

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

10:00 A.M.

JUNE 21, 2024

PRESENT:

Alexis Hill, Chair

Jeanne Herman, Vice Chair

Michael Clark, Commissioner

Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner via phone

Clara Andriola, Commissioner

Janis Galassini, County Clerk

David Solaro, Assistant County Manager

Mary Kandaras, Chief Deputy District Attorney

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 a.m. in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

24-0409 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Ms. Janet Butcher said she voted in person on Election Day, but the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) website did not indicate whether her vote was counted. When she called the County to ask about the issue, she was informed that the website would be updated after the Canvass of the Vote. She expressed concern that she would not know if her vote was counted until after the Canvass was approved. She stated her comment was not in criticism of the people who worked in the elections, but the election process itself. She pointed out that the County spent a lot of money to bring in outside entities to help with elections, but she did not feel that any progress had been made. She alleged voters were asked if they wanted to change their political affiliation while at polling locations. She remarked that when she went in to vote, the poll manager reprimanded a worker in front of her, which she did not think was agreeable. She spoke about technology that she thought the Secretary of State (SOS) planned to deploy for the 2024 General Election and opined the Board should ask the SOS to not do so since 2024 was a presidential election year.

Mr. Bill Miller read from a document that was placed on file with the Clerk.

Mr. Pablo Duran congratulated Commissioner Andriola on her success in the Primary Election and asked the Board to certify the vote.

Mr. Bob Blackstock stated he was a local engineer and business owner. He commended Interim ROV Cari-Ann Burgess and her staff for their work on the elections.

He said he was a poll worker, watcher, and observer at polling stations throughout the County. He reported that he voted at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, which he opined conducted an honest and well-run polling station. He declared he was confident in the election results provided by the ROV and asked the Board to certify the election.

Ms. Joni Hammond asserted she had been a poll worker for six different elections and was not critical of any poll workers or election staff. She declared the voter rolls needed to be cleaned up. She mentioned several incidences of people who brought mail-in ballots to polling locations for deceased relatives or people who had moved.

Mr. Derek Shawk provided documents that were placed on file with the Clerk. He said he served in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and earned a Combat Action Ribbon during the Persian Gulf War. He stated that for 20 years, he was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and served as both Post Commander and District Commander, where he earned All-American status for both. He recalled in 2015, he hosted former United States (US) Senator Hillary Clinton to speak at the VFW during her presidential campaign. He declared he received numerous calls from people throughout the US, both in favor and against former Secretary Clinton's visit to the area. He explained that the VFW was an apolitical organization that welcomed any politician who wished to visit and address veteran issues. He believed the oath he took when he joined the USMC was similar to that of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), which included the promise to support, protect, and defend the Constitution. He opined that oath meant he did not have to agree with everything other people believed in, but he would defend their right, as Americans, to their freedom of beliefs and speech, even if it offended him personally. He asserted he was a 23-year member of the Vietnam Vets Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club (VNVLMC) and had served as the Director of the Reno Toy Run (RTR) since 2019. He remarked the RTR was a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was staffed by a diverse group of volunteers with the mission to support local families during the holiday season. He stated that since its inception, the RTR donated over \$355,000 to the local community and provided over 50,000 toys to more than 10,000 families in Northern Nevada. He expressed pride in the work the RTR had done and would continue to do. He encouraged anyone who wished to speak about the RTR to contact him.

Mr. Edward Goodrich stated he served as a volunteer partisan observer in the Primary Election. He opined that poll workers were courteous and friendly, which was a change from previous years. He declared that he did not observe any irregularities and encouraged the Board to approve the Canvass of the Vote.

Mr. Troy Regas introduced himself as a member of the Northern Nevada Confederation of Clubs (NNVCOC), which was founded in 1995 as a biker's rights group and was comprised of more than 50 clubs. He said the NNVCOC was responsible for over \$400,000 in charity donations and was proud to be a diverse organization. He pointed out that the NNVCOC consisted of over 10,000 members, all of whom were voters. He listed various nonprofits the organization raised money for and donated to. He spoke about some assumptions made against the group and asked the BCC to do its homework before it made any decisions about the RTR grant.

Mr. Eric Lerude asked the Board to approve the Canvass of the Vote. He did not think there was a factual or legal basis to contest the election results. He asserted that any conjecture, speculation, or conspiracy theories were not grounds to fail to certify the election results. He claimed if the Board chose to not certify the vote, it would signal to all voters that their vote did not count or matter. He speculated it might violate federal or State law for a County Commissioner to not certify valid election results. He believed people deserved an explanation if the Board voted against the Canvass of the Vote. He alleged there was a concerted effort by right-wing extremists to disrupt how federal, state, and local governments operated.

In response to outbursts from the crowd, Chief Deputy District Attorney (CDDA) Mary Kandaras called for a point of order and asked for the speaker's time to be paused. She declared that while people might hear things they did not like during public comment, they should not interrupt the speech of others.

Mr. Lerude continued his comment and opined that certain groups attempted to persuade officials involved in the election process to not certify election results, even if there was no basis to do so. He asked if the Board knew about Project 2025 and if any Board members supported it. He asserted that the Board members took oaths to act in the community's best interest. He urged the Board to certify the Canvass of the Vote.

Mr. Nicholas Jennifer St. Jon provided documents that were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He declared the documents were a compilation of information he downloaded from the SOS database every day since June 10, 2024. He noted the database indicated that 87.36 percent of all eligible voters in Washoe County voted in the Primary Election. He thought that statistic was closer to 19 or 20 percent. He directed the Board to page two of his documentation and said the zeroes on the spreadsheet indicated the number of people who voted by machine on election day and through provisional ballots. He did not think those figures were accurate as there were testimonies from various people who stated they voted by machine or provisional ballot. He remarked that the document he distributed also included election integrity violation reports because some people turned in their mail-in ballots when there was no one to scan them, so there was no date or timestamp on those ballots. He recommended that the Board wait to canvass the vote until it could get accurate data from the SOS.

Mr. Drew Ribar asserted he was a candidate for Assembly District (AD) 40. He asked the Board to not certify the election. He displayed his sample ballot and noted that he was not listed as a candidate for AD 40, which he claimed left him at a disadvantage against a ten-year incumbent. He declared elections were about name recognition first and policy second. He stated he could not get his policy out because people could not research his name from the sample ballot. He said AD 27 had a Republican candidate and wondered why a Democrat was listed on the Republican Sample Ballot. He opined the Board could not certify the vote. He alleged he had donated to the RTR for several years and thanked Commissioner Clark for his donation to the program. He thought the donation was not political; it was about helping kids. He remarked he was trespassed from the libraries in Washoe County for the next year and threatened a lawsuit against the County for doing so.

Ms. Tracey Thomas provided documents that were placed on file with the Clerk. She quoted a Bible verse. She claimed the Canvass of the Vote was not the acceptance of the figures turned in by the ROV; it was the Board saying with 100 percent confidence that the numbers were true and accurate. She did not think the Board could claim that without a parallel hand count. She knew a sample test was performed, but that did not indicate that the whole database was correct. She remarked she was a poll worker for 20 years and was familiar with the processes and procedures. She declared she had a democratic coworker who called her to say he was concerned about the lack of training with some poll workers. She alleged an intake person at a polling location asked her husband if he wanted to change his party affiliation when he went to vote, which she believed was coercive and intimidating. She asserted poll managers were not supposed to allow people to take photographs inside polling places. She said the documents she provided were records the ROV posted on its website that she put into a spreadsheet. She noted that no matter what day votes were added, the percentage of the votes distributed across candidates stayed the same. She questioned the integrity of married couples being teamed up at polling places.

Ms. Penny Brock provided documents that were placed on file with the Clerk. She asserted she was not an election denier; she was an American who believed in fair, honest, secure, legal, and transparent elections, which she opined were not present in Washoe County. She asked the BCC to not certify the election because the voter rolls were not cleaned up. She read from her distributed document. She thought there was enough evidence to indicate that the Board should not certify the elections.

Ms. Victoria Myer said she was shocked by several public comments about elections. She wondered when the voter rolls would be cleaned up. She mentioned comments that called some people in the audience right-wing extremists and asserted that she did not appreciate that kind of rhetoric. She remarked that her husband was at the North Hills Library the previous weekend and was asked to move to the free speech corner in the parking lot. She alleged that he was later banned from the library for one year, and she did not understand why.

Mr. Fred Myer confirmed that he was the person who got banned from the library. He thought that if the Board chose to not approve the Canvass of the Vote, it would not mean that the results would be thrown out and the election would have to be redone; instead, it would indicate that the Board wanted to look deeper into the results before approving the election. He asked the Board to listen to the people's wishes.

Mr. Buddy Miller asked the Board to approve the Canvass of the Vote. He opined that the Board did not have a legal basis to not approve the election. He remarked that if a candidate had an issue, they could pay for a recount or file for an election contest. He reminded the Board members that it was their duty to certify the Canvass of the Vote.

Mr. Richard Steinberger spoke about electric bicycles (e-bikes), which he claimed were ridden on the sidewalks in Incline Village. He believed e-bikes were dangerous to pedestrians and alleged that he and all his neighbors hated motorized vehicles

being allowed on the sidewalks. He noted that if e-bikes were not electric, riders would be forced to ride on the street with other gas-powered vehicles. He asked the Board to either build a separate path for e-bikes or mandate that they be ridden in the streets.

Ms. Ronda Tycer claimed she experienced some errors with the vote. She pointed out that her household received incorrect sample ballots, which confused her husband when he voted in person. She asserted that her mail-in ballot never arrived and wondered how many other Incline Village residents experienced similar issues.

10:53 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

11:00 a.m. **The Board reconvened.**

24-0410 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Clark spoke about the Reno Toy Run (RTR) and claimed that Washoe County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks had an ongoing smear campaign against him, which would cause collateral damage to the children who benefitted from the RTR. He alleged he was the only Commissioner in recent history who had a discretionary donation questioned by the County. He remarked someone came into the Commission Chambers wearing a vest that someone else did not like, and a local newsperson took a photograph of the individual in the vest. He thought the act was profiling, which was not acceptable. He discussed election deniers and speculated that there were Board members who did not believe he won his election. He provided copies of an article from the *Picon Press* that were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He called upon community members to donate to the RTR and attempt to make 2024 the biggest toy drive in the organization's history. He mentioned a conversation he had with the City of Sparks Mayor Ed Lawson and asked the Board what side of humanity they were on.

Commissioner Clark discussed the election and an article by the *Reno Gazette Journal* (RGJ) that claimed over 25,000 ballots were returned to the Registrar of Voters (ROV). He believed the voter rolls should be the primary concern of the ROV. He asserted he did not receive a mail-in ballot and that his sample ballot was incorrect. He recalled a public commenter who asked Board members to explain their vote if they chose to not approve the Canvass of the Vote and explained that he had issues with the voter rolls. He declared ballots were mailed to his house for people who did not live there, including an individual who lived in Australia but was still a United States (US) citizen with an American driver's license. He suggested the ROV ask each election candidate to review and sign off on the sample ballot before the County printed it. He asked how much it cost for 25,000 mail-in ballots to be printed and mailed. He wondered if any County employees received disciplinary action for mistakes made during the Primary Election. He stated his comments were not meant to attack County employees, but he thought the County leadership was incompetent. He spoke about the volume of parcels he managed as the County Assessor and the audits the State of Nevada performed on his department.

Chair Hill divulged that she personally knew Mr. Troy Regas from when she worked for the City of Reno. She stated that any remarks she made about the donation were not about the RTR; they were about a symbol of hate that was worn in the Commission Chambers. She said she was excited when she saw Mr. Derek Shawk and Mr. Regas present at the meeting because she thought they would make public comments to declare that hate symbols had no home at the RTR, but they did not. She commended the work and volunteerism of the RTR but did not think that government money should fund organizations that accepted symbols of hate. She requested that the donation to the RTR in Item 8F1 from the June 18, 2024, Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meeting be brought back before the Board for reconsideration. She noted the Board might still vote to approve the donation, but she could not vote in favor of it. She personally commended the work of the RTR and the people who volunteered to support needy families in the community. If the Board voted to rescind the donation, she suggested the funds be allocated to an organization that did not accept hate symbols and provided gifts to children during the holidays. She apologized for any feelings that were hurt by her request and asserted that there were many members of the community whose feelings were hurt when they saw an image of hate during a BCC meeting. She believed in the freedom of speech and expression that allowed someone to wear a swastika but claimed the government should not fund an organization that accepted that symbol.

24-0411 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Declaration of Canvass of Vote and Order for 2024 Primary Election held on June 11, 2024, as required by NRS 293.387. "Canvass" means a review of the election results by the Board of County Commissioners, by which any errors within the election results are officially noted and the official election results are declared. The canvass shall separately note any clerical errors discovered and take account of the changes resulting from the errors discovered, and the results declared must represent the true vote cast. As soon as the Board declares the results, the Registrar of Voters shall certify the abstract of the results, which must contain the number of votes cast for each candidate and enter it in the record of the Board. The Board shall order the Registrar of Voters to transmit a copy of the certified abstract, as well as a mechanized report of the abstract in accordance with regulations adopted by the Secretary of State, to the Secretary of State within the time required by NRS 293.387. Voters. (All Commission Districts.)

Chief Deputy District Attorney (CDDA) Mary Kandaras said the election laws encompassed federal and State laws. She stated there were many instances where the County was bound by such laws to perform certain functions. She explained that the Canvass of the Vote was the County's indication that the election was complete and the subsequent results would be sent to the Secretary of State (SOS). She declared the District Attorney's (DA) Office classified the item as ministerial or a legal formality. She read Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 293.387 and emphasized that the Board shall meet and canvass the election returns. She asserted that the Board's vote on the item was not a discretionary act; it was mandated by the NRS. She noted that while reports of mistakes on a ballot or people not receiving mail-in ballots were regrettable, they did not necessarily

affect a vote that was cast. She opined Commissioner Clark's idea to ask candidates to proofread sample ballots was an excellent suggestion for future elections. She pointed out that the Registrar of Voters (ROV) did not have absolute discretion to clean the voter rolls; they had to follow federal and State laws. She stated there were noticed procedures to confirm that someone's address was incorrect in the ROV system, and people who did not respond to those notices could not be taken off the voter rolls until they had not voted in two General Elections. She remarked that the DA's Office would work with the ROV to address some of the issues mentioned by commenters as the County moved into the General Election.

Interim ROV Cari-Ann Burgess said she was before the Board to canvass the June 11, 2024, election. She thanked the departments and staff members who helped the ROV's Office and noted that people put their lives on hold for several months to administer the election. She reviewed the turnout of the elections and indicated that 12,760, or 3.9 percent of people, voted on election day; 11,118, or 3.4 percent of people, voted early; and 56,384, or 17.23 percent of people, voted by mail-in ballot. In total, 80,262, or 24.52 percent of the population, participated in the Primary Election, and no clerical errors were discovered. She stated while no human was perfect, she knew elections needed to be. Despite many successes, the election was not without hiccups, which she viewed as a learning experience that allowed the ROV's Office to enhance its processes and procedures going forward. She divulged that people who received mail-in ballots and had previously opted out were not properly reflected in an export list and were inadvertently sent ballots. As a response, staff implemented a new process to ensure that did not happen again. After the mail-in ballots were mailed, the ROV's Office was made aware of a small number of precincts that received incorrect ballots. That issue was promptly remedied with the help of Washoe County's Geographic Information System (GIS), and voters received their corrected ballots promptly. She remarked the sample ballot had two errors: the inclusion of a Democratic race on a Republican sample ballot and the omission of one Republican race. She asserted that voters had until Monday, June 17, at 5:00 p.m. to cure their signatures, which caused a slight change in the election results once all cured signatures were included in the count. She declared that the results before the Board were true votes cast in the Primary Election, and no clerical errors were discovered. She appreciated the opportunity to lead the ROV team and thought the staff in her office showed resilience, commitment, and integrity.

Chair Hill applauded the ROV's staff and thanked them for their work.

Commissioner Clark recalled Ms. Ronda Tycer's public comment about incorrect sample ballots and remarked that he experienced the same issues. He claimed he did not receive a mail-in ballot. He wondered how that could be resolved in the future. Ms. Burgess declared that she received verification that Commissioner Clark's ballot was delivered to his mailbox on May 18, 2024. She stated that she planned to implement a new program that allowed staff to track mail-in ballots from the moment they were dropped off at the post office to when they were delivered to voters. She said the sample ballot for the General Election would be different because candidates for all parties would be listed on one sample ballot. She remarked that a new system would be in place for the Primary

Election of 2026. Commissioner Clark asked if constituents would receive proper sample ballots for the 2024 General Election, to which Ms. Burgess responded yes. Commissioner Clark divulged that he lived in a rural neighborhood and noted there was no way to determine what happened to his mail-in ballot.

Commissioner Clark discussed the voter rolls and asserted they needed to be cleaned up. He spoke about the Carson City ROV, whom he alleged was able to remove many inactive voters from Carson City's voter rolls. He asked Ms. Burgess if she had a plan to clean Washoe County's voter rolls. Ms. Burgess replied that the staff was prepared to send 8D2 cards to anyone whose ballots were returned to the ROV as undeliverable. If the constituent filled out and returned the 8D2 card, the ROV could inactivate them. She remarked that staff could not cancel voters until they had not voted in two General Elections. She stated that the ROV's Office also utilized information from the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), which allowed the ROV to remove people who registered to vote in another state. She declared when it came to voter rolls, she performed absolute due diligence. She noted that the ROV had until July 4, 2024, to mail out the 8D2 cards, but they were scheduled to be sent on June 24, 2024. She said after August 7, 2024, the ROV could not change any voter information.

Ms. Burgess discussed the individual who continued to receive mail at Commissioner Clark's home and explained it was because the person resided out of the Country but used Commissioner Clark's address as his last known domicile. She asserted that Commissioner Clark needed to return that individual's mail-in ballot to the ROV or fill out a challenge form to start the process of inactivating the individual in the system. Commissioner Clark believed his friend had already opted out of voting in Washoe County, but the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reactivated him each time he renewed his driver's license.

Commissioner Clark mentioned Ms. Lily Baran, a liberal candidate he supported. He remarked that her political race was close, and she had called to inform him that some of her supporters told her there was no evidence online to show that they voted. Commissioner Clark asked if the ROV could count the votes from that race as a sample to determine if the vote count was accurate for the entire election. CDDA Kandaras said she would have to do some research to determine if it was appropriate for the ROV to do so. Chair Hill asked if the candidate needed to ask for that because a provision in State law allowed Ms. Baran to ask and pay for a recount. In addition, the ROV had already performed audits on election results. CDDA Kandaras stated she would research to determine if the ROV could perform a spot audit.

Commissioner Clark spoke about a report from the *Reno Gazette Journal* (RGJ) that 25,000 ballots were returned to the ROV and wondered if that figure was accurate. Ms. Burgess responded that it was a correct figure, and 505 of those people voted in person. Commissioner Clark asked how much it cost to mail 25,000 ballots. Ms. Burgess replied that she would provide exact figures during the presentation she was scheduled to give the Board the following week. Commissioner Clark asked Ms. Burgess if she knew how much it cost to send an individual ballot, to which Ms. Burgess replied it was about

\$3.50 per ballot. Commissioner Clark asked who paid for the 25,000 undeliverable ballots and alleged that there would not have been so many ballots returned if the voter rolls had been cleaned before the Primary Election. Ms. Burgess responded that was where the 8D2 cards were helpful. She declared that between the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) and the Primary Election, staff only had five days to get the 8D2 cards out, which was not enough time. She asserted she was required to send a mail-in ballot to every active voter in Washoe County, and it was up to the voter to ensure the County had the correct address on file. She hoped staff would receive several 8D2 cards back so the ROV's Office could update people's voter profiles. Commissioner Clark wondered how many profiles were incorrect prior to the PPP and thought the voter rolls should be continually cleansed. Ms. Burgess pointed out that some profiles were still incorrect from 2022 and would remain so until the person did not vote in the 2024 General Election.

Commissioner Clark believed there were ongoing mistakes that made the public mistrustful of the ROV's processes. He wanted Washoe County to have clean, correct voter rolls. He opined that there were enough hardworking staff members in the ROV's Office, and things should not slip through the cracks. Ms. Burgess said she could not speak to the past, only to the future. She remarked that since she started in January of 2024, staff had written standard operating procedures (SOP) for the office. She claimed that staff took steps to ensure the mistakes made in the Primary Election would not happen again.

Commissioner Clark asked why it took so long to give responses to individuals who had petitioned to run as Independents in the General Election. Ms. Burgess responded that five petitions were dropped off at the ROV's Office in the span of 48 hours during the time frame the ROV was working on the Primary Election. She stated that staff had to verify every signature on four of the five petitions. After those signatures were verified, the ROV sent the petitions to the SOS to determine if the petitions were sufficient or not. She mentioned that petitioners could contact the SOS, but the ROV's Office had to wait for a response from the SOS to let the candidates know if their petitions were approved. Commissioner Clark thought it would be helpful for Independent candidates to know that the ROV and SOS were busy and that it would take awhile for either entity to respond. He wondered if the ROV needed more staff members so it could process candidate petitions more rapidly. Ms. Burgess responded that the ROV's Office hired 34 temporary employees, some of whom worked exclusively on candidate petitions. She asserted she would call the SOS when she finished the Canvass of the Vote to get an update on the petitions. Commissioner Clark believed there should be a better way for Independents to get on the ballot.

Commissioner Andriola thought it was important to mention that the Legislature dictated the provisions that allowed for elections. She believed there were opportunities for the County to provide information to legislators to help strengthen the elections. She asked Ms. Burgess to note any suggestions she might have to better the election process. Ms. Burgess responded that she had a book with ideas she started during the PPP. She said that she regularly collaborated with Deputy SOS for Elections Mark Wlaschin on new ideas to ensure the election process was more transparent and could run

smoother. Commissioner Andriola claimed that it was important for the County to have a voice in election changes. She divulged that she received some information from Mr. Chuck Muth, who had assembled a team dedicated to helping counties clean up their voter rolls. She remarked that Clark County used Mr. Muth's information and wondered if Washoe County planned to do the same. Ms. Burgess declared that per memos 2024-004 and 2024-006 from the SOS, any actions regarding voter rolls not verifiable by the agencies laid out in the NRS had to go before the Board. Commissioner Andriola asked if Ms. Burgess knew when such an item would come before the Board, to which Ms. Burgess responded she did not know. Commissioner Andriola mentioned that most staff members in the ROV's Office were new. While that was a consideration, she opined the expectation needed to be that no mistakes were made during elections. She appreciated the ROV team's commitment to work with the SOS to ensure information was shared and the elections were executed correctly. She thanked County Manager Eric Brown and Assistant County Manager (ACM) Kate Thomas for inviting former Nye County Clerk Mark Kampf to appear before the BCC and give a presentation on Nye County's recent experience with hand counting ballots. She noted she looked forward to the information Mr. Kampf would provide.

Vice Chair Herman stated one of the reasons she ran for Commissioner was because of elections. She read a letter submitted by a constituent that outlined their issues with the Primary Election, including mistakes on the sample ballot, confusion with the privacy sleeve, and dismay that the signature box on the mail-in ballot was not concealable. The individual claimed there were too many anomalies with the ballots and that the election should be thrown out and started over. Vice Chair Herman said that was just one example of the comments people sent her. She asserted the County could do better.

Chair Hill asked what a no vote on the item would indicate to the State. CDDA Kandaras assumed that the SOS would take and use the final report from Ms. Burgess's abstract. She thought it was unlikely that there would be any legal action against the Board for not following State law, but mentioned it was a possibility. She remarked that NRS declared that the Board shall canvass the vote, so it was her legal recommendation for the Board to do so. She said that she took notes of the mistakes people observed during the election and opined if someone did not want to sign the back of their mail-in ballot, they could vote in person. She believed some responsibility had to fall to the voter, which was why the County provided different avenues for voting. Chair Hill recalled Mr. Eric Lerude's public comment in which he claimed that the Board did not have a legal basis to contest the election results. She asserted that the Board members took an oath of office to follow federal, State, and local laws. She hoped any Commissioners who chose to not approve the vote would explain why.

Commissioner Andriola clarified with CDDA Kandaras that the approval of the Canvass of the Vote was the Board's dictation that the election was complete and it would submit the results to the SOS in its entirety. Approval of the item did not indicate that everything was perfect with elections. CDDA Kandaras confirmed Commissioner Andriola's statement. Commissioner Andriola asserted that the Board did not disregard any of the information shared by the public.

Commissioner Clark expressed disappointment that the ROV did not provide updates on the election results several times per day. He thought there should be a standard for future elections to update the public on the results regularly throughout the day. Ms. Burgess remarked that it took one hour each time staff pulled the information for updated counts. To obtain that information, all other election processes had to stop. Commissioner Clark recalled there were several updates throughout the day in previous elections. Ms. Burgess responded that updates were reported at the end of each day for the Primary Election, and she could not speak to past elections as she did not work for the County during that time. Commissioner Clark did not believe that all production had to stop to provide a point-in-time count to the public and wondered if there was a better way to keep the public up to date as the elections progressed.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Allyson Ford declared she worked with Swing Left Reno, a voter outreach organization. She thanked the Board and the election staff for their hard work. She opined that elections occurred without a hitch. She recalled that when she went to vote in person, a poll worker confirmed that she was, in fact, a Democrat, which she did not think was an intimidation tactic but a double-check to ensure her party affiliation was correct. She asked the Board to approve the item.

Ms. Penny Brock provided a document that was placed on file with the Clerk. She thought the election provided evidence to determine that the County needed to resort to paper ballots and hand counting. She declared that elections should be controlled locally, not by the State, and pointed out that Communist countries had state-controlled elections. She remarked that the Canvass of the Vote was supposed to represent the true vote cast and asked how the Board could confirm that. She read from her distributed document and alleged there was no paper trail to prove elections in Washoe County. She recalled that she did not take home a paper copy of the votes she cast; therefore, there was no way for people to determine if there was fraud.

Mr. Drew Ribar said he was an Assembly District (AD) 40 candidate whose name was not on the sample ballot. He appreciated CDDA Kandaras's legal advice to the Board and asked her to consider constitutional requirements. He declared the Constitution superseded the law. He wondered if Washoe County voters were given due process and alleged the election was flawed. He stated he ran for office because he believed the Constitution was not being upheld. He asked the Board to vote no on the item.

Mr. Pablo Duran asked the Board to approve the Canvass of the Vote. He pointed out that it would violate State law for the Board to vote no on the item.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised the Board she received emailed public comments which were placed on file.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 3-2 vote, with Vice Chair Herman and Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that the Declaration of the Canvass of the Vote for the 2024 Primary Election

be approved, and the Registrar of Voters be directed to certify the abstract of the results and transmit the abstract to the Secretary of State.

24-0412 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Public Comment.

Ms. Penny Brock expressed excitement that former Nye County Clerk Mark Kampf was scheduled to provide a presentation to the Board about paper ballots and hand counting. She asked the Board to place an item on a future agenda to vote for the use of paper ballots and hand counting in the upcoming General Election. She declared that she called Mr. Kampf in February to suggest he provide a presentation to the BCC and was surprised when she heard that Washoe County had extended a similar offer. She said she gave Mr. Kampf a follow-up call, during which he divulged that he was unsure if he would appear before the Board. She asserted that she told him the County needed to hear his story. She looked forward to Mr. Kampf’s presentation.

24-0413 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Andriola reminded the Board that the rodeo was in town.

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12:20 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

JANIS GALASSINI, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:
Taylor Chambers, Deputy County Clerk*