

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CANVASSING MEETING
November 7 & 14, 2008



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss
BCC MINUTES
PAGES: 7

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Deputy Marcella [Signature] Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SANTA FE COUNTY
SPECIAL CANVASSING MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 7, 2008

This special meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners was called to order at approximately 3:03 p.m. by Vice Chair Virginia Vigil, in the Santa Fe County Commission Chambers, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Roll was called and indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

Commissioner Virginia Vigil, Vice Chair
Commissioner Mike Anaya [telephonically]
Commissioner Harry Montoya [telephonically]

Members absent:

Commissioner Paul Campos, Chair
Commissioner Jack Sullivan

Election of Canvassing Board Chair

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: The temporary chair, acting chair would entertain a motion that she be elected.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: So moved.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: I have a motion from Commissioner Anaya that I serve as the Canvassing Board chair. Commissioner Montoya.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I second it.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: I have a second from him.

The motion passed by unanimous [3-0] voice vote.

Motion to Open Canvass

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Now I need a motion to open the canvassing.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So moved.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Motion from Commissioner Montoya.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Second.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Second from Commissioner Anaya.

The motion passed by unanimous [3-0] voice vote.

Motion to Designate the County Clerk's Staff to Carry Out Canvass for Canvassing Board

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Before I gain that motion I'd like to ask Denise if there's any reports that need to be a part of the record for this, before the motion.

DENISE LAMB (Elections Director): There will be on the 14th. There'll be documents for you to sign on the 14th.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay. And today? There's no –

MS. LAMB: Just the envelopes that the chair needs to sign.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay. The chair will sign those envelopes then. So if there's a motion to designate the County Clerk's staff to carry out the canvassing for the Canvassing Board?

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: So moved.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: So moved from Commissioner Anaya, and I will second it.

The motion passed by unanimous [3-0] voice vote.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Are there any other matters, Denise?

MS. LAMB: Just a motion to recess until next Friday at 3:00 p.m.

Motion to Recess until November 14, 2008

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay. Next item is a motion to recess until November 14th at 3:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: So moved.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: I have a motion. Is there a second? I will second it. Commissioner Montoya motioned it and Virginia Vigil seconded.

The motion passed by unanimous [3-0] voice vote.

Commissioner Vigil declared the special canvassing meeting in recess at approximately 3:10 p.m.

* * * * *

On November 14th at approximately 3:00 p.m. Vice Chair Virginia Vigil, reconvened the Board of County Commissioners for the purpose of authorizing the canvassing of the results of the November 4, 2008 election.

Roll was called and indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

Commissioner Virginia Vigil, Vice Chair
 Commissioner Harry Montoya
 Commissioner Mike Anaya [telephonically]

Members absent:

Commissioner Paul Campos, Chair
 Commissioner Jack Sullivan

Motion to Accept Canvass

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Ms. Lamb.

MS. LAMB: I have here the documents that you need to sign, these are the summary copies – Commissioner, what I'm doing is presenting the Commission with copies, summary copies of the County canvass, and the certification.

One of the interesting things I wanted to share with you while you were signing is people always are interesting in comparisons of what happened in previous presidential elections, so what I did was I looked at some numbers from 2004 and in 2004, we had 94,600-plus registered voters and in 2008 we had 97,600-plus registered voters. So we basically had about 3,000 more registered voters for this election than we did for the 2004 election. The turnout, even though it was projected to be very high, turned out to really only be .6 percent higher than it was in 2004.

But what was interesting about this election was the shift in the way people voted. In 2004, we had 33.5 percent, in other words a third of our county voters, voted early. In this election we had 52.9 percent who voted early. So that's really a big difference. In 2004 we had 37 percent who voted on Election Day at the polls, and in 2008 we only had 26 percent that voted at the polls. For absentee voting, in 2004, about 29.3 percent, almost 30 percent, voted absentee, and in 2008 20 percent voted absentee. So there was a real shift in this election towards early voting.

I know you that were here during the early voting period couldn't help but notice that we were voting nearly 1,000 people a day here in this building, which is just an incredible number for here, and it's a real testament to the staff and the temporary employees that we hired, that they were able to move people in and out of here as efficiently and as quickly as they were able to without a lot of chaos and upset. So that was really, really an experience for all of us.

I want to – I know Valerie on Tuesday is going to be on your agenda and wants to thank a few people but I'd just like to take an opportunity to thank Roman in particular. He got extra people for us when we needed them. He got extra electricity when we needed it. Just – he really came through for us in a zillion ways that I can't even count, and so we are most appreciate to him for all the help that he gave us. All the departments were very helpful. Ish was really wonderful. Anything that we needed, he was just here with it in an instant. And the Sheriff's Department was wonderful on Election Day. They were out in full force and we had to send them to a few places. This was a very difficult election. The people's emotions were very high. We had a lot of voters who were – who seemed to think that Santa Fe County had imported its election administration from Mississippi, but that's not the case. The election administration in Santa Fe County is just as progressive as the voters, and so from time to time we had to remind them that we're weren't Florida or we weren't Ohio, and that we were in fact on their side but

that we couldn't always do everything exactly the way that they would like us to do it.

So we did have a few difficult people. We got an enormous amount of compliments from people. We had people who – some man who we don't even know who he was, he remains an anonymous person to this day, who was just a voter who came in one morning. He came in one morning. He voted one day and the next day he came in and the next day he came in and he brought this enormous box of food for the entire staff, and just left it and walked out. We never, ever even found out who he was. And he just said it's because you're all doing such a great job and you're working so hard. We had people bring us flowers. We had people thank us. People go out the door who said this is wonderful. You guys are doing a great job. Everybody's so happy and cheerful and nice to us.

So it was difficult because of the volume of it, but it was also very rewarding in a lot of ways. So anyway, I just wanted to give you that little report from my perspective as your election administrator. I want to thank Val also – where is she? There she is. I want to thank Val because she was patient with me when I was very cranky. So thank you also.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Thank you, Denise. Any questions?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Thank you, Denise. Madam Chair, I just would like to commend and thank the Clerk and the staff and Denise, all the work that you all coordinated and worked, Vicki. I didn't hear anything negative about the election. I think everything flowed about as smoothly as it could of, in terms of everything that was done, so kudos to everybody, Santa Fe County's Clerk's staff.

MS. LAMB: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: And Madam Chair, I'd also like to congratulate you on your election victory, as well as Kathy Holian and Liz Stephanics and Madam Clerk, congratulations on your re-election. Had a tough general opponent there, didn't you. And also our Treasurer, Victor. Victor, congratulations on your re-election as well.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Commissioner Anaya.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Madam Chair, thank you very much. Can you hear me very well?

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Yes, very well.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Okay, I want to also thank the Clerk and her staff. I know that they worked very, very hard. And I early voted this year and I saw the amount of people that were there and it was very well organized. I got a lot of compliments on that and I want to pass that along to Clerk and her staff. The statistics that Denise read off were very alarming. I know that at the Association of Counties, we're pushing the all-mail ballot and I think it's eventually going to head that way from what the statistics show. So again, thank you and I'll also ditto on what Commissioner Montoya said on the election, the people that won their election in Santa Fe County. Thank you, Madam Chair.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Thank you, Commissioner Anaya. Roman, is there anything you'd like to add?

ROMAN ABEYTA (County Manager): Madam Chair, just I wanted to congratulate the Clerk and her staff, because as she said, early voting, this room was packed. The hallway was packed. And we didn't have anybody complaining to my office about it, and her staff was very courteous. So congratulations. You did a really good job

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: With that –
COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Madam Chair, I move to accept the canvass results.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Have a motion. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Second.

STEVE ROSS (County Attorney): Madam Chair.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: There's a motion and second. I'm going to defer to our attorney. Mr. Ross.

MR. ROSS: Since we have one Commissioner not present in the room, the motion should probably include an authorization that the Clerk sign on behalf of the missing Commissioner so we can send the canvass sheets on.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: I add that to my motion.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Commissioner Anaya, did you hear that, and do you agree with including that in your motion?

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: What exactly are we doing? They would sign my name?

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Exactly.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Who would sign my name?

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: The Clerk would.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: How soon do they need that?

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Before the end of the day, today at 5:00.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Okay. I am in a meeting right now, actually, I'm in two meetings, believe it or not, and I will run over there and sign that before the end of the day.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay, so that amendment is not needed. Do you withdraw it, Commissioner Montoya?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yes, I withdraw.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay. So the motion stands and is recognized as just a motion to accept the canvass and it has been seconded. Any further discussion?

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Commissioner Anaya, did I hear an aye?

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: No, you didn't. I heard discussion.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I also – I would like somebody from the County to come to the Association of Counties where I'm having my other meeting, so I could sign that, so that we make sure we get that. Could that happen?

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Yes. It can. We'll make sure.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: And also, I don't know if they recognized the County Sheriff's Department.

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Oh, they did?

COMMISSIONER MONTOYA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Thank them for all the help that they gave Valerie.
And with that, there's another aye.

The motion passed by unanimous [3-0] voice vote.

COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay, so I do have three to zero, the motion passes.
Is there anything further, Ms. Lamb?

MS. LAMB: No. Thank you.

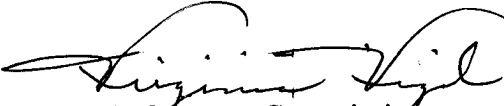
COMMISSIONER VIGIL: Okay. Thank you very much and thank you for all
the hard work you put into this.

Adjournment

Commissioner Vigil declared this meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



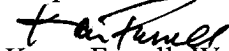
Approved by:


Board of County Commissioners
Virginia Vigil, Vice Chair



VALERIE ESPINOZA
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted:


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