

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

FRIDAY

10:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 18, 2022

PRESENT:

Vaughn Hartung, Chair

Alexis Hill, Vice Chair

Bob Lucey, Commissioner (via Zoom)

Kitty Jung, Commissioner (via Zoom)

Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Janis Galassini, County Clerk

Eric Brown, 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:

22-0877 **AGENDA ITEM 3** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or reports.

22-0878 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Declaration of Canvass of the Vote and Order for the 2022 General Election per NRS 293.387. “Canvass” means a review of the election results by the Board of County Commissioners to determine and declare official vote totals and to identify and note errors within the results. The canvass shall note separately any clerical errors discovered and take account of the changes resulting from the errors discovered. And if the canvass is approved and the result declared, direct the Clerk and/or the Registrar of Voters, as appropriate to enter an abstract of the results in the records of the Board which contains the number of votes cast for each candidate, to certify the abstract, to make a copy of the certified abstract, to make a mechanized report of the abstract in accordance with rules of the Secretary of State, and to transmit these documents and records to the Secretary of State in the time required under NRS 293.387. Registrar of Voters. (All Commission Districts.)

Chief Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras stated the District Attorney’s Office reviewed the law about canvassing the election results. She said the parameters of the Board’s legal duties and the scope of the meeting was for the Board to canvass the voting returns. She explained that canvassing the vote was a process of declaring the election results. It occurred at the local and State levels, and statute required

the canvass to occur within ten days of the election. The Board would canvass the results and direct them to be transmitted to the Secretary of State (SOS) who was the Chief Elections Officer in the State. She said the Board's duties in canvassing the vote were brief: the Board would review the election results, note any clerical errors, indicate whether those errors affected the count, and declare the official election results. She said the canvass was a ministerial and non-discretionary process and the Board had no legal authority to not canvass the vote. She noted that statutory mechanisms to challenge the election were available and they did not involve the County Commission or the canvass. She said the County would be subject to liability in a writ of proceeding if the Board failed to canvass the vote within ten days of the election. She mentioned the canvass was required to avail of other statutory remedies such as a recount or contest. She stated the canvass was not a session to discuss remedies for election issues, it was not an opportunity to create an election process different from that allowed by law, to eliminate mail-in ballots, or to order a new election. She reminded the Board that the agenda item was limited to canvassing the vote, so the Board would not be discussing a variety of alternatives not authorized by law. She noted the Board was entitled to run an orderly meeting and the Chair was authorized to call a recess due to a disruption, personal attack, or threatening or harassing language.

Interim Registrar of Voters (ROV) Jamie Rodriguez thanked the ROV staff for their hard work during the election and staff from the Cities of Reno and Sparks who helped process mail-in ballots. She said there had been 19 early voting centers and 66 election-day voting centers which were made possible by the numerous poll workers, ballot runners, supply runners, and technical support staff. She reported the awareness and popularity of the e-ballots for military, overseas citizens, and disabled voters had grown substantially. The ROV received approximately 400 e-ballots for this election, while only about 40 were received for previous elections. She explained that a pre-logic and accuracy test (LAT) was performed prior to any election. The pre-LAT included testing of all the tabulators used to process mail ballots as well as the programming and testing of all ICX Prime Voting Machines. The accuracy test was overseen and signed off by the certification board. The certification board performed a voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) once the election was completed and signed off on all rejected ballots. She stated a total of 67 ballots were rejected, including signed ballots, envelopes with no ballots, ballot envelopes with two ballots, and ballots returned in plain envelopes. She said the certification board tested the tabulators to ensure they worked the same after the election as they did before the election. She noted the certification board was comprised of five members and she expressed appreciation for their time and efforts.

Ms. Rodriguez said the ROV learned some things from the primary election that helped to make this election easier. She indicated the ROV would continue to evolve to improve future elections. She acknowledged some work was needed regarding mail ballots such as residents expecting mail ballot forwarding, ballot tracking, auditing, and ensuring opt-outs occurred as requested by voters. She reviewed the results of the election and the report which would be forwarded to the SOS.

Commissioner Herman asked for confirmation that approximately 400 e-ballots had been received. Ms. Rodriguez said that was correct.

Vice Chair Hill commended the ROV team and election workers. She acknowledged the ROV received many requests from constituents which created a backlog, but she thought staff had done a great job. She believed the percentage of mail ballots indicated that people wanted to mail their ballots and they liked that process. She looked forward to certifying the vote.

Commissioner Lucey congratulated and thanked ROV staff and volunteers who helped with poll watching and early voting. He acknowledged a large number of hours were required to operate voting locations. He said the County's responsibility was to conduct the election as dictated by the State. He thanked staff for being dynamic and flexible and volunteers for being dedicated to the process. He approved the outcome despite post-pandemic challenges and looked forward to reviewing the canvass.

Commissioner Jung agreed with Vice Chair Hill and Commissioner Lucey's statements. She thanked everyone involved in the election, especially everyone who ran for an office. She echoed her mother in asserting there were no losers in a competition.

Chair Hartung asked for clarification of the VVPAT system. Ms. Rodriguez explained the VVPAT system was the paper trail of in-person votes recorded on the tabulator. She said a paper was printed out when an individual voted in person, and the voter verified their vote on that printed paper. At the end of the election, an audit was performed by selecting 20 machines. The number of votes on the VVPAT was counted and compared to the number of votes recorded by that tabulator, and the certification board chose two random votes for each machine to compare with the paper trail. The VVPAT ensured that a backup was always available in case any technical malfunction occurred with the voting machines. Chair Hartung asked whether any variation was found. Ms. Rodriguez said there was no variation, and the certification board was able to verify the VVPAT rolls.

Chair Hartung thanked staff and volunteers who made the election possible. He hoped the ROV had suggestions for the Legislature to improve future elections. He looked forward to discussing solutions with Ms. Rodriguez.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Lilith Baran said she was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and a Washoe County resident. She mentioned she voted by mail for the first time during this election. She said she poll-watched every day of early voting and for 14 hours on election day. On behalf of the ACLU, she thanked the ROV staff and volunteers who helped ensure the election was safe and secure.

Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas quoted from the bible and stipulated the mail-in ballot numbers were deceiving because they did not differentiate between ballots mailed in and those delivered in person. She opined two Commissioners no longer felt a duty to their office. She said Washoe County elections had not gone unnoticed in other countries around the world. She mentioned the ROV had not allowed her to work on the election.

She submitted a copy of her Statement of Contest for the election, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She said Carson City residents received receipts and submitted their ballots into the tabulators themselves. She requested a new election where voters could personally submit their paper ballots into tabulators.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca contested the certification of the canvass. She said she worked on calling voters for post-election integrity efforts and found 11 people the prior day who indicated they had not voted although their ballots had been cast. She observed that was the ultimate disenfranchisement of voters and constituted fraud. She noted the ROV and the SOS were unable to tell her if her vote was counted, stating they had to wait until after the certification of the vote. She asserted residents had no faith in elections and she believed the election should not be certified.

Ms. Christiane Brown thanked the election workers and volunteers who went door to door to address disinformation. She said 2022 was a repudiation of those who sought to undermine free and fair elections. She stated denying results did not change them. She asserted the voters spoke, the system worked, and the rule of law held.

Ms. Mary Richardson mentioned she was with Indivisible Northern Nevada. She said she was unable to work the election, but she watched it online and was impressed with the professionalism and purposefulness of the security measures. She suggested people who doubted the election needed to become educated and informed. She commended Vice Chair Hill, Commissioner Lucey, Commissioner Jung, and Chair Hartung for thanking the people who worked on the election.

Ms. Jennifer Willett said she was the Nevada Grassroots Manager for All Voting is Local. She expressed support for the canvass of the 2022 midterm election. She thanked Ms. Rodriguez and all election workers for their hard work implementing State laws to ensure all eligible voters could vote and all votes were counted. She said she volunteered as an election protection poll monitor and vote count observer throughout the election. She observed election workers continually working through complicated situations to ensure voters were able to exercise their rights. She saw that a large percentage of ballots were mail ballots which took time to count. She urged the Board to certify the election.

Ms. Amber Falgout stated she was the Northern Nevada Manager for the Institute for a Progressive Nevada and spoke on behalf of Silver State Voices. She observed that voting was a sacred right in this Country, and she voiced her appreciation for the dedicated election workers who worked to ensure elections were safe, secure, and modern. She noted voters had multiple options for casting their ballots. She said she was proud and confident in the 2022 election. She mentioned she had the opportunity to observe vote counting and signature verification at the ROV Office; a process which she found very educational. She stated she observed no irregularities or issues with the process and thanked Ms. Rodriguez and her team. She expressed support for the election process including the Board's certification.

Ms. Kimberly Esse, a graduate student at the University of Nevada, Reno, stated her support of the canvass of the vote. She noted the State had made voting more accessible through increased voting options and expanded voter registration. She recognized the hard work of election workers to ensure the implementation of State voting laws which made increased voter participation possible. She spoke about her experience as an election protection poll monitor. She said she was impressed with the organization of the polling location at which she volunteered. She asserted the election was a great example of democracy in action. She urged the Board to certify the election and thanked Ms. Rodriguez and all election workers.

Ms. Amy Willoughby said she was an election worker and discussed her motivation for becoming involved. She thanked Ms. Kandaras for explaining the canvass of the vote. She spoke about her experience as an election worker stating workers wanted everyone to have their voice. She thanked the ROV for the help and information it provided throughout the process. She stated she felt confident in the election.

Ms. Kimberly Carden mentioned she was a 26-year Army retiree during which time she lived all over the world and mailed in her ballot. She spoke about her experience volunteering as a poll watcher with Silver State Voices. She expressed pride in the election workers, volunteers, and voters stating she observed democracy in action.

Ms. Julie Morrison spoke about her experience as an election worker. She asserted Ms. Rodriguez conducted a clean and efficient election as required by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). She asked the Board to certify the election.

Mr. James M. Benthin provided a document that was distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He thanked everyone who worked on the election. He indicated only two of the five voters in his household received sample ballots and the official election ballots, which was a 40 percent success rate. He said the signature verification was a very important part of the election and inquired what it would take to verify a signature beyond a reasonable doubt. He noted signatures were usually verified on legal documents by a notary public, witnesses, photo identification, or a thumbprint. He believed the election was questionable if expert signature verification was not received.

Ms. Renee Rezendes stated there had been many issues with the election. She noted that three sets of ballots had been sent out to the public due to mistakes. She said Ms. Rodriguez had not addressed those mistakes. She observed a man who went to the ROV counter to indicate he received two mail ballots after he had already voted, and she tried to direct him to contact the SOS. She believed the public needed to be informed about their options for filing complaints and reporting irregularities. She expressed dissatisfaction with what she observed in the ballot processing room.

Mr. Robert Blackstock spoke about his history in politics and business and mentioned the various places he resided in the past. He said he was a poll observer and count observer for the election. He stated the operations at the polls were fantastic and he had not observed any issues. As a poll observer, he watched people working very

efficiently and professionally. He said he had confidence that the team did a good job on the count, and he supported the certification of the canvass of the vote.

Mr. Bruce Schmidt said he signed up to be a poll observer based on concerns voiced by others during prior elections. He thanked all poll workers and everyone involved in the election and stated he was impressed by the hard work, diligence, and professionalism he observed at various voting locations. He said he approved of how well-trained all the election workers were and how well technical issues were resolved. He thought everyone had a fair chance to submit their vote. He felt confident about the closing process and the election process. He believed any concerns and allegations would be investigated and resolved by ROV staff.

Ms. Sarah Mahler believed democracy was alive and well in Washoe County. She thanked all the poll workers, observers, and counters who participated in the election. She observed at the Sun Valley Community Center polling location on election day and believed the process had been conducted without any issues, which she attributed to the County hiring the right staff. She agreed with the comments about the need for more intake specialists.

Ms. Laurie Owen indicated she volunteered as an intake specialist for the first time during this election. She approved of the training class she participated in, remarking that everyone's questions were answered. She spoke about her experience on election day, noting that checking signatures was not difficult and anyone who was asked to show identification was willing to do so. She thanked everyone who participated in the election.

Ms. Carolyn Sullivan asserted her concerns were echoed on social media and represented thousands of people. She said she dropped her ballot off at the ROV Office on election day, noting the SOS website marked her ballot as received. She was told her ballot would not be labeled counted until after the certification of the canvass and she wondered if her ballot had truly not been counted. She spoke about her experience observing the processing room at the ROV Office. She expressed concern about the signature verification process, the behavior of other observers, and the visibility of ballots being processed. She believed the election was not done correctly.

Ms. Julia Adams said she worked as an intake specialist during early voting. She expressed concerns about the names not matching on some ballots, the 30 percent of people who indicated they never received their mail ballot, the scanning irregularities she observed, and card reader issues she encountered. She said a postal worker mentioned that a pallet of ballots was still unscanned at the main post office. She read the definition of an oath and stated that integrity was lacking in today's culture. She said the Board had the power to put the County in the news for a good reason by honoring its oath and demonstrating integrity.

Mr. Adrian Lowry said he lived in the County for about eight years and had always been impressed with the elections in Nevada, especially the opportunity to vote

early. He indicated he submitted a mail ballot at the Sparks Library for this election and remarked that the experience was very good. He said everyone he spoke with had good voting experiences. He commended everyone on a successful election.

Ms. Lisa DeHart thanked the Board and ROV staff for all their work. She inquired whether the Board could ask questions as part of the canvassing process. She mentioned she dropped off a mail ballot and later checked the status on the SOS website. She said her ballot was first labeled received and was later marked as mailed, so she was not confident about it being counted. She was told by an ROV employee that her ballot was received but had not been processed and was later told she could not inquire about the status until after the canvass meeting. She expressed concern about the mail ballot process and requested Board consideration for support of a hand recount.

Mr. Oscar Williams thanked Ms. Kandaras for her explanation of the canvass but said she overlooked the most important part which was to define the true vote cast. He believed the canvass should not be certified if there was any question about the trueness of the votes. He said he submitted his mail ballot to the ROV on election day but had no confirmation that his ballot was counted. Because of this, his confidence in the election results and the ROV was diminished. He expressed concern about the wait times at the polls and believed the mail ballots were unconstitutional because they had not been approved by voters.

Mr. Bruce Foster said he was involved in the election as a precinct captain and a poll watcher. He indicated the election workers at the Spanish Springs Library had been very efficient, but what he observed at other facilities was chaotic and unsatisfactory. He questioned whether the Country would be maintained as a constitutional republic or whether it would be run by the people as a centralized government. He believed the canvass should not be certified. He asked whether the Commissioners took time to observe activities at the ROV Office during the election.

Mr. Timothy Burk mentioned he and his wife had not received their mail ballots, so he questioned whether his mail ballot or his in-person ballot was counted. He questioned how the canvass could be certified when ballots could not be accounted for. He noted many people touted the mail ballot system, but some people received extra ballots while others did not receive one. He asked about the County's adjudication rate noting the adjudication rate was high in some places around the Country. He believed a fair election required people to show identification in person, with mail ballots approved in only certain cases. He thought the canvass should not be certified without further investigation of what actually happened during the election.

Mr. Gordon Gossage spoke about his uncle who passed away in 1944 while defending the American way of life including the right to vote. He said that people who attacked the free and fair election system were attacking the American way of life. He urged everyone to unify over the issue of affordable and workforce housing. He noted many people who earned a good wage were unable to afford housing. He reiterated everyone needed to unite to solve the housing issue.

Ms. Janet Butcher displayed documents, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. She noted people were trying to rebrand the government as a democracy but it was a constitutional republic. She appreciated being an election worker this year, but she had some observations. She said nobody questioned the hard work of everyone in the ROV or the election workers. She stated the polling locations were understaffed and that the procedures would not have passed an IT process audit because everyone used the same password. She questioned the signature verification process by displaying a sample signature. She acknowledged that 80 percent of people had offered their identification when delivering their ballots. She asserted many election procedures needed to be reviewed.

Mr. Scott Finley displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He noted his mail ballot had not been flagged erroneously during this election as it had during the 2020 election. He said the BallotTrax website had been made inaccessible to Nevadans until election day and asked why the ROV and the SOS trusted that company. He mentioned the cameras in the ROV Office had been turned off on November 9 although there was no power outage in the area, so he presumed they had been turned off deliberately. He asked about proof that no duplicate mail ballots had been taken into the ROV. He spoke about being asked to sign an affidavit to verify he would not send in a mail ballot after voting in person, which he stated was redundant. He asked why election workers were not being properly trained and informed about fraud prevention mechanisms. He requested the Board make an official declaration condemning mail ballots in civil disobedience until the issues had been addressed and resolved.

Mr. Chris Sanseverino stated the email ballots were not verifiable and appeared to be inaccurate, noting voter identification for email ballots did not make sense. He expressed concern about election result delays considering that many other states received results in 12 to 24 hours. He asserted the election needed to be irreproachable to ensure that people had confidence in the election results. He believed mail ballots presented an opportunity for election fraud. He stated people disapproved of the voting machines because they experienced many issues and malfunctions. He requested the County perform a recount of votes for the election.

Ms. Amber Hart requested the Board not approve the 2022 election results. She noted Hillary Clinton had been applauded for speaking of voter fraud in the past, but people were not allowed to question election integrity for the 2020 election. She questioned how the number of votes varied from one office to another. She acknowledged that voters could skip voting for some offices, but she thought the number of missing votes was too significant to be easily explained. She pledged to become involved so she could once again have faith in the election system.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon referred to Chair Hartung's statement about ideas for improving elections and he challenged the Board to establish a method of dialogue with constituents to obtain their input. He said residents questioned whether anything occurred with the voting machines that could be nefarious. He asked why residents would vote on a machine for which vote-changing was not 100 percent verifiable. He believed his

reasonable doubt report demonstrated many things happened with the machines and that votes were being changed. He said he participated in electioneering on election day and was asked to move by ROV staff although he was beyond the designated barrier. He noted he had volunteered to be an intake specialist for the 2022 primary election and was first assigned to work and was later unassigned.

Mr. Cliff Nellis provided a document that was distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He said he observed at the ROV and polling places, asserting he had not witnessed any meaningful observation of the process. He noted signature verification was the only way to validate a person's vote. He said watching from the fishbowl in the ROV Office did not allow for complete observation because people were not allowed to walk around the verifiers. He suggested that having a video feed broadcast on YouTube could provide an unobstructed view of the verification process. He voiced a lack of confidence in the election system and mistrust of mail-in ballots.

Mr. Donald Fossum displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He thanked the Board for listening to the commenters' grievances. He asked for a comparison of the number of ballots mailed out, the number of registered voters, and the number of ballots received. He asked why ballots were sent out throughout the State and expressed concern about duplicate and triplicate mail ballots. He believed the identification of voters needed to be verified before they were permitted to vote.

Ms. Lisa Partee stated the 2020 election demonstrated that elections could be manipulated. She said having the cameras shut down simultaneously at the ROV Office created suspicion. She asserted the numbers did not add up considering the number of Democrats who changed their party to Republican statewide. She hoped the Board listened to the concerns voiced by public commenters. She implored the Board to not certify the canvass without a formal hand count.

Ms. Kim Mack requested the Board not certify the canvass for this election and call for an audit. She wondered how many anomalies the Board needed to hear about before being convinced that an audit would be reasonable. She spoke about her personal experiences with voter fraud during the 2016 and 2019 elections. She asked about the possibility of making the requirements for receipt of mail ballots more stringent. She supported the requirement for voter identification, stating it would be a reasonable method to secure legal votes.

Ms. Theresa Keating was called but was not present to speak.

Ms. Elise Weatherly said she had been taught over the years that mistakes happened. She believed issues could be resolved as long as there were clues as to what the problem was. She spoke about the United States post office delivering mail to the wrong address and she wondered whether she was breaking the law by delivering a mail-in ballot to the correct address. She questioned how evil could be overcome by good.

Ms. Lena Alexander stated she had been closely watching the data that was published on the County website during the primary and the general elections. She expressed concern about the inconsistency in voter numbers from the primary election and the general election. She believed the 20,000 individuals with missing votes had been disenfranchised. She recommended the Board not certify the election.

Mr. Buddy Miller said he was the Deputy Voter Protection Director for the Nevada Democratic Victory Campaign and asserted his focus was to ensure that every vote cast was counted. He asked the Board to certify the vote. In response to speakers who alleged their votes had not been validated, he stated no evidence had been presented or proven in a court of law. He asserted the Republican party was requesting an audit, but he opined there was no statute that authorized this process. He opined that a vocal minority of fewer than 100 voters should not be able to keep the 194,000 voters from having their ballots counted. He mentioned the comments related to meaningful observation in the fishbowl, stating the SOS regulation indicated that the observers must not infringe on the privacy and confidentiality of voters.

Mr. Wayne Gordon shared he had lost all confidence in the elections. He asserted there were people on the voter rolls who were not eligible to vote in Nevada. In one case he knew a person who had moved to Texas and was still on the Nevada voter rolls. He indicated the tracking for his ballot was incorrect; it showed that he cast his vote in person on November 11, but he had voted in person on November 8. He opined the people who said they were non-partisan were disingenuous, stating he believed everyone was partisan in one way or another.

Ms. Kelley Radow remarked she was speaking on behalf of her 18-year-old son who was residing in Spain. She spoke about her son going through the process on the SOS website to determine his eligibility to vote absentee. Her son cast his absentee ballot and later received an email from the ROV which indicated his vote had not been processed but he was not given a reason. She said she contacted the ROV Office and was told her son's vote had been processed, but on further questioning, she was transferred, and she left a voicemail. She received a call back the next day and was told her son's ballot was rejected because an international address had not been provided. She explained the absentee ballot had not asked for an international address. She wondered how many absentee ballots were not counted.

Mr. Roger Scime asked the Board to certify the vote. He apologized for talking about music and bands while he observed the voting process. He questioned the voting machine language which showed "received" instead of "counted." He said he was told by Ms. Rodriguez that the screen would show "received" or "rejected." He stated he was an observer in the ROV Office, noting there were four cameras throughout the room along with a monitor that displayed the camera angles. He mentioned a comment made by Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas about affiliations, noting most people in the count room wore a badge that said non-partisan (NP), but he saw at least one Republican badge. In response to comments about signature verification, he said Ms. Rodriguez explained the ROV had examples of voter signatures from previous years. He asserted he saw at least one set of

signature verifications that occurred during his time as an observer.

Mr. Kenji Otto said he was offended by some of Mr. Gordon Gossage's comments and wanted them to be stricken from the record. He indicated the ROV failed to list Ms. Janis Galassini on the ballot, but he brought that to the attention of the SOS even though he was Ms. Galassini's competition. He asserted he had identified a number of issues with the job of the County Clerk and opined the people of Washoe County needed to know about said issues. He stated he was an election questioner, not an election denier. He mentioned the cameras shutting off in the ROV Office saying it had been explained as a server issue. He believed the explanation of a server issue to be impossible.

Ms. Janet Carter said she spoke for her father who spent time in a prisoner of war (POW) camp in Germany during World War II (WWII) and her mother who worked on the elections in Alameda County, California for more than 25 years. She voiced her respect for election workers, stating she knew how hard her mother worked during elections. She mentioned she was registered to vote in Washoe County before she moved away. She had lived in four counties in the State of Nevada with no issues voting in any election. She mentioned she had to move out of the State during the pandemic, but she moved back to Reno in September 2022. It was important to her to re-register to vote and she did so as soon as she moved back to town. She noted she enjoyed the feeling of dropping her mail-in ballot in the election box. She stated she had been able to vote easily and safely. She believed signatures were checked to ensure people could not vote more than once in an election. She asked the Board to certify the vote.

Ms. Penny Brock provided a document that was distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. She asked the Board not to certify the vote. She spoke about John Locke's writings from England, on which the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and other founding documents were based. She expressed grief over what was happening with elections. She opined the United States was becoming like a third-world country. She opined the 2022 election was stolen and said it was an outrage and a violation of the Constitution. She believed the nation and the Lord were watching the elections in Washoe County. She asked for a new election consisting of paper ballots, hand counting, and no electronic voting machines.

Ms. Debbie Hudgens believed it was impossible to have a chain of custody with mail-in ballots and ballot harvesting at the same time. She wanted the certification of the election to be delayed so that people who questioned the election could be proven wrong. She thought there were tens of thousands of people who felt they were not represented fairly. She believed that proving the election was fair would permanently appease residents who questioned its validity.

Mr. Xo McBeth stated he support the election validation, not because he thought that the democracy was healthy, but because he believed it was a better solution than what the opposing sides proposed. He mentioned comments about election fraud, noting opposing sides would ignore actual issues with the election system. He believed the same people were more concerned about their candidates winning than election integrity.

He thought those individuals feared losing power. He mentioned a proposal to expand the naval base in Fallon.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised the Board she received two emailed public comments from Ms. Linda Herrick and Mr. Benjamin Atteberry, which she placed on the record.

Commissioner Herman said she had participated in more elections than most of the people in Chambers. She mentioned her work on General Dwight D. Eisenhower's campaign, saying she believed he would disapprove of the election in Washoe County. She noted she had not received a sample ballot. She spoke about her personal experience with voter fraud during a past election. She mentioned a voter who had voted six times and had all those votes accepted. She said she tried to suggest ideas earlier in the year to improve election integrity. She asserted America relied on election transparency. She expressed concern about some of the things she observed through the video recordings of the election. She thought the County needed to find out how Florida conducted its election which allowed it to have results the same day. She said she would not support the canvass.

Chair Hartung asked Ms. Kandaras whether the Board had the ability to call for another election. Ms. Kandaras replied no, stating the Board could not call for another election in the context of this meeting. She said there were options for doing that, but it would be through a defeated candidate or a voter, not the County Commission.

Chair Hartung asked for clarification about who could request an additional election. Ms. Kandaras replied that a defeated or grieved candidate could request a recount through a mechanism in the NRS. She believed there was a provision that would allow a voter to seek a recount as well. She noted the canvass had to go to the SOS before a recount could be requested. She said the procedure was outlined in statute by the SOS in the Nevada Legislature which the Board was not a part of. She reiterated the Board served a ministerial non-discretionary function for this canvass.

Chair Hartung opined there were laws in Nevada that needed to be revisited. He hoped those laws would be revisited now that a new Governor had been elected. He asserted cleaning up voter rolls was essential, and he thought there were some legislative solutions that could be used. He mentioned the need for a clearer method of listing ballot status online. He asked whether BallotTrax was a third-party system. Ms. Rodriguez said it was a third-party system contracted through the State.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Herman voting no, it was ordered that the Declaration of the Canvass of the Vote for the 2022 General Election be approved and the Registrar of Voters was directed to transfer the abstract to the Secretary of State.

12:24 p.m. The Board recessed.

1:30 p.m. **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

22-0879 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Public Comment.

Mr. James M. Benthin was called but was not present to speak.

Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about a song, hackers, God, telling the truth, and the Enron scandal. She inquired about what to do when employees did not do their job correctly.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon was called but was not present to speak.

Ms. Cindy Martinez mentioned Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 293 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 293, which were the regulations that implemented the statutory intent passed by Assembly Bill (AB) 321 during the 2021 legislative session. She believed the Board's role was to implement the scope of the election and carry out the legislative intent. She understood the regulatory framework in which the Board had to operate. She indicated she had no concerns with the electoral process based on her experience and observations and acknowledged her responsibility to ensure her voter registration was sound, current, and accurate. She said she heard from various residents that their trust in the electoral process was being destroyed by the disinformation promulgated by community members. She expressed support for the Board and the Registrar of Voters (ROV) and suggested individuals direct their concerns about the electoral process to their senator or assembly representative.

Ms. Janet Butcher clarified her earlier comments about signature verification, stating that in many cases voter identity was difficult to confirm from the signature alone. She was discouraged to hear that some people waited in line for one and a half to two hours. She said several people who dropped ballots off during early voting indicated they had been turned away from the Spanish Springs Library without an explanation. She stated there were many process issues at the County level that needed to be addressed.

Ms. Renee Rezendes said she observed a different process used by ROV staff for receiving blue bags than the process used for the primary election. She stated deliveries went into the building from the garage and the front of the building. She indicated the runners were allowed to stay inside and they obstructed the camera views. She stated staff members entered with purses, cell phones, and dogs which created a distraction. She spoke about her experience living in Ecuador for several years.

22-0880 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Announcements/Reports.

Chair Hartung asked to follow up with County Manager Eric Brown and Interim Registrar of Voters Jamie Rodriguez on some of the comments made during the meeting.

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1:44 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:
Carolina Stickley and Doni Blackburn, Deputy County Clerks*