

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting

Final Canvass of the 2004 Primary Election

June 11, 2004

Chairman Gary Daves called the Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT	ABSENT
Gary Daves, Chairman	
Paul Edward Trujillo, Vice-Chairman	
	Aurelio H. Padilla, Member
	Alicia Aguilar, Member
Mary J. Andersen, Member	
Mike Trujillo, County Manager	
	Wimberly Law Firm, County Attorney
Tina Gallegos, County Clerk	
Press and Public	

Chairman Gary Daves called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jane Moorman

Approval of Agenda

County Clerk, Tina Gallegos read the agenda. Commissioner Andersen made a motion to convene as the Canvass Board. Commissioner Trujillo seconded. Motion carried. 2-0.

Ms. Gallegos thanked her staff for their professionalism they had shown during the election cycle and all the hours that they had worked putting on a good election. Mr. Lawrence Kaneshiro, Director of Bureau of Elections had done an excellent job. Both Bureau of Elections and Filing and Recording staff had worked through the Memorial Holiday weekend and had put in an average of 45 to 50 hours of overtime in order to meet all deadlines. Four extra people that had been hired temporarily.

Ms. Gallegos said that she had gotten a very positive response, on the Voting Machines, not only from the voters, but also with the poll workers. Election Day had gone extremely smooth, being that they had a new voting system as well as a new voter registration software that they were using. There were a lot of “firsts” going on, but most of the voters and the public had been aware of it, which had contributed to there being very few problems

Mr. Kaneshiro handed the commission a report on, New Mexico’s First Full County Implementation, that he had sent to the Secretary of State and he summarized from the document. In the spring of 2003, he said, the legislature in their infinite wisdom, had introduced a bill compelling county clerks to include in their final canvass Absentee and Early Voting results by precinct. The county was using Shoup 1242 voting machines at the precinct level and OPTECH paper ballots and IIIP tabulators at the absentee level for both mail and in-person voting. The OPTECH IIIP tabulator is not capable of reporting totals by precincts. Also, these two voting systems did not communicate with one another and the only other alternative was to hand enter lots of data into Guardian, the software used for election night tally or possibly a third party application. Doing this was not an acceptable solution. Along with this change in state law, Federal Legislation was requiring Provisional Voting and ADA compliant voting systems. The answer was to completely change out current voting system with one that would communicate with the Absentee and Early Voting System, be ADA compliant, and tally software that could produce a wide range of reports broken down to the precinct level. The Sequoia Pacific’s AVC Edge was that solution.

With the Primary Election just a few days past, this is usually the time that he is frantically rushing to complete the official canvass for their approval. Now, he can attribute to how successful the implementation of the EDGE was in Valencia County. Merging this data to the correct precincts would not have been possible using our old voting system.

On Election Day there were minor problems that are typical of when a new system is installed. However, none of the problems were directly related to the functionality of the voter casting his ballot. The feedback from the voters was very positive. Yes, there were the “nay sayers” that had to be convinced that the system was secure and could not be “hacked”, and yes, there was confusion over whether or not the correct ballot was issued according to the voter’s party, nevertheless, this was typical no matter what voting system was used, Mr. Kaneshiro said. The system, the voting machine, and most importantly, the software all worked as it was expected. Final results were reported by 9:30 PM. The only “snafu” was the order in which the result cartridges were read. Absentee and Early Voting should be the first precincts to be read into WinEDS. By reading them first, they would have been able to produce those reports first and then proceed to produce reports for the rest of the precincts. Since we are the first county to use EDGE exclusively at the precinct level, we are setting standards that other counties will later follow. There is still work to be done, he said, but I can safely say that we did in fact make the right choice. **See Exhibit.**

Commissioner Andersen asked how many machines had been used. Mr. Kaneshiro said there were 96 machines. Smaller polling place had at least two machines and the larger polling places had four. There had been, four issues with machines starting in the morning, but four technicians, from Sequoia, had been here to help with any situation.

County Clerk, Tina Gallegos said that a questionnaire had been given to each presiding judge with about twelve questions on it. They were asked for comments on how the new voting machine was accepted. Of all the ones had been filled out, there was not one that was negative. Donna Andersen, Presiding Judge from Meadow Lake wrote that the ability for the voters to proceed back and forth over many screens was a big plus for the cautious voter. The Hispano voters, Senior Citizen voters and first time voters were all in agreement that this machine was truly a step in the right direction, when it came to reporting and effectively promoting their voter participation.

Virginia Chavez, Presiding Judge, from Jarales wrote that everyone seemed to understand the machine with no problems and they liked the new way of voting. Without going into every single one, Ms. Gallegos said, she did not get one negative response. Opening and closing the voting machine, deliveries and storage, set-up for programming, had been so much more convenient for our Technician, Chris Castillo.

The commission had no questions, so Ms. Gallegos proceeded with the Canvass. She said there were a total of twenty provisional ballots in all. Twelve provisional ballots that were counted and added to the tallies and eight provisional ballots that were not counted, for various reasons. Absentee had eleven hand tallies. The numbers had changed from election night, but it had not effected the outcome of any race.

The election had cost the county \$61,000.00. This included poll workers, polling locations, printing of the ballots, and miscellaneous cost that have not been calculated yet. For a turnout of 5,390 voters that we had, Mr. Kaneshiro had estimated that the cost per vote was \$11.31. Ms. Gallegos mentioned this, because, it had been a costly election and maybe the media could encourage the people to get out and vote.

There were 29,065 registered voters that were eligible to vote. 4,230 voted election day and 1,160 voted early or absentee. Total turnout was 5,390 voters.

Ms. Gallegos proceeded to read the totals for every candidate. **See Exhibit.**

Commissioner Andersen made a motion to approve the Primary Canvass for 2004. Commissioner Trujillo seconded. Motion carried. 2-0.

Commissioner Andersen motioned to become the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Trujillo seconded. Motion carried. 2-0. Meeting was adjourned.

NOTE: All proposals, documents, items, etc., pertaining to items on the agenda of the, Final Canvass of the 2004 Primary Election Meeting (presented to the Board of County Commissioners) are attached in consecutive order as stated in these minutes.

VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ss/

ss/

PAUL EDWARD TRUJILLO, VICE-CHAIRMAN

ss/

AURELIO H. PADILLA, MEMBER

ss/

ALICIA AGUILAR, MEMBER

ss/

MARY J. ANDERSEN, MEMBER

ATTEST: ss/

TINA GALLEGOS, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: July 7, 2004