VOTE

Blaine County Election Board
COURTHOUSE - 212 N. WEIGLE AVENUE
WATONGA, OKLAHOMA 73772-3843
580-623-5518 - FAX 580-623-5519

MINUTES OF THE BLAINE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

August 25, 2026

The Blaine County Election Board met in a REGULAR meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the County Election Board office, Room 6, Blaine County Courthouse, 212 N. Weigle, Watonga, Oklahoma 73772. Advance notice of the meeting was performed by filing a written notice with the County Clerk on November 17, 2025 at 9:34 a.m. and by posting an agenda at the County Election Board office on August 14, 2026 at 9:13 a.m. One copy each of the notice and agenda is attached.

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. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Russell-present Mrs. Melchor -present Miss Rice-present. Quorum of 3. ACTION TAKEN: The meeting was called to order by Chair Mr. Russell at 10 a.m. with a quorum present.

2. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Discuss and approve the minutes for the meeting held June 19, 2026. **ACTION TAKEN:** Mrs. Melchor moved that the minutes of the meeting held June 19, 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 absentee ballots for the August 25, 2026 Runoff Primary Election including opening the returns envelopes, examining the ballot affidavits envelopes for sufficiency, removing the ballot affidavit envelopes, opening the secrecy envelopes, and counting the ballots for Runoff Primary Election returns for federal, state and county offices. There were 53 absentee ballots received for processing. After opening the outer envelopes and examining the affidavits, the Board determined that 4 standard absentee ballots must be rejected due to a no signature, witness didn't print their name, no name on the top line and affidavit left blank.
ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved to reject 4 affidavits to be rejected because that weren't properly completed and to accept and count forty-nine properly completed and attested affidavits. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.

The properly completed and attested affidavits were opened and the ballots removed from the secrecy envelopes. The ballots were then turned over to Assistant Secretary Tonya Nix to feed ballots into eScan and were counted using a voting device designated for absentee ballots. The board members observed the counting process.

ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved to recess the meeting at 10:47 a.m. and to reconvene at 7:00 p.m. in the same location; seconded by Mr. Russell. ROLL CALL: Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.
ACTION TAKEN: The meeting was called back to order by Chair Mr. Russell and reconvene at 7:00 p.m. in the County Election Board office with a quorum present.

4. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Canvass the August 25, 2026 Runoff Primary Election returns for federal, state, judicial and county offices; and all state questions. The 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 election results reports, and the transfer of sealed ballot transfer cases containing ballots from each precinct to the custody of the Sheriff. Following an MBB audit to determine that all MBBs written for the election were counted and tallied, the board verified correct results were reported by the Hart system, MESA system, and State Election Board website and were reported on the unofficial certification report.
ACTION TAKEN: None. Board action not required.

5. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Secretary's report to the Board about current and upcoming election events, and discussion regarding future meeting dates. The Secretary announced the next meeting is August 28, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. If needed recount is September 4, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
ACTION TAKEN: None. Board action not required.

6. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Adjourn meeting.
ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Mike Russell, Chairman

Lana Melchor, Vice-Chairman

Brenda Rice, Secretary

BLAINE COUNTY OFFICIAL SEAL STATE OF OKLAHOMA ELECTION BOARD

Karen Gilliland, Republican Alternate

Mary Larson, Democrat Alternate