

MINUTES OF THE BLAINE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

April 7, 2026

The Blaine County Election Board met in a REGULAR meeting on April 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Blaine County Election Board, Room 6, Blaine County Courthouse, 212 N. Weigle, Watonga, Oklahoma 73772. Advance notice of the meeting was given by filing a written notice with the Blaine County Clerk on November 17, 2025 at 9:34 a.m.

Present: Mike Russell, Chair
Lana Melchor, Vice Chair
Brenda Rice, Secretary

BUSINESS CONDUCTED AT THE MEETING

1. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Call to Order and announcement of a quorum. **ACTION TAKEN:** Mr. Russell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

2. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Discuss and approve the minutes for the meeting held February 13, 2026.

ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved that the minutes of the meeting held February 13, 2026 be approved. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.

3. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Process mail and nursing home absentee ballots submitted for the April 7, 2026 Board of Education General/Special Elections including opening the outer envelopes and examining the affidavits for sufficiency, removing the affidavit envelope, opening the secrecy envelope, and counting the ballots.

ACTION TAKEN: The opening of the Absentee Ballot Boxes was delayed because Chairperson Mr. Russell couldn't find his keys. Sheriff Deputy John Smith had me call Sheriff Travis Daugherty he told me he would have Stacy Walters call me. I received the call and she knew where our extra set of keys to the padlocks were kept so John Smith went to the jail and retrieved the extra set of keys. Opening of Absentee Ballot Boxes began at 6:20 p.m. with Assistant Secretary Tonya Nix unlocking the Absentee Ballot Boxes. The empty boxes were shown to the Board Members. The Board members opened outer envelopes and examined the affidavits for eight absentee ballots submitted by mail. There were no nursing home ballots cast.

The Board determined that the eight ballots were sufficient and would be counted. Mrs. Melchor moved to accept and count the eight absentee ballots. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.

The Board observed as County Election Board Vice-Chairman Lana Melchor, and Tonya Nix, Assistant Secretary scanned all mail ballots through the designated voting machine.

4. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Canvass the April 7, 2026 Board of Education General Election results for the following school district that Blaine County is the parent county election board:

Canton Public Schools I-105

ACTION TAKEN: None. No motions were made and no votes taken in connection with these activities.

- 5. BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Canvass the April 7, 2026 Special Election results for the following school district that Blaine County is the parent county election board:
Geary Public Schools I-80

ACTION TAKEN: None. No motions were made and no votes taken in connection with these activities.

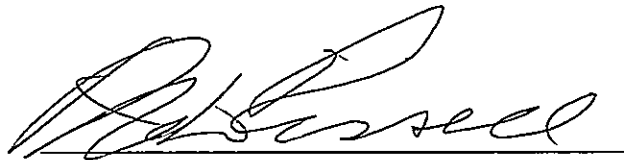
Throughout the evening, Board members were present and observed the processes and procedures involved in the receipt of voting devices, election supplies, and ballots from Inspectors; the tabulation of election results and production of tabulation reports and summary results reports; the transfer of sealed ballot transfer cases from precincts and sealed ballot transfer cases containing counted absentee ballots into the custody of the Sheriff. The Board also examined tabulation reports and unofficial certification reports.

- 6. BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Secretary's report to the Board about current and upcoming election events, and discussion regarding future meeting dates.

ACTION TAKEN: The Secretary announced the next meeting is April 10, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. If needed recount is April 17, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Contest hearing will be canceled that was scheduled on April 17, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

- 7. BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Motion to adjourn.

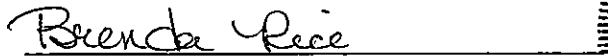
ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved to adjourn until the next meeting which is scheduled on Friday, April 10, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero. Meeting Adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Mike Russell, Chairman



Lana Melchor, Vice-Chairman



Brenda Rice, Secretary

Karen Gilliland, Republican Alternate

Mary Larson, Democrat Alternate

