



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 9, 2024

DATE: Monday, July 08, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Cari-Ann Burgess, Interim Registrar of Voters
(775) 328-2010, CBurgess@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager,
KAThomas@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Declaration of canvass of recount vote for the recount of the County Commission, District 4 Republican race (demanded by candidate Mark A. Lawson), and the recount of the School Board Trustee, District G At-Large race (demanded by candidate Paul D. White).

Pursuant to NRS 293.387 and NAC 293.365, the Board is required to canvass the results of the recount, by which any errors within the election results are officially noted and the official results are declared. If approved, the Board shall order the Registrar of Voters to certify the abstract of the results and transmit a copy of the certified abstract to the Secretary of State. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Pursuant to NRS 293.387 and NAC 293.365, the Board of County Commissioners is required to canvass the recount of the following two races: County Commission, District 4 Republican race (demanded by candidate Mark A. Lawson), and the recount of the School Board Trustee, District G At-Large race (demanded by candidate Paul D. White).

A third recount had been demanded (the recount of the Reno City Council, Ward 1 race demanded by candidate Lily Baran); however, following the first day of the recount the candidate submitted a written request to withdraw her demand to the Reno City Clerk, as permitted by NAC 293.371(3).

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 21, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners canvassed the results of the June 11, 2024, primary election.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Mark Lawson, a candidate for County Commission, District 4 Republican race, received 2,330 votes. The winner of that race received 4,055 votes, a difference of 1,725 votes.

Paul White, a candidate for School Board Trustee, District G At-Large, came in fourth out of seven candidates with 4,554 votes. He was defeated by two candidates who received 13,424 votes and 6,871 votes, respectively. The top two candidates will appear on the ballot for the general election. The third-place candidate received 5,810 votes.

BACKGROUND

A defeated candidate may demand the recount of the results of an election within three (3) working days following the canvass of the election results per NRS 293.403. On June 25, 2024, three candidates submitted timely demands for recounts. Because Nevada law requires the recount to be commenced within five (5) days of the demand, the Washoe County Interim Registrar of Voters began the recount on Sunday, June 30, 2024, and concluded on Tuesday, July 2, 2024. NRS 293.405(3).

The recount revealed minor changes to the vote counts. These totals do not change the result of the primary election for County Commission, District 4 (Rep.) or School Board Trustee, District G At-Large.

In the County Commission, District 4 (Rep.) race, the number of votes for the winner of the race did not change (4,055). The defeated candidate who demanded the recount received one less vote in the recount than he received in the primary (2330 primary, 2329 recount).

In the School Board, District G At-Large race, the winner of the primary received five fewer votes in the recount (13,424 primary, 13,419 recount), the second place candidate received one more vote in the recount (6,871 primary, 6,872 recount), and the defeated candidate who demanded the recount received one more vote in the recount (4,554 primary, 4,555 recount).

No clerical errors were discovered, and the results presented are the actual results of the recount.

NAC 293.365 requires the Board of County Commissioners to canvass the results of a recount of an election within five (5) working days of the recount. The Board must note separately any clerical errors discovered and take account of the changes resulting from any such discovery, so the results declared represent the true vote cast. NRS 293.387(2).

Following the canvass, the Board has the duty to direct the Washoe County Registrar of Voters to enter upon the records of the county an abstract of the results containing the number of votes cast for each candidate and to have the registrar certify the abstract. Approving the attached order satisfies the Board's duty.

FISCAL IMPACT

The canvass of the recount does not have a fiscal impact. The cost of the recount is charged to the candidate(s) who demand recount pursuant to NRS 293.403 through NRS 293.405.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation that the Board of County Commissioners approve the proposed Washoe County Board of County Commissioners Declaration of Canvass of Recount.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Move to approve the proposed Washoe County Board of County Commissioners Declaration of Canvass of Recount and Order.

Washoe County Board of County Commissioners
Declaration of Canvass of Recount and Order

WHEREAS, an election was held in Washoe County on June 11, 2024.

WHEREAS, following the canvass of the results of the June 11, 2024, primary election, recounts were demanded in the County Commission, District 4 (Rep.) race (demanded by candidate Mark A. Lawson) and the recount of the School Board Trustee, District G At-Large race (demanded by candidate Paul D. White).

WHEREAS, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners has convened a duly noticed meeting on July 9, 2024, to canvass the results of the recount.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to NRS 293.387 and NAC 293.365 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners determines, declares and orders as follows:

1. A review of the recount results has been made, by which any errors within the recount results, if there were any, could be officially noted.
2. The recount revealed minor changes to the vote counts. These totals do not change the result of the primary election for County Commission, District 4 (Rep.) or School Board Trustee, District G At-Large. No clerical errors discovered, and the results presented are the actual results of the recount.
3. No clerical errors were discovered from the canvass and no resulting changes in the vote are necessary.
4. The official recount results are hereby declared, and the results declared represent the true votes cast.
5. The Washoe County Registrar of Voters is directed to enter upon the record of the Board an abstract of the results containing the number of votes cast for each candidate and shall certify the abstract.
6. Pursuant to this order hereby entered in the minutes of the Board, the Registrar shall copy the certified abstract and transmit a copy to the Secretary of State.

ADOPTED this 9th day of July 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

Alexis Hill, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

Jan Galassini
Washoe County Clerk