

**IRON COUNTY SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2024**

Minutes of the Iron County Special Commission meeting convened at 10:00 a.m.
November 18, 2024 in Commission Chambers at the Iron County Courthouse, Parowan, Utah.

Officers in attendance included:

Michael Bleak	Commission Chair
Paul Cozzens	Commissioner
Marilyn Wood	Commissioner
Jonathan T. Whittaker	County Clerk

Also present:

Lucas Little	County Auditor
Nicole Rosenberg	County Treasurer

Others Present:

Blaine Nay

SYNOPSIS

CANVASS OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, GENERAL ELECTION 1
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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those assembled were led in the pledge of allegiance by Nicole Rosenberg.

INVOCATION

An invocation was offered by Lucas Little.

CANVASS OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, GENERAL ELECTION

Jon Whittaker, Iron County Clerk , presented the Canvass of the November 5th General Election. Jon reported that the election ran smoothly. There were a few reports of voter intimidation at the Cedar City drop box, but they could never catch anyone in the act. Chief Darin Adams was great to keep steady surveillance on both the drop box and the vote center. Turnout was impressive at 88.5%. Total registered voters was 32,149, which is more than Iron County ever had. 24,069 ballots were dropped in the mail or a drop box, 3,070 in person, 70 that were returned electronically as overseas folks, and 1,246 votes that were provisional. So those were people that waited in line and either had a new registration or had moved. As part of the outreach campaign, voters were encouraged to use the newly installed 24 drop boxes. When the count of ballots was compared to those given voter credit in the statewide election system, there were 2 more ballots. This was due to 2 provisional voters not receiving voting credit. Jon noted that they would track those two down. Otherwise, everything balanced perfectly. There were 144 envelopes with a signature that did not match the voter's signature, 32 that were unsigned, 12 that were challenged for other curable reasons, and 240 ballots that were challenged and cured and not combined. So in other words, 179 were not cured, so 74% were not cured. There were 45 ballots that were returned after the postmark deadline. And we were pleased because Cedar City, they put a ball stamp on all ballots and they didn't have a Vegas stamp so not only were they stamped here, they

didn't go to Vegas and 45 is closer to what is expected not ten times that like we had in June. 28 ballots were rejected for non-curable reasons despite instructions that voters turn in the ballots in the provided envelope with a signed affidavit. 1,282 provisional ballots were issued, 1,246 were counted, 30 were not counted, three were already voted. Sometimes people do it on purpose but we always assume that they probably just didn't realize they already voted in the election because the ballots come out three weeks before and they want to vote on Election Day. During the entire Canvass period, the Clerk's Office staff made hundreds of calls to reach provisional voters that needed just a bit more for their vote to count. 97% of provisional ballots were counted. Of those 1282 ballots, 532 were same-day registrations. As far as results, Donald Trump won for President, John Curtis won for Senate, in House District 2, Malloy won, Cox-Henderson won. Even though they did not win, Phil Lyman and Natalie Claussen garnered an impressive 4775 write-in votes. For Attorney General, Derek Brown and for Auditor, Tina Cannon. Marlo Oaks won in the Treasurer race, Albrecht for House 70, Shipp for House 71, uncontested Joanne Brinton for School Board won, Ken Robinson won in his uncontested County Commission race, Karsten Reed won uncontested for County Assessor, unopposed Lucas Little won for County Auditor, unopposed Carri Jeffries won for County Recorder, unopposed Nicole Rosenberg won for County Treasurer, John Taylor, won unopposed for School Board. Interestingly, in Iron School Board District 3, Tyrell Eddie won over "withdrawn," but that was because James Johnson got called on a mission and withdrew. Durant, Barnes and Leavitt all won their judicial retention races. Constitutional Amendments A and D were stricken. Constitutional Amendment B won 60% to 40% in Iron County, Constitutional Amendment C won 81% to 13% in Iron County and finally, the school bond failed with a vote of 40.73% for and 51.29% against. Karsten Reed, Joseph Peterson, and Michael Bleak all helped with the post-election audit. This year that took about 3 hours.

Paul Cozzens made the following statement:

"Everybody knows I had an issue with certifying the primary election. That was a different election. I will certify this one, but that one I still have problems with, for the reasons I stated then. I know there was some, and I know there's still some lawsuits that are pending in the Supreme Court and stuff that, those will play out, right, how they play out. But I mean, we've had people reach out to us from the public, and I want them to know that we looked at their, I'm sure, we all read and listened to them. But I do believe in my heart that changes do need to be made in our elections in Utah. I did talk to some legislators that are running some bills this time. I still believe, and I know you'll disagree with me, Jon, but... I know Tushar's got one that he's working on, planning on running. Yeah, I still believe that opt-in for any reason. If you want an absentee ballot, you can opt-in for any reason. You call and request a ballot, and you can do it for whether you're a missionary, whether you're military, whether you just don't... you're going to maybe be out of town by any chance, you can do that, but then the rest of us go vote in person. I think it solves a myriad of problems and so I know of some bills I know of one bill that's going to be introduced to take the election away from the Lieutenant Governor's Office and move it to a Secretary of State or or a department of elections and I support support that bill."

Paul Cozzens made a motion to certify the Canvass of the November 5, 2024 General Election. Second by Marilyn Wood. Voting: Michael P. Bleak, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Aye, Marilyn Wood, Aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Michael P. Bleak, Iron County Commission Chair, declared adjournment.



Attest: Jonathan T. Whittaker, County Clerk



Signed: Michael P. Bleak, Chair

November 18, 2024