

**VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Special Meeting**

**Canvass the 2002 General Election**

**November 8, 2002**

Gary Daves, Vice-Chairman called the Meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

PRESENT	ABSENT
	Aurelio H. Padilla, Chairman
Gary Daves, Vice-Chairman	S. T. Frank Pando, Member
Alicia Aguilar, Member	
Helen Baca, Member	
James Fernandez, County Manager	
Thomas Garde, County Attorney	
Tina Gallegos, County Clerk	
Press and Public	

Vice- Chairman Gary Daves said that Chairman Padilla was not able to be here so he would chair this meeting. Also Vice-Chairman Daves stated that Frank Pando was not able to attend because of a death in the family. Vice-Chairman Daves called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

**Vice-Chairman Daves asked Jane Moorman to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Approval of Agenda**

Vice-Chairman Daves asked Tina Gallegos, County Clerk to read the agenda. Commissioner Baca made a motion for approval of agenda. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Daves. Discussion. Commissioner Aguilar said she was not prepared to vote on approval of payroll and warrants at this time. Vice-Chairman Daves said with that item deleted from the agenda we can move for approval. Commissioner Baca made a motion to amend the prior motion to state approval of agenda with the approval of payroll and warrants deleted from the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Aguilar. Discussion. Commissioner Aguilar voted yes. Commissioner Baca voted yes. Vice-Chairman Daves voted yes. Motion carried. 3-0.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Valencia County Board of Commissioners Convenes as Canvass Board**  
**Canvass the 2002 General Election**  
**Board Re-convenes as Board of Commissioners**

Vice-Chairman Daves congratulated the winners in the 2002 General Election and everyone that participated in the process of this election. Vice-Chairman Daves asked Ms. Gallegos to proceed with the action item before them today.

Ms. Gallegos said she is before this Commission to present the official canvass of the 2002 General Election. Ms. Gallegos said before she calls on the numbers of the election she would like to report on the election progress. The absentee and early voting process was a success; we had 22% of registered voters voting prior to Election Day. There were 3,421 voters that voted here in the County Commission Meeting room for early voting. There were 3,782 voters that voted in the absentee mail out process. Ms. Gallegos said that total was 7,203 voters with 180 ballots not being returned as of 7:00 PM Election Day. The voting machines were delivered to the polling places with the aid of the rental budget truck, it had a lift on it and we were able to carry twice the amount of voting machines during this delivery cycle. This made delivery safer, faster and easier on the two staff members. Ms. Gallegos said as of now all voting machines have been picked up at the polling places and returned back to the storage warehouse with the exception of two machines. The voting at the polling places went smoothly, there were lines at several of the precincts at opening of the polls at 7:00 AM, at times during the course of the day and then again at the closing at 7:00 PM. The average wait at some of the polling places was approximately 45 minutes. We had runners out election evening to pick up the cartridges and voting tapes from all precincts. This allowed us to have precinct results posted by 9:00 PM on our website as well as posting this in the Commission Room that we had available for media and any interested party. We used all of the 99 voting machines for this election and we did have some voting machine problems with parts of the voting machines that went out as well as the matrix board on three machines having to do maintenance to them. We had problems in programming with the need to repair these machines and get a replacement of a power board, which was costly. Some of these problems stemmed from storage, dust on the machines but mainly the age of the voting machines. On Election Day we had some of those problems arise and caused these voting machines to go down but fortunately we had back-up machines at all of the polling places and we were able to use them and continue with the election. We did get our technicians out

there to fix the small problems but when we had to we did use the spare machines that were available. Ms. Gallegos said we need to look at the problems that arose for this election for the upcoming 2004 Presidential Election. We need to look at it in a different way with regards to the antiquated voting machines and the absentee and early voting process that took all night. The absentee board began their job on the Monday before the election at 7:00 AM. They needed to alphabetize, accept, and or reject ballots because they could not open envelopes. Ms. Gallegos reported it took them from that time until Tuesday afternoon to complete that process. It was about 2:00 PM that they were able to start opening up the envelopes and putting the ballots through the voting machine for tabulation. There were many ballots that the machine rejected due to voter error, the fold in the ballot that the machine could not read, or incomplete ballots. Ms. Gallegos said these had to be hand tallied. There were 467 ballots that had to hand tallied, 262 of those were in AV1, and 208 were done in AV2. This was a very tedious process and the board did not get started on hand tallies until 6:00 PM Election night. Once this was done the Board put together their hand tallies with the machine totals to produce one vote per precinct, they turned in their tallies to the Clerk's office at 5:30 A.M. Wednesday morning and the office was able to post the results on the website and into the system at 7:30 A.M. on Wednesday morning. At that time we had unofficial results posted at approximately 9:00 AM Wednesday morning. Ms. Gallegos said we need to look at the absentee process options, this will mostly be held through the legislation process that has to be endorsed by the Secretary of State's Office as well as all County Clerk's Offices in the State. As a whole all 33 counties have a problem with the absentee process so Ms. Gallegos said hopefully this will definitely be a priority on the legislative agenda.

Ms. Gallegos reported there were 275 hours of overtime put in by her staff during the final two weeks of the General Election and there were 9.5 hours of overtime on Election Day. Ms. Gallegos said she would like to commend her staff, Lawrence Kaneshiro, Bureau Director and his crew, Debbie Ridley, Peggy Estrada, Gabe Salas, Leticia Sedillos, Lena Cruz, Chris Castillo and Desi Gallegos who worked diligently around the clock to produce this election. Ms. Gallegos said that most of the public is unaware of the work involved behind the scenes for an election and the work is enormous. There are some people that have ideas or suggestions on how to better handle an election but until you are knee deep in the process do you realize the work that has to get done and the time frame in which to do it in. Ms. Gallegos said we need to give thanks and she offers her appreciation to these employees for a job well done. Ms. Gallegos said everyone in the Clerk's Office as well as Sally Perea, her right hand person, Larry Tafoya, and Ida Gallegos kept the Recording and Filing Office afloat during the past several weeks. Ms. Gallegos said at this time she will present the 2002 General Election Canvass.

Vice-Chairman Daves asked for a motion to convene as the Canvass Board. Commissioner Baca made a motion to convene as the Canvass Board. Seconded by Commissioner Aguilar. Discussion. Commissioner Aguilar voted yes. Commissioner Baca voted yes. Vice-Chairman Daves voted yes. Motion carried. 3-0.

Vice-Chairman Daves said to Ms. Gallegos you and your staff are to be commended for a job well done as well as the precinct workers. Commissioner Aguilar also thanked Ms. Gallegos and her staff because she felt this office is one of the busiest in the County while working 32 hours and with such a shortage in staff she had to juggle numbers and be creative and even on Election Day long hours that were put in. Commissioner Aguilar commended Ms. Gallegos for running such a professional office and this shows their administrative abilities for a job well done and if she could she would thank them individually. Ms. Gallegos said her staff is present and asked them to stand and at this time a round of applause was given for Ms. Gallegos and her staff. Commissioner Baca also expressed her appreciation to Ms. Gallegos and staff for a job well done.

Commissioner Aguilar congratulated the perspective winners of the General Election outcome because she said this Commission has gone through this process and this is a tough thing to do, also there are no losers as she does congratulate them for their efforts. Commissioner Aguilar said she looks forward to working with the newly elected officials.

Vice-Chairman Daves said to Ms. Gallegos your problems for this election will not go unnoticed so please at a future meeting bring them forward and we look at what needs to be done to move forward.

Ms. Gallegos reported there were 32,803 registered voters that were qualified to vote in this General Election with 17,568 cast their votes. That was a total of 53.56% of the registered voters that voted. There were very few changes but nothing that changed per winners and losers that affected the turnout at the end of Election Day. Ms. Gallegos said the official canvass books will require Commission signatures for final approval and they will be available in her office for \$20.00 per canvass book. Vice-Chairman Daves asked for County totals per candidate. Ms. Gallegos read these races by County.

**The Official Canvass Book is an exhibit and therefore made a part of these minutes.**

Commissioner Aguilar made a motion for approval of the 2002 General Election Canvass. Seconded by Commissioner Baca. Discussion. Commissioner Aguilar voted yes. Commissioner Baca voted yes. Vice-Chairman Daves voted yes. Motion carried. 3-0.

Commissioner Aguilar made a motion to reconvene as Board of County Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Baca. Discussion. Commissioner Aguilar voted yes. Commissioner Baca voted yes. Vice-Chairman Daves voted yes. Motion carried. 3-0.

**The next Regular Meeting of the Valencia County Board of County Commission will be held on November 12, 2002 at 9:00 AM Executive Session and 10:00 AM Regular Session in the County Commission Room at the Valencia County Courthouse.**

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Aguilar made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Baca. Discussion. Commissioner Aguilar voted yes. Commissioner Baca voted yes. Vice-Chairman Daves voted yes. Motion carried. 3-0. Time being 3:45 PM.

<b>NOTE:</b> All proposals, documents, items, etc., pertaining to items on the agenda of the, Meeting (presented to the Board of County Commissioners) are attached in consecutive order as stated in these minutes.
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### **VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**AURELIO H. PADILLA, CHAIRMAN**

**ss/  
GARY DAVES, VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**S. T. FRANK PANDO, MEMBER**

**ALICIA AGUILAR, MEMBER**

**HELEN BACA, MEMBER**

**ATTEST: ss/**

**TINA GALLEGOS, COUNTY CLERK**

**DATE: December 10, 2002**