

General Election November 2nd, 2021

Board of Canvassers of Election

November 9th, 2021

Morris County Courthouse- 11:30 a.m.

The Morris County Commissioners met as the County Board of Canvassers on November 9th, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. Those present were David L. Fox, Wayne Kohler and Jim Barber. County Counselor, Bill Kassebaum and County Clerk/Election Officer, Chelsey Schmidt were also present.

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

The following information was presented to the commissioners along with the county election officer's recommendations:

The November 2nd, 2021 City/School General Election in Morris County went very well. It was a slow day at times for the election poll workers but they all did a wonderful job. We would not be able to conduct successful elections without the poll workers; THANK YOU to each and every one of them.

We changed our polling location in Dwight from the Dwight Community Building to the Dwight United Methodist Church. The church seemed to work well and I was not made aware of any voters who had issues locating the polling place.

This was the first election that mail ballots were not automatically mailed to voters who had requested a ballot by mail in the past. (This is for Single Advance Voters only, and does not pertain to Permanent Advance Voters.) For Single Advance Voters, the law requires that an advance ballot application be completed by the voter for EACH election that they wish to receive their ballot by mail. This information was published in the Council Grove Republican, Prairie Post, and on the County Website and Facebook Page. Despite our efforts to inform everyone of this change, we did have several voters calling and asking why they had not yet received their ballot by mail. We will try to release more information and reminders about this in future elections. Voters have expressed frustration with this change, however, it is important to understand that completing an advance ballot application for every election ensures that we have the voter information and address correct. Voters move and change addresses much more than we realize and this is another process put in place to verify that a mail ballot is in fact being mailed to the intended voter at their current and correct residence.

There is a residence in Wilsey that has been determined to be in the wrong boundary line in our voter registry. This particular residence was established in 2015 and the voters had not voted in a city/school election until this year. The residence is located within the city limits of Wilsey, but is not marked as such in the registry. The voters should have voted on the City of Wilsey races. This was corrected by allowing the voters to vote an additional hand-made ballot for those specific races only, that were not included on the original ballot. These are presented in the provisional ballots listed below and will be discussed. The boundary line for the residence will be corrected in the voter registry after this election is closed.

The day after elections we were made aware that ballots issued in Wabaunsee County did not include USD 417 District 1, Position 4 race. This omission was due to a clerical error in the Wabaunsee County Clerk's Office. Morris County Clerk's Office certified the races and candidates to Wabaunsee County on September 18th, 2021 listing all three USD 417 races and candidates to be printed on the ballots. It was not realized that the ballots were mis-printed until the day after elections when unofficial results were being certified. The Kansas Secretary of State's Office has advised Wabaunsee County Clerk's Office that there is no mechanism in Kansas Election Law to collect additional votes after the close of polls. The Wabaunsee County Clerk's Office is required to certify their votes that were cast, as they are.

The post-election audit was completed on Friday, November 5th. Ward 3 was selected to be audited for the following races:

USD 417- District 1, Position 4

Council Grove Ward 3 City Council

USD 417- District 2, Position 6

The audit revealed two discrepancies with the totals for candidate Jamie Johnson and candidate Sean Honer. Unofficial totals on election night for Ward 3 tabulated 120 votes for candidate Jamie Johnson and 144 votes for candidate Sean Honer. After review of each ballot the audit board found one paper ballot where the oval for Sean Honer was not filled in, however, his name was written on the write-in line and one paper ballot where the oval for Jamie Johnson was not filled in, rather it was marked very lightly with a check mark. It was felt by the audit board that the voter intent was clear on both ballots and the counting machine most likely did not count these votes when scanning the ballot. These corrections will be made to the official results by adding one additional vote for candidate Sean Honer and one additional vote for candidate Jamie Johnson.

At the close of voter registration, we had 3,887 registered voters.

- Mailed out a total of 175 advance/permanent ballots and received back 127 ballots (73%)
- 208 early in person voters
- 795 voters cast a ballot on election day
- A total of 1,130 voters cast a ballot, which gives a voter turnout of 29% 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%
- 30% of voters voted early or by mail and 70% of voters voted at the polls on election day

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS: 36

RECOMMEND COUNTING:

12 Registered voters moved within the county. Did not re-register prior to election.
(25-2353)

- 1 Registered voter had a different name on poll book due to marriage, divorce, or legal proceeding. (25-409, 25-2316c(a)) (and) Registered voter moved within the county. Did not re-register prior to election. (25-2353)
- 3 Registered voters had a different name on poll book due to marriage, divorce, or legal proceeding. (25-409, 25-2316c(a))
- 2 Registered voter requested advanced ballot, did not receive that ballot or did not vote with that ballot. Voted at polls. (25-2908c)
- 2 Registered voter's names were found by CEO elsewhere in poll book, clerical error. (25-2908(e))
- 3 Registered voters prior to close of registration. Registration was done via online process. Registration dated incorrectly in voter registry and did not print voter name in poll book. Clerical error.
- 3 Registered voters. Address is correct in voter registry but boundary lines are listed incorrectly. Voter's residence is within city limits. Voter voted an additional city ballot. Must be hand counted. Boundary line will be corrected in voter registry after elections.

26 SUBTOTAL

RECOMMEND PARTIALLY COUNTING:

- 1 Registered voter cast a ballot in precinct other than the precinct in which the voter is registered, but still within the same county. Voter moved and did not re-register. May only count FH Extension District, Mayor, and USD 417 races. (25-3002 (b)(3))

1 SUBTOTAL

RECOMMEND NOT COUNTING:

- 5 Voter registered at CEO office after books closed or at the polling place on election day and voted at the same time. (25-2311(a)(6), 25-2311(e))
- 2 Registered voter returned advance ballot in an unsigned envelope. (25-1124b)
- 1 Advance ballot envelope returned with another voter's signature. (25-1120, 25-1124)
- 1 Registered voter returned advance ballot that was post-marked after election day. (25-1132)

9 SUBTOTAL

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the recommendations as presented from the county election officer. Motion carried.

The 27 approved ballots were counted and added to the unofficial total. The audit findings were added to the unofficial total.

Totals were reviewed by the canvass.

Commissioner Kohler (Barber) moved to approve the official results as presented. Motion carried.

Ties for the Dunlap City Council and Dunlap Mayor will be determined at the commission meeting on November 16th, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

Commissioner Barber (Kohler) moved for adjournment. Motion carried.

Canvass adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF MORRIS COUNTY, KANSAS

David L. Fox, Chairman

ATTEST:

Wayne Kohler, Member

**Chelsey Schmidt
Morris County Clerk**

Jim Barber, Member