

**Canvasser Minutes of the August 3, 2016
State Primary Election**

August 3, 2016
1:00 p.m.

Members present: Judie Ford JoAnn Hoag Bob Wilton Sidney Hansen

The canvass went very smoothly, with no corrections being made to the ballot summaries.

The Board reviewed each precinct, noting the precincts are doing a much better job providing the required paperwork in each envelope and making remarks in the poll book. The Clerk will pass on their notes to the Townships for their review.

The Canvassers then started review on the Grout Township Election results. Problems within the precinct on Election Day were discussed with the Board. The Board stated that they would like to conduct a re-tabulation of ballots to see if they can identify the one ballot the precinct is off and to see if they can account for all ballots issued to the precinct for use. The County Clerk contacted Grout Township Clerk, Linda Birgel, and agreed to handling the re-tabulation with her workers on Friday, August 5, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

The Canvassers recessed at 4:55 p.m. until Friday, August 5, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

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Four of Grout's five elections inspectors came for the re-tabulation. While the Board was waiting for the Clerk to bring in her ballots, the inspectors were asked to share any occurrences that happened on Election Day to help identify why the precinct was not in balance. The following was stated by the inspectors:

- The Clerk's son, which is also her Deputy Clerk, set up the election and balanced the election on the night of August 2, 2016.
- There were 4 Republicans and 2 Democrats working. One Democrat left in the morning due to an illness, leaving 4 Republicans and 1 Democrat working the balance of the day. The Clerk later stated that inspector Darlene Davis changed her application for the August Election to be a Democrat, and she had worked previously in the year as a Republican. She was advised that once an inspector designates themselves for an election, they are that party preference for the entire year, only changing on the calendar year.
- The receiving board was not used because there were not two democrats at the end of the night to balance and verify the precinct.
- The inspectors stated that the Clerk was present in the public eye the majority of the day.

- AV ballots were duplicated prior to the close of the polls. One was marked (not properly) so that the duplicate could be matched with the original. The second duplicated ballot was not marked and could not be matched.
- The inspectors were instructed by the Township Clerk to look at each AV ballot as it was opened to see if it was cross-voted or over-voted before processing. If the ballot was cross or over voted, they were instructed to give the ballot to the Township Clerk to be voided or duplicated.

The Grout Clerk arrived at 10:40 a.m. with one ballot bag. The Canvassers were not able to open the ballot bag due to no transfer certificate being sealed on the bag. The Clerk stated that there was a box of ballots at the Township that was sealed with duct tape that she did not bring in. County Clerk Maveal recessed at 10:45 for 30 minutes so that the Grout Clerk could go back to the hall to bring in the box and to allow for the County Clerk to contact the Bureau to see if the bag could be opened.

Contact with Sally Williams at the Bureau of Elections stated that the Canvassers could proceed with the re-tabulation of the ballot bag and that it should be sealed correctly upon completion. The cardboard box sealed with duct tape can be opened and inspected, but can not be re-tabulated if there are voted ballots in the bag. The box is to be re-sealed in an approved ballot container upon completion.

Re-tabulation began at 11:30 a.m. using the inspectors of Grout Township for the handling of the ballots. This process was overseen by the Board of Canvassers.

Items found during tabulation:

- The test deck was not sealed, only in a drawstring bag.
- There was an envelope with 4 ballots sealed inside that was not tabulated on Election Day. These ballots could not be identified as to whom they belonged to because their tabs had been removed and they were not with AV applications or envelopes.
- The Township Clerk did not maintain or use the EMP for the issuance of AV ballots. The list that was printed on election day contained four ballots that showed returned, but not in the EPB as processed and 10 voters in the EPB showing voted AV, but not on the EMP as having received a ballot.

Tabulation found no difference in vote totals, the precinct remained one off in total. The Board of Canvassers certified the results of Grout Township.

The Election was canvassed, and certified, and all reports were signed. The Board certified and signed the State Canvass document for submission to the State on August 5, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted:

Laura Brandon-Maveal

Laura Brandon-Maveal
Gladwin County Clerk
August 9, 2016