

**MINUTES OF THE WYOMING STATE CANVASSING BOARD
CAPITOL COMPLEX AUDITORIUM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING
November 13, 2024**

In accordance with the Wyoming Election Code, W.S. 22-16-118, the State Canvassing Board met on November 13th, 10:00 a.m. in the Capitol Complex Auditorium, to canvass the statewide returns of the General Election held on November 5th, 2024.

Members of the State Canvassing Board present were:

Honorable Chuck Gray, Secretary of State, Chairman
Honorable Mark Gordon, Governor
Honorable Kristi Racines, State Auditor
Honorable Curtis E. Meier, Jr., State Treasurer

In-Person Attendees at the meeting were: CJ Young, Paul Raines, Frank Apollo, Jesse Naiman, Micah Pfaffe, Dusty Shryack, Betsy Anderson, Malcolm Ervin, Hannah Shields, Leo Wolfson, Kathy Russell, Kevin Lewis, and Akili Bonner. Zoom registrants included Marisa Carpio, Gillian Sears, Karen Rimmer, Colin Crossman, Jill Kaufman, Susan Love, Richard Martin, Elena Campbell, Pam Gualtieri, Emalee Sweet, Val Sharp, Allen Slagle, Win Dias, Karen Slocum, Jenna Millar, Melissa Jones, Roxie Hensley, Jennifer Curran, Kirk Haas, Mary Feagler, Kari Drost, and Klaus Halbsgut.

Call to Order & Introductory Remarks

Secretary Gray called the meeting to order and began by noting the presence of Governor Gordon, Treasurer Meier, and Auditor Racines. Secretary Gray provided the statutory basis and the purpose for the meeting of the State Canvassing Board. He continued that the Canvassing Board would be reviewing the state abstract as prepared by the Secretary of State's Office and certify the State Abstract as the official state canvass.

Secretary Gray informed the board that the State Abstract indicates, by county, the number of ballots cast by each political party, the number of votes cast for each candidate, the write-in candidates receiving a significant number of votes to affect the outcome of the election and the respective number of votes, and the number of votes for and against each ballot proposition. He outlined that there would be multiple times for public comment to be given throughout the meeting.

Secretary Gray then spoke about the 2024 General Election, and thanked county clerks, election judges, poll watchers, and those exercising their right to vote, that made the 2024 General Election a success. He noted that while there were issues that came up in the 2024 General Election, to be expanded on further by Election Director CJ Young, these were responded to appropriately, and that the Secretary of State's Office was committed to always striving for successful elections in the future.

Secretary Gray then gave the floor to CJ Young, State Election Director, to provide the overview of the State Abstract.

Director Young's Opening Remarks

Director Young discussed the process of the Secretary of State's Office in verifying, comparing, reconciling and auditing statewide election results for the Canvassing Board meeting, and thanked everyone involved in making the 2024 General Election a success.

General Information

Director Young then gave an overview of issues encountered on and after the day of the 2024 General Election, which were addressed and resolved by both the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office and county clerks. He discussed efforts to ensure public concerns were addressed, and election-day issues encountered by Big Horn, Washakie, Fremont, and Teton Counties, and how these issues were resolved prior to and during respective county canvass meetings.

Director Young then asked Secretary Gray to discuss issues encountered with Weston County on the night of the election. Secretary Gray discussed the detected anomaly concerning the House District 1 race in Weston County due to the county clerk's distribution of incorrect ballots, the Secretary of State's immediate contact with Weston County to resolve the issue, and Secretary Gray's insistence that the county canvassing board undertake a hand examination of the affected races, which was ultimately done by the Weston County Canvassing Board prior to certification of official results to the Secretary of State's Office. Secretary Gray noted that, although the immediate issue was resolved by the county canvassing board, he is continuing to analyze representations made to the Secretary of State's Office by the Weston County Clerk.

Director Young thanked Secretary Gray for his remarks detailing the issues addressed in Weston County.

Voter Turnout

Director Young then summarized voter turnout statistics for the 2024 General Election based on estimates from the Wyoming Economic Analysis Division of the Department of Administration and Information, and provided highlights including:

- 45% of registered voters had returned their absentee ballot as of the morning of Election Day;
- Total absentee ballots requested were 118,959, and 97% were returned as of the morning of Election Day;
- Overall turnout was 271,123, which represented 59.7% of the voting age population;

Post-Election Audit

Director Young informed the board about the post-election audit, which was conducted in all 23 counties pursuant to W.S. 22-6-130. Director Young pointed out that Platte County's audit reported a finding of an incorrect tabulation of 1 ballot related to a local hospital district director race.

Secretary Gray noted that the post-election audit submitted by the Weston County Clerk on November 6, 2024 reported no findings or observations. However, following communication from the Secretary of State's Office indicating it did not believe the post-election audit had been conducted properly, a post-election audit was re-submitted on November 12 indicating findings in accordance with the tabulation finalized at their county canvassing board.

Candidate Participation

Director Young then gave a summary of total races, broken out by federal/legislative, write-in nominations, uncontested races, and summary of candidates on the ballot.

- 80 races on the ballot, 3 federal and 77 state legislative;
- 30 judges standing for retention, including 2 Supreme Court Justices;
- 1 Constitutional amendment.

Director Young stated that there was a total of 103 candidates, 9 federal, 18 State Senate, and 76 for State House of Representatives, and that there were no successful write-in campaigns for state or federal office.

Recounts

Director Young informed the board that there were no mandatory recounts triggered by W.S. 22-16-109, but that there was a recount requested by a candidate via W.S. 22-16-110 for House District 13. The recount did not change the results of House District 13.

Presentation of Statewide Abstract

Director Young requested permission to begin walking the Board through the 2024 Statewide General Election Abstract.

Director Young directed the Board's attention to the abstract and reiterated that all of the results have been verified, compared, reconciled, and audited for accuracy.

In reviewing the abstract, Director Young directed the Board to review the Total Ballots Cast report that breaks down the total ballots cast, noting that there were 271,123 total ballots cast in the 2024 General Election.

Director Young summarized the Statewide Summary that contains results for Statewide Candidates. He informed the Board that this report includes results for United States President, with Republican Donald Trump defeating Democrat Kamala Harris and Libertarian Chase Oliver, United States Senate, with Republican John Barrasso defeating Democrat Scott Morrow, and United States Representative, with Republican Harriet Hageman defeating Democrat Kyle G. Cameron, Libertarian Richard Brubaker and Constitution candidate Jeffrey Haggitt.

Director Young then called the Board's attention to the Statewide Summaries of the 15 State Senate races broken down by county.

He then requested the Board review the Statewide Summaries of the 62 State House races broken down by county.

He continued by requesting the board review the summaries of the 30 judicial retention elections, noting these include 2 Wyoming Supreme Court Justices, 14 Wyoming District Court Judges, and 14 Wyoming Circuit Court Judges, which were all retained.

He continued that the next section contained the summary of ballot issues, which contains the results of the proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot. He then informed the board that the "for" votes for a ballot question must be a majority of the total ballots cast, not just more "for" votes than "against" votes. He then noted that Constitutional Amendment A passed, with the total votes for the amendment being 146,336.

Director Young then briefly mentioned the precinct-by-precinct results reflecting results within each precinct in each county, with totals. He noted that there were no successful write-in candidates to report.

Public Comment on Statewide Abstract

Secretary Gray then opened the floor for public comment on the Statewide Abstract.

CCAW President and Platte County Clerk Malcolm Ervin mentioned that Weston County issue previously described was accurate, and that the Weston County Clerk has taken ownership of the issue and that an accurate count was reached and the issue was resolved. Treasurer Meier asked if there were any lessons learned, and Clerk Ervin noted that county clerks would work with the Secretary of State's Office in the future in terms of any policy discussions. Secretary Gray noted that he appreciated the question and that he will be working with the Legislature on policies to ensure this does not happen again.

Jill Kaufman, of Platte County, commended the State on the thoroughness, but noted concerns with outdated antivirus software, as well as issues with logic and accuracy, before the results should be certified. Secretary Gray noted that he appreciated the question, but that an examination had been conducted to address these concerns, and that all of these issues have been addressed, that the antivirus

software had been updated in 2023 as part of a software upgrade, and that these issues had been resolved.

Rick Martin, of Albany County, commented on some positive things with the Albany County election concerning the election security plan, but noted concerns and areas for improvement concerning precinct consolidation, Electronic Pollbooks, and issues leading to long lines. He also noted that there were issues with absentee ballots, and highlighted that room for improvement with respect to investigating election crimes, making it clear that drop boxes are not allowed in Wyoming, and that Wyoming should require proof of residency to register to vote. Treasurer Meier and Secretary Gray noted that these present opportunities for improvement with legislation.

Elena Campbell, of Sheridan County, indicated concerns with using electronic machines in our elections, and the need for reforms to the Wyoming Election Code to improve our systems. Secretary Gray noted that he appreciated these comments, and that he thought there are needed reforms to make our elections more secure.

Susan Love, of Weston County, thanked the board for their sincere attention, and expressed frustration with the testing of voting machines, and expressed the need for a hand examination in the future.

Pam Gualtieri, of Weston County, and Mayor of Newcastle, and expressed concerns with the Weston County race and with certification of results with these concerns. Secretary Gray clarified that county and municipal races are certified by the county canvassing board, not the State Canvassing Board.

Director Young then recommended the certification of the Statewide Abstract by the canvassing board.

Certification of Statewide Abstract

Secretary Gray asked for a motion to certify the Statewide Abstract as the Official State Canvass. Treasurer Meier made a comment about the need for proof of residency. Auditor Racines asked if the Secretary of State's Office's recommended motion was to certify the statewide abstract as the official State Canvass. Secretary Gray responded that it was.

Auditor Racines moved to certify the statewide abstract for the 2024 General Election, as the official State Canvass. Treasurer Meier seconded the motion, and the motion to certify the statewide abstract passed unanimously.

Further Public Comment

Secretary Gray again opened the floor for additional public comment now the abstract had been certified.

Kathy Russell, of Laramie County, spoke as a resident of Cheyenne and as an election judge in Laramie County, and spoke concerning the absentee ballot count. Speaking as the Executive Director of the Wyoming Republican Party, commented that there had been remarkable gains in election integrity in Wyoming, but that Wyoming continued to keep election integrity in mind and that it would remain a top priority of the Wyoming Republican Party. Ms. Russell commended the election judges in Laramie County and Laramie County Clerk staff for their conduct in the 2024 Election, but noted that we need to make reforms with respect to voting machines being used in Wyoming, the need to end the use of ballot drop boxes in Wyoming, residency, and signature verification. Treasurer Meier voiced that one solution might be segregation of provisional ballots, and Ms. Russell agreed. Treasurer Meier indicated that issues in Albany County should be looked into, and Ms. Russell agreed, and that issues from the public should be taken seriously. Secretary Gray noted that that if issues do arise, individuals should not hesitate to contact the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office or their county clerk.

Secretary Gray took a moment to recognize Frank Apollo, with the Wyoming Secretary of State's Elections Division, who had been working on processing an initiative for which there was a second submittal on November 4th, the day before the 2024 General Election, and highlighted that the Secretary of State's Office would be processing this initiative in accordance with Wyoming law.

Stanley Jasinski, of Weston County, made comment about his concerns regarding the testing of machines by the Weston County Clerk, and the concerns raised by the public at the Weston County Canvassing Board meeting, and commented that he had observed a pattern of misconduct by the Weston County Clerk, and iterated that the Weston County Clerk should be removed from office. Secretary Gray mentioned that one of the statutory issues that may be addressed would be the makeup of the county canvassing board.

Representative Allen Slagle commented on the need for statutory change and the need to examine the mistakes of the Weston County Clerk, but that he did believe that the 2024 Election was a success.

Gillian Sears, of Weston County, commented that there have been serious issues in Weston County in the 2020, 2022, and 2024 Elections, and asked for an audit of past elections.

Klaus Halbsgut, of Albany County, spoke concerning his role as a member of the Albany County canvassing board, and the process of the post-election audit conducted in Albany County. He also spoke to the Albany County Canvassing Board meeting, that he felt there was no voter suppression in Albany County, and disagreed with the comments made by Richard Martin earlier in the meeting. He said that he thought the Albany County election, and the recount for House District 13, was successful, and noted that a provisional ballot issue in the primary will be

improved on. Secretary Gray clarified that the election had been certified earlier in the meeting, and clarified that the post-election audit concerned an examination of the cast-vote record and the ballot image, and stated that the Secretary of State's Office would follow up on the concern raised by Mr. Halbsgut regarding the provisional ballot issue, and that issues should be brought to the Secretary of State's attention so that uniform best practices could be used throughout the state. Treasurer Meier asked whether Albany County should have a polling place at the University of Wyoming and for any other ideas to decrease confusion for precinct voting, and Mr. Halbsgut responded that he supported a precinct location at the University of Wyoming, and that more awareness should be made as to where precincts are, more training for election judges, and more training for poll watchers and voters. Secretary Gray noted the Secretary of State's polling place locator as a valuable tool for voters.

Secretary Gray commented that the Electoral College would be meeting at December 17, 2024, at noon, at the Office of the Secretary of State, with the Governor, and congratulated the presidential electors for Wyoming, Brent Bien, Bryan Miller, and Marti Halverson.

Kari Drost, of Weston County, and the Chairman of the Weston County Republican Party, commented on the need for uniformity and statutory improvements to allow multiple people in on the process for administering the election. Ms. Drost also noted that the Weston County community would be forwarding a letter to Governor Gordon asking for the removal of the Weston County Clerk. Secretary Gray thanked Ms. Drost. Governor Gordon thanked Ms. Drost, and noted he will be taking the letter into consideration.

Closing Remarks by Canvassing Board

Secretary Gray stated that the State Canvassing Board certified the statewide abstract presented to the board as the official state abstract for the 2024 General Election as the official State Canvass. Secretary Gray opened the floor for closing comments from members of the Board.

Governor Gordon thanked the Secretary of State's Office and election officials for conducting the 2024 Election successfully.

Secretary Gray noted the emphasis that we are always working on improving Wyoming's elections, including proof of residency and proof of citizenship. He detailed his actions to promulgate rules to require proof of Wyoming residency which were vetoed, and that he would continue to work on in the 2025 Legislative Session. He also stated he wanted to make statutory improvements for a durational residency requirement to vote, that state statute make clear that drop boxes not be allowed, that Wyoming continue to strengthen voter identification requirements, and that we have accountability for actions of the Weston County Clerk and representations made by the Weston County Clerk concerning her logic and accuracy test, as well as her post-election audit.

Secretary Gray congratulated Brent Bien, Marti Halverson, and Bryan Miller, on their election as the presidential electors, noted that the meeting of the presidential electors on December 11, 2024 at noon. He noted that presidential elector certificates would be transmitted to presidential electors in accordance with Wyoming law.

Adjournment

Secretary Gray then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Treasurer Meier moved to adjourn the meeting of the official State Canvass. This motion was seconded by Auditor Racines, and passed unanimously.

***All documents submitted to the Board have been attached to these minutes and are made a part thereof. A video recording of the meeting is also kept with the official record.**

CERTIFICATION BY STATE CANVASSING BOARD

General Election – November 5th, 2024

This is to certify that the undersigned members of the State Canvassing Board, having canvassed all of the returns of the General Election held on November 5th, 2024, do hereby certify that the attached is a full, true and correct summary of said canvass and that the attached minutes are a true record of the proceedings of the State Canvassing Board.

We hereby affix our signatures this 13th day of November and I, Chuck Gray, do hereby affix the Great Seal of the State of Wyoming.




Chuck Gray, Chairman, Secretary of State



Mark Gordon, Governor



Kristi Racines, State Auditor



Curtis E. Meier, Jr., State Treasurer

