

ST. LUCIE COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD ACTION MINUTES
FOR AUGUST 18, 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

AUGUST 18, 2026

ATTENDEES:

- ❖ Gertrude Walker, Supervisor of Elections
- ❖ Hon. Jeffrey Hendriks - Chair (County Court Judge)
- ❖ Commissioner Cathy Townsend (SLC Commissioner)
- ❖ Hon. Daryl Isenhower (County Court Judge Alternate)
- ❖ Hon. Edmond Alonzo (County Court Judge Alternate)
- ❖ Hon. Lauren Sweet (County Court Judge Alternate)
- ❖ George Umansky (SLC Commission Alternate)

ATTORNEYS:

- ❖ Katherine Barbieri (SLC County Attorney)
- ❖ Jean Stasio (SLC Assistant County Attorney)
- ❖ Nicholas Gieseler (Supervisor of Elections Counsel)

ELECTIONS STAFF:

- ❖ Amber McCants (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Peter Lomonaco (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Neal Sullivan (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Tywann Clemons (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Richard Vincent (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Kris Barcomb (Supervisor of Elections Staff)
- ❖ Other SOE Staff
- ❖ Franklin Belizaire (OPEX)
- ❖ Jason Frank (Liberty Voting Systems)
- ❖ Austin Hopkins (Liberty Voting Systems)
- ❖ Kathy Cabre Peters (Court Reporter-Esquire Reporting, Inc.)

CANVASSING BOARD BUSINESS:

- ❖ Meeting called to order at 4:01 P.M. by Judge Hendriks.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker noted publication of today's meeting on 7/7/2026 in the News Tribune

and 7/8/2026 in El Hispano Para Todos.

- ❖ There was no public comment.
- ❖ Motion by Judge Hendriks to approve minutes of the August 15, 2026 meeting. Second by Commissioner Townsend. Motion carried unanimously.
- ❖ Judge Hendriks moved for staff to commence opening of today's ballots. Second by Commissioner Townsend. Motion carried unanimously.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker announced there is a total of 3,029 VBM ballots to be opened and presented to the Board, which includes six overseas ballots and two damaged envelopes, along with ten signature cure affidavits.
- ❖ Ten signature cure affidavits and identification were individually reviewed, voted on, logged and sent for tabulation. Two damaged envelopes were opened, accepted and duplicated by the Board.
- ❖ Overseas ballots were reviewed and duplicated by the Board.
- ❖ The earlier inspection period resulted in two protested ballots. One of those concerned a question about location of voter's signature outside of the signature block. SOE Counsel Nicholas Gieseler clarified Division of Elections Advisory 2012-12 which states the signature must be on the back on the envelope (same side as the signature block) and in close proximity to the signature block. Judge Hendriks moved to accept the ballot in question, as it meets Division criteria. Second by Commissioner Townsend. Motion carried unanimously. The second protested ballot was reviewed and compared to signature on file. Judge Hendriks moved to request a signature cure affidavit from this voter. Second by Commissioner Townsend. Motion carried unanimously.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker introduced other alternate Canvassing Board members in attendance; Judge Alonzo, Judge Sweet and George Umansky. County Attorney Katherine Barbieri, Assistant County Attorney Jean Stasio and SOE Counsel Nicholas Gieseler were also introduced. Judge Isenhower was introduced upon arrival.
- ❖ Judge Hendriks announced VBM cage under Seal 0862979 had been opened in order to placed today's VBM ballots within.
- ❖ Board began review of ballots that had been rejected from the tabulation room, voting on voter intent where necessary and duplicating where necessary.
- ❖ Discussion ensued regarding duplication of ballot overvotes. Attorney Gieseler advised the statute clarifies that overvotes should be duplicated as such rather than left blank.

Judge Alonzo clarified that overvotes do not cause the need for ballot duplication if the ballot is otherwise in order. However, if a ballot requires duplication for another reason, the overvote must be replicated.

- ❖ A bag containing VBM ballots under Seal 21561832 arrived containing 200 VBM ballots from the Traditions office and 175 from the main office. Judge Hendriks moved to break the bag seal and send the ballots for opening and tabulation. Second by Commissioner Townsend. Motion carried unanimously.
- ❖ After a brief recess, Judge Sweet substituted in for Judge Hendriks as a member of the Canvassing Board.
- ❖ Review and duplication of tabulation room rejections continued.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker advised bag under Seal 21561833 had arrived containing 192 VBM ballots from Walton Road location and 63 VBM ballots from the main office. Judge Sweet broke the seal and the ballots were sent for opening and tabulation.
- ❖ Review and duplication of tabulation room rejections continued.
- ❖ Among the ballots received was a signature cure affidavit, along with identification. The signature cure affidavit was reviewed and voted on, as well as an additional overseas ballot, which was duplicated.
- ❖ Review and duplication of tabulation room rejections continued.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker advised 201 VBM ballots from various locations had arrived. Judge Isenhower, now substituting in for Judge Sweet, broke Seal 21561834 on the bag and sent contents for opening and tabulation.
- ❖ Review and duplication of tabulation rejections continued to completion.
- ❖ Today's VBM ballots, having been processed, were placed in cage under Seal #0862988. The Canvassing Board cage was opened, and the box containing today's original ballots duplicated by the Canvassing Board, along with various log sheets and VBM protested ballot forms were placed under Seal 98-007. The VBM cage was then resealed with Seal 0826989.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker provided the Board with Election Summary Report. Mr. Gieseler advised a few of the races were close to the .5 percent recount margin, but nothing within the margin requiring a recount, pending Thursday's 8/20 meeting to review provisional ballots and any additional signature cure affidavits and overseas ballots received by the deadline. Election Summary Report was signed off on by the Board.

- ❖ Next Canvassing Board meeting is August 20, 2026, at 4:00 P.M.
- ❖ Mrs. Walker made motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Townsend.
Motion carried unanimously.
- ❖ Meeting adjourned at 10:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cabre Peters, Court Reporter