Harris	Carin J. Louis	Mary A. Stage
Ross Twp.	1	102	50	148	102	50	148

Recountability/Recount Team declared Ross Township 2 as recountable.

Jurisdiction	Precinct	ORIGINAL RESULTS			RECOUNT RESULTS		
		Alexander D. Harris	Carin J. Louis	Mary A. Stage	Alexander D. Harris	Carin J. Louis	Mary A. Stage
Ross Twp.	2	146	75	99	146	75	99

Recountability/Recount Team declared Ross Township 1 - AVCB as recountable.

Jurisdiction	Precinct	ORIGINAL RESULTS			RECOUNT RESULTS		
		Alexander D. Harris	Carin J. Louis	Mary A. Stage	Alexander D. Harris	Carin J. Louis	Mary A. Stage
Ross Twp. AVCB	1	69	53	92	69	53	92

Recountability/Recount Team declared Ross Township 2 - AVCB as recountable after a call was made to the Bureau of Elections. The Recount Team had a question after counting 555 ballots but observing the Poll Book read 554 voters. The Statement of Votes, as explained by Bureau of Elections staff, includes the receipt tape from the tabulator. This tape read 555 ballots. There was a note made by the Election Inspector in the back of the poll book that provided explanation for the discrepancy. Therefore, since the tape matched the number of ballots and given the explanation, the Recount Team deemed the precinct recountable.

Jurisdiction	Precinct	ORIGINAL RESULTS	RECOUNT RESULTS
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		Alexander D. Harris	Carin J. Louis	Mary A. Stage	Alexander D. Harris	Carin J. Louis	Mary A. Stage
Ross Twp. AVCB	2	106	104	84	106	104	84

8. Meeting of the Kalamazoo County Board of Canvassers

- a. A summary of the recount proceedings will be presented by a representative of the County Board of Canvassers which will include:
 - i. Total number of precincts included in the original petition for recount. 4
 - ii. Total number of precincts included in the counter-petition (if applicable) 0
 - iii. Total number of precincts determined to be recountable. 4
 - iv. Total number of precincts determined not to be recountable. 0
 - v. Original vote results (see below)
 - vi. Recount vote results (see below)

Jurisdiction	Precinct	ORIGINAL RESULTS			RECOUNT RESULTS		
		Alexander D. Harris	Carin J. Louis	Mary A. Stage	Alexander D. Harris	Carin J. Louis	Mary A. Stage
Ross Twp.	1	102	50	148	102	50	148
Ross Twp. AVCB	1	69	53	92	69	53	92
Ross Twp.	2	146	75	99	146	75	99
Ross Twp. AVCB	2	106	104	84	106	104	84
TOTAL		423	282	423	423	282	423

- b. A representative of the County Board of Canvassers will present any challenges to the Board.
- c. Each candidate or representative will be given the opportunity to present oral arguments to support their challenge(s).
- d. Once the board renders its decision, each challenged ballot will be returned to the "Challenge Exhibit" envelope, which will be resealed using an official Red Paper Seal. The envelope will remain sealed for the remainder of the retention period.
- e. Each candidate or representative will be given a final opportunity to enter any final statements or objections into the record.

9. Request for a "Motion to Accept"

Canvasser Lavieri moved and it was duly seconded (Brown) to accept the recount results as entered on the "Recount Statement of Votes" as the official vote for the office will be made and accepted by the County Board of Canvassers.

10. Meeting Adjourned

Motion made by Canvasser Lavieri, supported by Canvasser Lorentz to adjourn at 1:23 p.m.

Motion carried.



Meredith Place, Clerk of the Board



Wendy Flora, Chairperson, Board of County Canvassers

NOTE: Decisions made by County Board of Canvassers are final and may not be appealed to the Board of State Canvassers. Any appeals must be taken up in Circuit Court.

