

**VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Special Meeting**

**September 26, 2003**

PRESENT	ABSENT
Gary Daves, Chairman	
Paul Edward Trujillo, Vice-Chairman	
	Aurelio H. Padilla, Member
Alicia Aguilar, Member	
Mary J. Andersen, Member	
James Fernandez, County Manager	
	Thomas Garde, County Attorney
Tina Gallegos, County Clerk	
Press and Public	

Chairman Gary Daves called the Meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

**Chairman Daves asked Sally Perea to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Approval of Agenda**

Tina Gallegos, County Clerk read the agenda for the Special Meeting of September 26, 2003. Commissioner Aguilar made a motion to approve the agenda as read. Seconded by Commissioner Trujillo. Discussion. Commissioner Aguilar voted yes. Commissioner Trujillo voted yes. Commissioner Andersen voted yes. Motion carried. 3-0.

**ACTION ITEM:**

**Valencia County Board of Commissioners Convenes as Canvass Board**  
**Canvass the 2003 Statewide Election**  
**Canvass the 2003 Valencia County General Obligation Bond/Judicial Complex**  
**Board Reconvenes as Board of Commissioners**

Commissioner Aguilar made a motion to convene as the Canvass Board. Seconded by Commissioner Andersen. Discussion. Commissioner Aguilar voted yes. Commissioner Trujillo voted yes. Commissioner Andersen voted yes. Motion carried. 3-0.

Tina Gallegos, County Clerk recognized the people in the audience, County Democratic Chairman, Moises Griego. Ms. Gallegos said she would also like to recognize her staff in Bureau of Elections Theresa Sanchez, Sally Perea, and Bureau Director, Lawrence Kaneshiro and the others are out in the field. These are the individuals including Peggy Estrada, Gabe Salas, Chris Castillo, Sheryl Salas, Larry Tafoya and Debbie Ridley who worked really hard to get this election off the ground. We produced a good election and positive in the aspect of the way it turned out. From Election Night totals to today's totals that we will be going over will be read to you starting with Constitutional Amendment 1, Constitutional Amendment 2 and the General Obligation Question. Ms. Gallegos said she would like to go over and give some background on how this election ran. With this election we saw some firsts for Valencia County and for the State of New Mexico, the HAVA Legislation that went into effect for this election, as a County we felt it in a couple of ways. The first was in the new voting machines that this County did a Resolution for to purchase, these were given for borrowing purposes because we have not actually bought yet, but we had been given four voting machines to use in the early voting precincts. Ms. Gallegos said she wanted to do this so that the voters could get accustomed to the new voting machine and also get some feedback. We got very positive feedback from the voters along with poll workers and the precinct board. They found it very easy to use and set up and secure for their portion of what their job entails. Ms. Gallegos said we had two early voting sites, the site here at the County Courthouse, and the site in Rio Communities. It was a little slow in Rio Communities; we didn't get the turn out like we had hoped. But we have to take into consideration that this was a new site but being that it will be permanent site the voter can get accustomed to it for the Primary and General upcoming elections. It is next to the Senior Citizens' Center in Rio Communities.

We had 851 voters cast their ballots early. There was 396 voters cast their ballots through the absentee process. Our polls for early voting were from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM Tuesdays through Friday's, which was a new HAVA and State requirement. It did impact this County, especially with overtime compensation for employees for this County. The Bureau Director put in over 72 hours of overtime just to man those early voting hours. This will cause a hardship for this County for the Primary Election because as County Clerks statewide we are not happy with these hours and are protesting them. We are hoping that the Legislature will re-consider them when they go into session. Ms. Gallegos said she tried to schedule her staff so there would not be so much overtime but did not work out that way. We are shorthanded in the Clerk's Office as it is and we need everybody there all the time. We did rotate some shifts but still had an over abundance of overtime. Ms. Gallegos said her staff worked really hard we had election results totals by 9:00 PM Tuesday night. But the new HAVA requirements also allowed for provisional voting and this did affect Valencia County. What provisional voting does is allow voters who were in the wrong precinct either by fault of theirs or fault

of the County Clerk's office to vote at the polling place that they show up at. There are also other reasons but for the majority of the voters, this is why they used the provisional ballots. We had 105 people cast their vote and qualify on provisional ballots, so this did change our numbers from election night. We had 7 not qualify so for a total of 114 that were turned in, 105 were counted. We also had 4 in lieu of ballots, these are ballots for the voters that affirm that they did not receive an absentee ballot and show up to the polling place to vote on Election Day. Three out of the four qualified because one was rejected. The numbers from election night to today's totals have changed approximately 115 votes but did not change the outcome of the election.

The final numbers are as follows:

Constitutional Amendment 1 – For 3347	Constitutional Amendment 1 – Against 2426
Constitutional Amendment 2 – For 3332	Constitutional Amendment 2 – Against 2434
County Question and GO Bond – For 3540	County Question and GO Bond – Against 2141

There were 32,608 people eligible to vote for this election and 5,704 voted for this election. That was a 17.5% turnout. Ms. Gallegos said she is at the discretion of the Commission as to how they want to proceed; these are the numbers in front of you for the canvass. As the canvassing board you can choose to look at individual precincts or individual signature rosters or take these numbers that have been presented to you for canvassing. Ms. Gallegos said she will need the Commission signatures on the canvass and they will be sent to Santa Fe for the State canvass.

Commissioner Aguilar made a motion to certify the results based on the information provided to us by the Clerk. Seconded by Commissioner Andersen. Discussion. Commissioner Aguilar voted yes. Commissioner Trujillo voted yes. Commissioner Andersen voted yes. Motion carried. 3-0.

### **Public Requests**

Moises Griego, former Valencia County Clerk congratulated Ms. Gallegos for a job well done on this election.

Commissioner Aguilar made a motion to reconvene as Board of County Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Trujillo. Discussion. Commissioner Aguilar voted yes. Commissioner Trujillo voted yes. Commissioner Andersen voted yes. Motion carried. 3-0.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Aguilar made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Andersen. Discussion. Commissioner Aguilar voted yes. Commissioner Trujillo voted yes. Commissioner Andersen voted yes. Motion carried. 3-0. Time 2:20 PM.

**NOTE:** 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.

## **VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**ss/  
GARY DAVES, CHAIRMAN**

**ss/  
PAUL EDWARD TRUJILLO, VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**ss/  
AURELIO H. PADILLA, MEMBER**

**ALICIA AGUILAR, MEMBER**

**ss/  
MARY J. ANDERSEN, MEMBER**

**ATTEST: ss/**

**TINA GALLEGOS, COUNTY CLERK**

**DATE: October 21, 2003**