

JUNE 8, 2018

The Board of Chaves County Commissioners held a Special Meeting to conduct the 2018 Primary Election Canvas in the Commission Chamber of the Joe Skeen Building, #1 St. Mary's Place in Roswell, New Mexico. Chairman Corn called the meeting to order at 2:18 p.m. Those present were Commissioners Bilberry, Duffey, Corn and Cavin. Commissioner Ezzell was absent. Commissioner Cavin led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Bilberry led in prayer. Also present were County Manager Stan Riggs, Public Services Director Bill Williams, Sheriff Britt Snyder, County Clerk Dave Kunko, staff, media and guests.

CANVAS OF THE 2018 PRIMARY ELECTION

County Clerk Dave Kunko thanked his staff and stated elections would be impossible without poll workers. He explained that new totals are in the packet they have in front of them. One of the cartridges that were loaded on election night did not upload to the State Election Totals on election night. He apologized for missing this that evening but explained that is one of the reasons those totals are always considered unofficial. He explained that he and his staff have researched this issue and why it happened and assured the Commission it would not happen again. He explained an issue occurring all over New Mexico was people going to DMV getting their "Real ID" were also accidentally changing their voter registration and unaware this had happened. Needless to say they were very upset when they were not allowed to vote in the Primary. These individuals are sent a voter identification card in the mail one week after their registration is received, however it appears that very few of them review the information.

Mr. Kunko stated they did receive five provisional ballots on election day. Two of these individuals did not receive their absentee ballot and they voted a provisional ballot. One of the individuals showed up as purged and also having voted in 2014. That should not be possible so we had him vote on a provisional ballot. He explained that a poll worker accidentally allowed a father to vote under his son's registration when the father should not have gotten to vote because he was registered as decline to state. The son then came in and the issue was found and he was provided a provisional ballot because he should have gotten to vote. The last provisional was provided because a poll worker printed a voter's ballot on a sample ballot and then did not properly spoil that ballot. Mr. Kunko stated that he and his staff are recommending that all five provisional ballots be accepted and counted. Chairman Corn got a clarification on the father/son issue. Chairman Corn asked if the son's provisional is allowed, how are we going to go back and take the father's ballot out? Mr. Kunko explained that the father's ballot was placed into a voting machine and cannot be taken out of the process. Chairman Corn stated that if this provisional is accepted then the Primary will be off one vote. He stated this is a big issue because someone voted a ballot and should not have gotten one. Mr. Kunko agreed he also had a big problem with this issue however he felt the son should get the opportunity to vote.

Mr. Kunko gave a brief review of Precinct 104 and the fact they are now a mail-out precinct. The Commissioners stated this really needs to be a mail-out precinct and it will take time for them to get use to this process.

Mr. Kunko stated that was all he had to present so the Commission needs to determine how many provisional ballots are accepted and how they wish to proceed. Commissioner Duffey stated the ballot the Chairman has an issue with is from a legal voter. He did everything he was supposed to do and his vote should count. There is no way in his mind how we can deny this individual his vote. Chairman Corn feels all the voters will be disenfranchised by this issue. Commissioner Cavin stated many voters were unhappy about not getting to vote and someone was allowed to vote that was not an eligible voter. We do not know this voter's intention as to whether he purposely cheated the system or it was accidentally. Mr. Kunko stated the mistake was made by the poll worker, we do make mistakes. Commissioner Cavin stated that this needs to be used as an example to those poll workers as to what cannot be allowed to ever happen again. Mr. Kunko assured him that this issue is covered and will continue to be covered in training. Chairman Corn stated that we are lucky that there were not any close raises that would be affected by this issue. Commissioner Duffey moved to count all five provisional ballots at the recommendation of the Clerk's Office. Commissioner Bilberry seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Mr. Kunko and staff opened the ballots and read off each ballot and tallied the votes. Commissioner Cavin moved to have the Clerk and staff add the provisional ballots to the results and bring them back to the Commission for approval. The meeting was recessed at 3:27 p.m.

Mr. Kunko and staff returned with new canvas totals and they were reviewed by the Commission. Commissioner Duffey moved to approve the 2018 Primary Canvas for Chaves County. Commissioner Bilberry seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m. pending the signing of the canvas.

CHAVES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



ROBERT CORN, CHAIRMAN



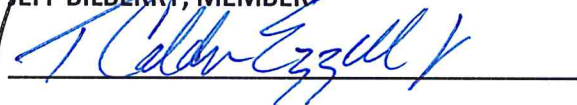
WILLIAM E. CAVIN, VICE CHAIRMAN



JEFF BILBERRY, MEMBER



JAMES DUFFEY, MEMBER



T. CALDER EZZELL JR., MEMBER

ATTEST: 

DAVE KUNKO, COUNTY CLERK

