# Meeting of the Hillsborough County Canvassing Board City of Tampa Runoff Election Cycle April 27, 2023 – Canvassing Board Meeting

Pursuant to notice duly given, the Hillsborough County Canvassing Board (the "Board") assembled and held a meeting at 5:00 PM at the Robert L. Gilder Elections Service Center, 2514 N. Falkenburg Road, Tampa, Florida.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** 

Daryl Manning, County Court Judge, Chair

Craig Latimer, Supervisor of Elections

Donna Cameron Cepeda, County Commissioner

**ALSO PRESENT** 

Mary Helen Farris, Deputy County Attorney

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None

The meeting was called to order by Daryl Manning at 5:00 PM.

The Board discussed an Election Day incident report.

The Board was presented with 10 provisional ballots: 6 recommend accept and 4 recommend reject. The Board accepted 6 provisional ballots and rejected 4 provisional ballots.

The Board reviewed 11 Vote By Mail ballots with no voter signatures, 1 Vote By Mail ballot with an eligibility challenge and 24 Vote By Mail ballots with potential signature mismatches. The Board accepted 0 ballots and determined that 36 ballots will be rejected.

At 5:19 PM, the first unofficial results certificates were presented to the Board, and the Board certified the first unofficial results. No recounts were ordered.

At 5:23 PM, the minutes from previous meeting held April 25, 2023, were approved.

The next Canvassing Board meeting will be April 28, 2023 at 2:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 PM.

Britney Bridgman, Executive Assistant

April 27, 2023

#### INCIDENT

**Voter B** received a ballot from the ballot distribution table and noticed it was marked while walking to the privacy booth. **Voter B** returned to the ballot distribution table to alert the poll worker that they received a marked ballot.

#### **ACTIONS**

- Assistant Clerk submitted a ticket regarding the above incident to Supervisor of Elections.
- Election Phone Bank provided guidance to Assistant Clerk regarding proper ballot distribution procedures.
- Supervisor of Elections permitted poll watcher to review all pre-printed, unvoted ballots including the spoiled ballot returned by the voter.
- Poll watcher, Clerk, and Assistant Clerk reviewed all unmarked and spoiled ballots.
- Election Phone Bank requested Clerk keep the spoiled ballot separate from other spoiled ballots to be reviewed as part of this investigation.
- A member of Supervisor of Elections staff was dispatched to The Sons of Italy Hall Lodge 1251 and spoke with each member of the Election Board individually to identify what factors contributed to the above issue.

### **FINDINGS**

- **Voter A** received two ballots that were stuck together instead of one ballot from the Ballot Distribution Inspector at the ballot distribution table.
- Voter A marked both ballots before approaching the tabulator to cast their ballot.
- Voter A cast one ballot and was stopped by the DS200 Inspector before casting the second ballot on the tabulator.
- The DS200 Inspector retrieved the privacy folder and second, marked ballot from Voter A.
- The DS200 Inspector returned the privacy folder and second, marked ballot to the ballot distribution table.
- Approximately two minutes later the Ballot Distribution Inspector distributed the marked ballot to Voter B.
- Voter B noticed their ballot was marked while walking to the privacy booth from the ballot distribution table.
- Votes cast on DS200 reconcile with the number of ePollbook check-ins.

## CONCLUSION

Three procedural errors resulted in a **Voter B** receiving **Voter A**'s pre-marked, spoiled ballot:

- 1. Ballot Distribution Inspector provided two ballots that were stuck together to a voter instead of ensuring that the voter only received one ballot.
- 2. DS200 Inspector improperly spoiled a ballot by returning it to the Ballot Distribution Table instead of bringing it to the Clerk at the Voter Assistance Table.
- 3. Ballot Distribution Inspector provided a spoiled ballot to a voter instead of checking that one blank ballot of the correct ballot style was exchanged the voter's ballot style ticket.

## PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- 1. Additional guidance was provided to Clerk and Assistant Clerk regarding proper ballot distribution and spoiled ballot procedures.
- 2. Additional guidance provided to DS200 Inspector regarding proper procedure for spoiling a ballot.
- 3. Additional guidance provided to Ballot Distribution Inspector regarding proper ballot distribution procedures.