



J. KENNETH BLACKWELL
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DIRECTIVE 2005-30
November 9, 2005

To: All County Boards of Elections
Members, Directors and Deputy Directors

OFFICIAL CANVASS

The official canvass may begin no earlier than 11 days after the election (Nov. 19) and must begin no later than 15 days after the election (Nov. 23). **Each board's official canvass must be completed no later than December 8.** See the section of this Directive titled "*Required Reports for the November 8 General Election*" of this Directive for reporting requirements.

Prior to November 19, boards may examine pollbooks, poll lists, signature pollbooks and tally sheets and compare them to the summary statements. Any errors, defects or omissions shall be noted and corrected. The examination, however, must be completed before official results can be certified. (See R.C. 3505.32)

- *All Voting Systems* - In order for a board to declare official results, **all** valid ballots cast - including eligible ballots cast at the polls, provisional ballots and absentee ballots -- must be counted at the official canvass. Program your tabulating equipment to report separately the number of overvoted and undervoted ballots cast and include those numbers on your abstract.
- *Paper ballots* - Count the ballots as counted on election night; or sort the ballots using the stack method, then count each stack. The stack method means sorting by candidate, yes or no vote, for or against vote, and overvote or no vote.
- *Punchcard* - Each board must establish one or more counting stations at the board of elections where all ballots will be counted.
- *Optical scan central count* - Each board must set the tabulators to reject blank ballots and overvoted ballots. The boards must designate inspection teams consisting of an equal number of employees from each major political party to efficiently inspect the rejected ballots to determine voter intent.

- *Optical scan precinct count* - Each board must rerun the precinct/polling place memory card and verify the count matches the unofficial. If it does not, the board must count the ballots in accordance with instructions for the central count optical scan ballots.
- *DRE* - Each board must rerun the precinct cartridges, PCMCIA cards or other removable memory devices and verify the count matches the unofficial. If it does not, the board must compare the audit trail or the internal program on the voting machine to the cartridge results and determine the cause of the difference. **Note:** The seal on the canister or the tape on the verified voter paper audit trail (VVPAT) is *not* to be broken to determine official results. If for any auditing reason the seal must be broken other than for recount purposes, this office is to be notified immediately.

REQUIRED REPORTS FOR THE NOVEMBER 8 GENERAL ELECTION

The official report forms will be sent under separate directive. Each board must complete the official canvass by **December 8**, and this office must receive all official report forms no later than December 12.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please contact the Elections Division at (614) 466-2585.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Kenneth Blackwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Kenneth Blackwell