

MINUTES OF THE BLAINE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

November 5, 2024

The Blaine County Election Board met in a SPECIAL meeting on November 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Blaine County Election Board, Room 6, Blaine County Courthouse, 212 N. Weigle, Watonga, Oklahoma. Advance notice of the meeting was given by filing a written notice with the Blaine County Clerk on August 28, 2024 at 1:43 p.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 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

2. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Discuss and approve the minutes for the meeting held August 30, 2024.

ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved that the minutes of the meeting held August 30, 2024 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 November 5, 2024 General/Special Election 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 Board members opened outer envelopes and examined the affidavits for three nursing home ballots and one hundred twenty-six absentee ballots submitted by mail which included two faxed military ballots, one military ballot received by mail and one EADS ballot. This process began at 10:03 a.m.

Rejection # 1: When opening the envelopes, the Board rejected a Standard ballot because the voter's date and the notary date didn't match.

Rejection # 2: When opening the envelopes, the Board rejected an Incapacitated ballot because the voter didn't date the affidavit.

Rejection # 3: When opening the envelopes, the Board rejected an Incapacitated ballot that failed to list their name on the top line.

Rejection # 4: When opening the envelopes, the Board rejected an Incapacitated ballot that failed to list their name on the top line.

Rejection # 5: When opening the envelopes, the Board rejected an Incapacitated ballot because the voter didn't date the affidavit.

Rejection # 6: When opening the envelopes, the Board rejected an Incapacitated ballot because the voter failed to get witnesses.

Rejection # 7: When opening the envelopes, the Board rejected an Incapacitated ballot because the voter didn't date the affidavit.

Rejection # 8: When opening the envelopes, the Board rejected a Standard ballot that failed to list their name on the top line.

Rejection # 9: When opening the envelopes, the Board rejected a Standard ballot because the voter didn't date the affidavit.

Rejection # 10: When opening the envelopes, the Board rejected an Incapacitated ballot because the voter failed to sign the affidavit.

The Board followed procedures to mark two Substitute Ballots faxed by military voters. The Chairman read the ballots to the Vice-Chairman who marked the ballot. The Board reviewed the substitute ballots and we agreed that the substitute ballots were marked exactly as the original ballot submitted by the voter.

The Board followed procedure to mark one Substitute ballot received by mail from an overseas voter. The Chairman read the ballots to the Vice-Chairman who marked the ballot. The Board reviewed the substitute ballots and we agreed that the substitute ballots were marked exactly as the original ballot submitted by the voter.

The Board followed procedure to mark one Electronically Accessible Delivery System (EADS) received by mail. The Chairman read the ballots to the Vice-Chairman who marked the ballot. The Board reviewed the substitute ballots and we agreed that the substitute ballots were marked exactly as the original ballot submitted by the voter.

The Board determined that One Hundred nineteen ballots were sufficient and would be counted. Mrs. Melchor moved to accept and count the One Hundred nineteen 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, Tammy Edsall, Assistant Secretary and Tonya Nix, Clerk scanned all mail ballots through the designated voting machine. When running the ballots through two ballots would not read. It was giving an ESN 200 code. The State Election Board was called and they said to not run those two ballots through the voting machine. The voting machine failed to read another ballot because they used white out to change their vote. The State Election Board was called and they said to remark a ballot since this one was actually mutilated.

4. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Recess meeting, if necessary, and reconvene. ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor made a motion to recess the meeting at 12:10 p.m. and reconvene the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:00 p.m. in the County Election Board office and called to order by Mr. Russell. All members were present.

The Board opened outer envelopes and examined the affidavits for two absentee ballots submitted by mail from the Post Office after the earlier board meeting and One absentee write in ballot. This process began at 6:02 p.m.

Rejection # 11: Absentee write in ballot could not be counted because it was received after the absentee deadline.

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

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.

5. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Canvass the November 5, 2024 General Election results.
ACTION TAKEN: None. No motions were made and no votes taken in connection with these activities.

6. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Canvass the November 5, 2024 Special Election for Town of Okeene results. **ACTION CONDUCTED:** None. No motions were made and no votes taken in connection with these activities.

7. 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 November 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. If needed, recount on November 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

8. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Motion to adjourn.

ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved to adjourn until the next meeting which is scheduled on Friday, November 8, 2024 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 8:59 p.m.

Absent

Mike Russell, Chairman

Mary Larson, Alternate Chairman

Lana Melchor

Lana Melchor, Vice-Chairman

Karen Gilliland, Alternate Vice-Chairman

Brenda Rice

Brenda Rice, Secretary

