

Official Press Release

Boulder County Canvass Board Votes Not To Certify November Election Abstract

Boulder, Colorado - November 26, 2012

This morning, a majority of the citizen-led Boulder County, Colorado Canvass Board, a legally mandated election oversight board, voted not to certify the Abstract of Votes prepared by Boulder County Clerk and Recorder Hillary Hall. The members who voted not to certify were denied an opportunity to publicly explain the reasons for their decision to the other members of the Board. The members of the Board who disagreed with the majority decision declined to review the majority's Secretary of State required report. Those same members had also declined invitations from the majority to join in discussions of potential problem resolution and report and recommendation drafting sessions.

According to Board member Daniel Martin, "we were presented with voluminous information at the very end of the process, including last Friday night at 7:00 p.m. That information included a Reconciliation Report that clearly showed that more ballots had been counted than ballots cast in 40 precincts." Board member Russ Boehm stated, "The Official Abstract showed no such precinct problems." Martin added, "Today is the deadline for our certification decision, and no explanation has been given for this anomaly, so I had no choice but to vote against certifying a clearly flawed report." Board member Mary Eberle noted, "we have received a number of complaints about the mail-in ballot signature verification process, particularly the reckless speed of the review by some election workers, as well as complaints about functional breakdowns of the new Bell & Howell equipment that performs mail ballot sorting, signature capturing, and electronic vote-credit recording. This new equipment is also where mail ballots are formally "cast." We have asked for information or more testing to bolster our confidence in these important processes, but have been denied these reasonable requests. We also are distressed that authorized Watchers from all parties and issue committees were prevented from exercising their legal rights to witness and verify the steps of the election involving the very ballots at highest risk for error and fraud—the provisional ballots. Many were not counted, and many were only partially counted. Citizen oversight of the provisional ballot processing was prohibited by election officials."

Board member Jim Remmart noted that “though I voted against certification, this doesn’t mean that the Abstract could not be ultimately certified if I were provided with further information. Our report outlines the categories of information we would need, and I would be happy to continue to work toward the goal of achieving certification.” Added Boehm, “the Abstract simply does not meet with statutory requirements, and I attempted to explain the deficiencies to Clerk Hall. She maintained that it was in proper form and rejected my attempts to correct it.”

The full text of the Majority Non-certification Report and the Minority opinion may be viewed at the 2012 Canvass Board website:

http://www.dansher.com/BC_CB/2012_BC_CB.html

The non-certification, along with a copy of the Abstract and the report of the majority containing its reasons for non-certification, have been transmitted today to the Colorado Secretary of State’s office. It will be for the Secretary of State to determine the next actions in this matter.

Canvass Board Members

Russ Boehm	Mary Eberle
Daniel Martin	Jim Remmert

For further information, please contact Russ Boehm (rwboehm@comcast.net / 303-776-5416).