

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

FRIDAY

9:00 A.M.

JUNE 19, 2020

PRESENT:

Bob Lucey, Chair (via Zoom)
Marsha Berkbigler, Vice Chair
Kitty Jung, Commissioner (via telephone)
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner (via telephone)
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
Eric Brown, County Manager
Nathan Edwards, Deputy District Attorney (via telephone)

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 9:01 a.m. in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

Vice Chair Berkbigler assumed the gavel as Chair Lucey was attending remotely.

20-0417 **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

20-0418 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or reports.

20-0419 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Declaration of Canvass of the Vote and Order for 2020 Primary Election per NRS 293.387. Registrar of Voters. (All Commission Districts.)

Registrar of Voters Deanna Spikula conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She reviewed slides with the following titles: 2020 Primary Election; Going into the 2020 Elections – The Year of Change; Election Statistics; Registered Voters in Washoe County; Early Voting; Election Day; Mail In Ballot Processing; County Employees; Special Thanks to Our Poll Workers; Post-Election Activity; VVPAT Audit; Staff Introductions – Team ROV; Final Thank You; and Voter Registration and Elections Administration.

Ms. Spikula detailed some of the changes being implemented in Washoe County as the primary election approached, such as automatic and same-day voter registration. The Registrar of Voters' Office also had internal goals, Ms. Spikula said, in order to better serve the citizens and voters of Washoe County. She discussed the interactive sample ballot initiative, the Adopt a Polling Place program, and the work done with Geographic Information Systems staff to develop a wait time app and a results reporting dashboard. She indicated constituents seemed excited to be able to see the election results and turnout at a glance. She also explained that, as a result of the COVID-19 (C19) pandemic and in conjunction with the Secretary of State's office and other Clerks in Nevada, a decision was made to change to an all-mail election in order to protect citizens' health and safety.

Ms. Spikula said Washoe County went into the primary election with 291,434 registered voters, with almost the same number of registered Democrats as Republicans; after the election, Democrats held a slight majority in the County, but the numbers were very close. She noted the number of Nonpartisan registered voters had also increased, but this could change as the general election approached. She reviewed the primary election voter turnout statistics, as well as early voting and election day activities. As for mail-in ballots, 292,247 were issued and 92,720 were returned. Most voters mailed in their responses, while approximately 3,000 individuals came to vote in person.

Ms. Spikula noted there was only one in-person polling location due to the C19 pandemic, and social distancing, sanitization, and safety guidelines had been followed to protect both voters and staff. She thanked the many County employees, poll workers, and volunteers who assisted with the election, as well as the County Manager's office, the Communications Team, and the Comptroller's Office whose staff adopted the polling location. She remarked that, although the election had been very busy, the voting process itself was efficient and quick, and she felt this was a testament to the County and its employees and volunteers who were willing to help in any way they could. Finally, she thanked the voters of Washoe County for participating and being the most important part of the election process. She emphasized it was staff's job to make sure voters had a voice in the elections.

Ms. Spikula discussed the processing and verification of mail-in ballots, and the post-election activities completed as required per Nevada Revised Statute 293B.165. She stated the voter-verified paper audit trail, per Nevada Administrative Code 293.255, found no errors; reconciliation was also complete and abstracts would soon be posted. She thanked her staff in the Registrar of Voters office and discussed the efforts that went into making the election run smoothly behind the scenes.

Vice Chair Berkgigler and Commissioner Hartung thanked Ms. Spikula and her staff, congratulating everyone on a job well done.

Assistant District Attorney Nathan Edwards then asked the Registrar of Voters a series of questions on the record to complete the canvass. Mr. Edwards asked whether Ms. Spikula had reviewed all the election results; she answered affirmatively. He

asked whether she had noted any errors or if any clerical errors had been discovered after the canvass. Ms. Spikula responded no errors had been noted. Mr. Edwards inquired whether there was any need to make changes based on Ms. Spikula's review of the results of the election; she replied there was not. Mr. Edwards concluded that, based upon Ms. Spikula's answers, it was his legal opinion that the information provided by the Registrar of Voters was sufficient for the Board to declare the results of the election.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Vice Chair Berkgigler expressed surprise she had heard no complaints regarding the election, whereas she normally received many calls during elections. She noted she received a few calls from constituents who were concerned that people stood too close together in the waiting line or were carrying signs. The Vice Chair said staff was notified of these concerns, went out to check, and found everything to be fine. She concluded 2020 was a very unique time in history.

On motion by Chair Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that the proposed Declaration of Canvass of the Vote and Order for the 2020 Primary Election be accepted.

Assistant District Attorney Nathan Edwards advised the Board that a motion was also needed to order the creation of an abstract for the County Clerk to enter into the minutes, and to send the abstract and related report to the Secretary of State.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Chair Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that an abstract be created for the County Clerk to enter into the minutes, and that the abstract and related report be sent to the Secretary of State.

On account of a second motion being made, the Vice Chair again called for public comment, but there was no response.

20-0420 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Public Comment.

On the call for public comment, County Clerk Nancy Parent read an email from Ms. Annemarie Grant, sister of Thomas Purdy. Ms. Grant expressed disappointment that she had been making public comments for two years and felt the Board of County Commissioners had not addressed her concerns. She shared frustration that her family had to live with the loss of her brother every day, feeling as though justice had not been served. She opined her father should not have settled with the County. She indicated he had been unable to watch the footage of Mr. Purdy's treatment in custody, but she believed he would not have settled the case had he seen the video. She implored Commissioners to decrease funding to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and redirect it to community resources. She believed the best communities were the ones that provided extensive resources for their community members.

A voicemail from Mr. Daniel Purdy, brother of Thomas Purdy, was played where he discussed the death of George Floyd in Missouri and the issues of social justice and civil unrest occurring in the country as a result. He opined there had been problems of police brutality occurring within Washoe County for a long time, yet lawsuits continued to be paid out and dirty cops were defended. Mr. Purdy insisted he would do his best to make sure none of the sitting County Commissioners were reelected. He alleged they did not represent the people of Washoe County and had selfish motivations.

20-0421 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements.

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9:28 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

BOB LUCEY, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

NANCY PARENT, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:
LJ Burton, Deputy County Clerk*