

General Election- November 7th, 2023

Board of Canvassers of Election

November 14th, 2023

Morris County Courthouse- 2:30 p.m.

The Morris County Commissioners met as the County Board of Canvassers on November 14th, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. Commissioners present were Jim Barber, David L. Fox and Wayne Kohler. County Counselor, Bill Kassebaum and County Clerk/Election Officer, Chelsey Schmidt were also present.

Others present: Gary Floyd, Dave Baker, Ryan McDonald and Jan Sciacca

Chelsey Schmidt, Morris County Election Officer, presented the commissioners with an election report and unofficial election totals.

ELECTION STATISTICS:

At the close of voter registration, we had a total of 3,917 registered voters.

- Mailed out a total of 218 single advance/permanent advance ballots and received back 167 ballots (77%)
 - 171 early in person voters
 - 881 voters cast a ballot at polls on election day
 - A total of 1,219 voters cast a ballot; voter turnout of 31% for this election
 - 2019 City/School Election had a voter turnout of 33%
 - 2017 City/School Election had a voter turnout of 29%
 - 2015 City/School Election had a voter turnout of 24%
 - 28% of voters voted early in person or by mail; 72% of voters voted at the polls on election day
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POST ELECTION AUDIT

The post-election audit was conducted on Friday, November 10th. The following races in Morris County were audited:

PRECINCT- COUNCIL GROVE WARD 2:

- Flint Hills Extension District No. 13
- Council Grove Mayor

PRECINCT- TOWNSHIP 3

- Flint Hills Extension District No. 13

The audit results for Council Grove Ward 2- Flint Hills Extension District No. 13 matched the unofficial election night results.

The audit results for Council Grove Ward 2- Council Grove Mayor found there to be one (1) more write-in vote for Ryan McDonald than the unofficial election night results.

The audit results for Township 3- Flint Hills Extension District No. 13 found there to be one (1) more vote for Shelly Lautt than the unofficial election night results. The additional vote for Shelly Lautt was from a mis-marked/corrected ballot; the audit board believed it was voter intent to cast a vote for Shelly Lautt.

The post-election audit results were submitted to the Secretary of State's Office for review and were approved for Canvass. The findings from the post-election audit, as described above, are recommended to be added to the unofficial totals, prior to certification of votes.

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS: ~~32~~ 31

RECOMMEND COUNTING:

- 10 Registered voters moved within the county; Did not re-register prior to election; Updated Registration at polling location and voted at new precinct (25-2316 (c)(b)), (25-2353)
- 2 Registered voters had a different name on poll book due to marriage, divorce, or legal proceeding. (25-409, 25-2316c(a))
- 3 Registered voters on permanent advance list; moved within the county; did not vote their mail ballots; Updated registration and voted new precinct ballot. (25-2908c), (25-2316c(b))
- ~~1 Registered voter's name and address was found by CEO in poll book; Clerical error. (25-2908(e))~~
- 1 Registered voter cast a ballot at the polls and did not have proof of their photo i.d.; voter presented valid photo i.d. to County Election Officer prior to Canvass (25-2980), (25-3002)
- 1 Registered voter moved within the county; Did not re-register prior to election; Updated Registration at polling location and voted at new precinct (25-2316 (c)(b)), (25-2353)
Registered voter had a different name on poll book due to marriage, divorce, or legal proceeding. (25-409, 25-2316c(a))
- 1 Registered voters name was found by the County Election Officer in voter registry; Voter registered on 10/18/2023 at DMV Office. Name should have been printed in poll book (25-2908 (e))
- 3 Registered voters address is incorrect in voter registry. 2 voter's addresses should be in USD 481 school district but are currently listed in USD 417. Voters cast provisional USD 481 ballots. Boundary line will be corrected in voter registry after election. 1 voter's address was entered incorrectly (mis-typed by one number) at the DMV.

~~22 SUBTOTAL~~

21 SUBTOTAL

RECOMMEND NOT COUNTING:

- 7 Voter was not registered; Registered at CEO office after books closed or at the polling place on election day and voted at the same time (25-215), (25-2302)
- 2 Registered voter returned advance mail ballot via postal service; Post-marked after election day. (25-1132 (advance))
- 1 Registered voter returned advance mail ballot via postal service; ballot received on November 9th; No post-mark (25-1132 (advance))

10 SUBTOTAL

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve 22 provisional ballots to be counted. Motion carried.

Upon sorting the provisional ballots, it was determined there were only 21 ballots. The provisional ballots were re-counted, re-verified and reviewed by statute; it was determined that 1 provisional ballot was accidentally listed twice on the report. (See above)

Commissioner Kohler (Fox) moved to approve the correction of the provisional ballot report to a total of 31 provisional ballots; with recommendations to count 21; and recommendations to not count 10. Motion carried.

21 provisional ballots were counted; with the County Board of Canvassers reading/tallying the write-in votes cast.

Ryan McDonald, write-in candidate for City of Council Grove Mayor, asked that the County Board of Canvassers review write-in votes cast for Travis McDonald (1) and Scott McDonald (1). These two write-in votes were not tallied for candidate Ryan McDonald and he believes that was in fact the voter's intent. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Barber (Fox) moved to approve counting the write-in votes for Travis McDonald and Scott McDonald as votes cast for Ryan McDonald. Motion carried 2-1, with Commissioner Kohler opposing.

Unofficial election totals were updated to include the post-election audit findings, the provisional ballots counted and the two write-ins to be tallied for Ryan McDonald.

Updated election results were reviewed.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to approve the election results as presented. Motion carried.

County Board of Canvassers signed the November 7th, 2023 General Election Certification.

Candidate Ryan McDonald discussed procedures for requesting a recount for the City of Council Grove Mayor race.

Commissioner Fox (Kohler) moved to adjourn the County Board of Canvassers and re-convene as the County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried.

The County Board of Canvassers adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS

Jim Barber, Chairman

ATTEST:

David L. Fox, Member

**Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk**

Wayne Kohler, Member