

**VALENCIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Special Meeting**

**2006 Primary Election Canvass**

**June 9, 2006**

PRESENT	ABSENT
Paul Trujillo, Chairman	
Ron Gentry, Vice-Chairman	
Mary J. Andersen, Member	
Georgia Otero-Kirkham, Member	
Lynette Pinkston, Member	
Michael R. Trujillo, County Manager	
Wimberly Law Firm, County Attorney	
Tina Gallegos, County Clerk	
Press and Public	

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Trujillo at 9:04 AM.
2. **Chairman Trujillo asked Marilyn Silva to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Approval of Agenda**  
Commissioner Pinkston moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Gentry. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Action Item**  
**Board of County Commissioners Convene as Canvassing Board to Canvass the 2006 Statewide Election**  
Commissioner Andersen moved to convene as canvass board. Seconded by Commissioner Pinkston. Motion carried unanimously,

Tina Gallegos, County Clerk stated to the Commission that today is the beginning of the canvassing process as per statute Section 1-13.1 Ms. Gallegos said we will give you statistical data from election night and from there do a check and balance for the finalized canvass on Friday, June 16, 2006. In the checking process, we double check the entries that were made from the machine tapes, we check that the election officials balanced on the signature rosters, we make sure that the precinct board signed and made all of their notations on the signature rosters. Then we come back before this Commission with an official canvass of results and if there are any discrepancies then we cover it at that time.

Ms. Gallegos said we did have 43 provisional ballots and we will go certify and accept or reject those provisional ballots and add them to the total of what was reported on election night. As per statute 1.13.1-4 it is the duties of the County Commission to allow the County Clerk and staff to proceed with the duties of the canvass which is basically clerical procedures. Some Counties, Commissioners take that on themselves in working with the County Clerk’s staff and check precinct by precinct, machine by machine, and number by number It is up to the Commissioners discretion as to how they want to handle the canvass.

Commissioner Andersen asked if there were any trouble with the voting machines, any glitches in the election process. Ms. Gallegos said it was a slow day, we had a light voter turnout, there were 37,931 eligible voters to vote, we had 7,408. Of the Democrats that voted there were 5,313, Republicans were 2,095, since this was a partisan election, only Democrats and Republicans were allowed to vote. We had a lot of phone calls on election day concerning questions with minor parties not able to vote, there were some that got irate, throughout the day voter issues were minor, some just didn’t know which precinct to go vote at. We had 105 voting machines out at the polling locations. Ms. Gallegos said at one of the polling places, precinct 17 in Los Lunas, the problem there was static but this did not affect the totals of that precinct. We had a power outage for about 15 minutes in Los Chavez but there is a battery back-up on the voting machines and again was not affected. There was no emergency ballots used in any of the precincts. Ms. Gallegos said in considering a light voter turnout, she is satisfied with how the election went.

Commissioner Kirkham asked about the absentee ballots. Ms. Gallegos said there were 762 ballots mailed and this includes both parties, Democrat and Republicans. There were 678 ballots counted, which means the remaining were not returned or rejected by the AB board. The AB Board was called into work on Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM to begin accepting or rejecting the absentee ballots. We had a technician from our election supplier, Ink Impressions, help handle the absentee tabulator. We used a smaller tabulator because of the light voter turnout so the ballots that were not read by the machine, these got hand tallied.

Commissioner Andersen asked now with the different law changes, a voter is able to take his absentee ballot to the precinct and a runner will pick up the ballot to hand deliver to the AB Board, did we have any of those? Ms. Gallegos said we had about 10 that were delivered to the precincts. Commissioner Gentry asked Ms. Gallegos since you have people picking up the ballots at different precincts, is there not a security process? Ms. Gallegos said the Secretary of States office allows the County Clerks to handle in picking up the ballots in this way.

Commissioner Kirkham asked since this was such a light voter turnout then why did it take so long for unofficial results, was there machine problems? Ms. Gallegos said she will turn it over to her Election Director, Lawrence Kaneshiro, but there was technical problems with the cartridge reader.

Lawrence Kaneshiro, Director of Elections said initial problems with the PC running tally at the close of polls caused a delay in reading result cartridges. We believe that one cartridge did not complete the upload although all indicators showed that all cartridges were read with success on election night.

Commissioner Gentry said he doesn't think that any of them think there was any improprieties or inaccuracies but he has received quite a few calls on the election and he suggested will all the phone calls that he had to answer their questions and review them prior to the canvassing process so we can eliminate those concerns. Commissioner Gentry said he had a list of those concerns that he would like to get answers to. These are some of the concerns that candidates and constituents have. Commissioner Gentry read off his list of questions and then asked if we could go to the audience and not duplicate questions but get answers to these concerns. Commissioner Gentry read off his 12 questions and asked if he could answers to them prior to the final canvass.

Lillie McNabb thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to speak at today's meeting. Ms. McNabb said she has worked the polls for a lot of years. This is the first time she has served in a early voting capacity. Ms. McNabb said the County Clerk's office amazed her due to their professionalism and hard work that this department did. They were here early morning and left past 8:00 PM after early voting shut down for the night. Ms. McNabb said she felt very confident in the electoral process that this department was involved in because of their dedication. She also works the Bosque Farms precinct and she knows the process that this entails, it is a very long day but rewarding at the end because everyone knows their role down to the signature rosters, in opening and closing the machines. Commissioner Andersen thanked Ms. McNabb for all of her hard work over these years.

Commissioner Andersen moved to recess as the canvassing board. Seconded by Commissioner Pinkston. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gentry asked Ms. Gallegos to explain the public review that she allows for canvassing. Ms. Gallegos said she has an open process in her office as well as an open door policy, staff will do the canvass over the course of next week and she invites anyone to come and review the process.

#### **Board Reconvenes as Board of County Commissioners**

#### **5. Adjournment**

Commissioner Gentry moved to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Andersen. Motion carried unanimously. Adjournment time 9:41 AM.

<b>NOTE:</b> All proposals, documents, items, etc., pertaining to items on the agenda of the <b>Special Meeting June 9, 2006</b> (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**

**PAUL EDWARD TRUJILLO CHAIRMAN**

**ss/  
RON GENTRY, VICE-CHAIRMAN**

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

**ss/  
GEORGIA OTERO-KIRKHAM, MEMBER**

**ss/  
LYNETTE PINKSTON, MEMBER**

**ATTEST: ss/**

**TINA GALLEGOS, COUNTY CLERK**

**DATE: July 7, 2006**