

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS
MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2025**

The Houghton County Board of Canvassers held a meeting on Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Franklin Township Office in Hancock, Michigan. The meeting was held to approve the August 5, 2025 Primary/Special Election results.

The Canvassers completed their per diems, and reviewed the minutes from the May 7, 2025 Canvassing.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Becky Bruin-Slot at 9:03 a.m. The following responded to roll call to the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly: Barbara Manninen, Democrat; Becky Bruin-Slot, Republican and Sharon Foix, Republican. Janet Metsa, Democrat arrived at 9:07 a.m.

Also in attendance was Renee Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Clerk, assisting with the canvassing. In public attendance during the day were Karen Timonen and Teresa Kariniemi.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Canvassers did the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

A Motion was made by Barbara Manninen and seconded by Becky Bruin-Slot to approve the Agenda as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Approve Minutes from last Canvassing-May 7, 2025:

A Motion was made by Sharon Foix, seconded by Barbara Manninen to approve the May 7, 2025 minutes as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Karen Timonen addressed the Board and provided a printout from the Kent County website to the Chair. She expressed concerns about 3 Democrats and 1 Republican working at the Dolle Center-Portage Township during the August election. Clerk Kelly informed her that the law

states that there must be 1 Democrat and 1 Republican, and then the Clerk can fill the rest of the spots with the City/Township Election Commission. Clerk Kelly stated that throughout the State, many Clerks have troubles finding enough to balance the workers per party. For an example there could be 4 Democrat, and 1 Republican, or 4 Republicans and 1 Democrat. There is no violation in what the Portage Clerk did for workers.

Review and approve all election envelopes, tapes, and all documentation in every Houghton County Precinct for the August election and the CCISD-Houghton & Keweenaw and Bohemia Twp-Ontonagon County

Adams 1-Consolidated with Bohemia Township-Ontonagon County

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Janet Metsa, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve Adams Township 1-Consolidated with Bohemia Township-Ontonagon County.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Calumet 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

Calumet 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The election inspectors should not put voters names in the remarks. Two (2) boxes were not checked on the Preparation Certificate, and boxes were not checked on the end of the night document.

Calumet 5

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The election inspectors should not put voters names in the remarks.

Calumet 9

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

Calumet AVCB

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Sharon Foix, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve Precincts 1, 2, 5 and 9 and the Calumet Township AVCB.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Chassell 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers wanted it noted that the election workers should put the write in page in the Canvassers envelope on election night.

A Motion was made by Janet Metsa, seconded by Becky Bruin-Slot, to approve Chassell Township 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

City of Hancock 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

City of Hancock 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

City of Hancock 3

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

City of Hancock AVCB

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The election inspector's certificate had a cross out without initials. The Canvassers would like the workers to always put their initials when they do a cross out.

A Motion was made by Janet Metsa, seconded by Becky Bruin-Slot, to approve all Precincts 1, 2 and 3 and the City of Hancock AVCB.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

City of Houghton 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

City of Houghton 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers asked that no white out be used on the cover page or anywhere in the pollbook. The printed remarks do not line up with the AV list. It caused a lot of confusion. Ask the workers to please make sure their remarks make sense in the future.

A Motion was made by Janet Metsa, seconded by Becky Bruin-Slot, to approve Precincts 1 and 2 for the City of Houghton.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Duncan Township 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The election inspectors had 18 on the Ballot Summary. There were 20 voters, 20 on the tape, 20 on the Statement of Votes. The inspectors and receiving board should have caught this error and corrected it.

Duncan Township 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Janet Metsa, seconded by Becky Bruin-Slot, to approve both Duncan Township precincts 1 and 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Elm River 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Becky Bruin-Slot, seconded by Janet Metsa, to approve Elm River 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Franklin 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

Franklin 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Becky Bruin-Slot, seconded by Janet Metsa, to approve Franklin Township Precincts 1 and 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Hancock Twp 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Sharon Foix, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve Hancock Twp 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Laird 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Becky Bruin-Slot, seconded by Janet Metsa, to approve Laird 1.

Osceola 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers asked for the 0 tape to be put in the Local Clerk Envelope, and not in the County Clerk envelope. They included 1 extra tape, and should not have

A Motion was made by Becky Bruin-Slot, seconded by Barbara Manninen approve Osceola 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Osceola 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Sharon Foix, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve Osceola 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Osceola 4

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Becky Bruin-Slot, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve Osceola 4.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Portage 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

Both Portage 2 and Portage 4 envelopes did not identify which precinct they were. The Canvassers opened all envelopes to make sure what precinct they were. Ask the election inspectors and receiving board to please catch this error in the future. The write in page must be marked "None" if there were no write ins. Please do not include the 0 tape. On the pink Canvassers pink sheet, the ballot container number was 16771 and changed to 16775 but no initials. This error was not done on the yellow copy in the County Clerk's envelope. The inspectors should always initial any change they make. The printing was bad and hard to read on the remarks page.

Portage 4

No numbers on the envelopes for what precinct it was. The inspectors and receiving board should catch this error in the future. Confusion as to the printing of the voter list and Ballot Summary. Both were hard to read. Please find out how to properly print these for future elections.

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

Portage AVCB

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Democrat and Republican did not sign the Election Inspector's Certificate. Carol Little came to sign at Canvassing. Jan Hanner will go to the County Clerk's office to sign with Clerk Kelly on both copies.

The Canvassers asked the inspectors to please write 2 & 4, not 2-4, as it makes the Canvassers believe there is a precinct 3. The workers must write "None" on the write in page.

On the Ballot Summary, the workers wrote 377 with a negative 7. Therefore, the numbers didn't balance but the total voters did balance. The inspectors and receiving board should have caught this error.

A Motion was made by Janet Metsa, seconded by Becky Bruin-Slot, to approve Portage Township Precincts 2 and 4 and the AVCB.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Quincy 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Becky Janet Metsa, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve Quincy 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Schoolcraft 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers would like the workers to write their initials for any errors they do a cross out on the cover page of the pollbook. They need to know who did the correction.

There was a spoiled ballot, but there were no remarks.

A Motion was made by Becky Bruin-Slot, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve Schoolcraft 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Stanton 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers had confusion as to if an absentee ballot was spoiled or not. No remarks. It appears that a voter was marked as 368 but corrected to 369. No remarks.

A Motion was made by Becky Bruin-Slot, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve Stanton 1.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Stanton 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers would like the workers to write their initials for any errors they do a cross out on the Election Inspectors Certificate. They need to know who did the correction.

The Canvassers were confused as the printed remarks did not match the written remarks. Please do only 1 or the other for future elections.

A Motion was made by Becky Bruin-Slot, seconded by Janet Metsa, to approve Stanton 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Torch Lake 1

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

Torch Lake 2

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers asked that the remarks be consistent with the absentee ballots. It's uncertain if all remarks were about absentee ballots. The red seal was confusing, please write the number.

A Motion was made by Janet Metsa, seconded by Becky-Bruin Slot, to approve Torch Lake 1 and 2.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Torch Lake AVCB

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Becky Bruin-Slot, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve Torch Lake AVCB.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Allouez Township:

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Janet Metsa, seconded by Becky Bruin-Slot, to approve Allouez Township.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Eagle Harbor:

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The Canvassers asked that the boxes be checked on the County Clerk and Canvassers envelope. No staples should be used to staple the tabulator tape to the pollbook as the staple can ruin the tape in trying to remove it.

A Motion was made by Janet Metsa, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to approve Eagle Harbor Township.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Grant Township:

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

A Motion was made by Janet Metsa, seconded by Sharon Foix, to approve Grant Township.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Houghton Township:

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

The tabulator number was changed on the cover page, but was not initialed.

A Motion was made by Janet Metsa, seconded by Becky Bruin-Slot, to approve Houghton Township.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Sherman Township:

The Canvassers completed the Checklist and verified the tabulator tape matched the Statement of Votes Cast report.

There were boxes that were not checked on the Clerk's Preparation Certificate in the morning.

The 0 tape should be in the Local Clerk's envelope, not the Canvasser's envelope. Do not use staples to staple the tabulator tape, as the tape rips too easy.

A Motion was made by Becky Bruin-Slot, seconded by Janet Metsa, to approve Sherman Township.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Adjourn meeting:

A Motion was made by Sharon Foix, seconded by Barbara Manninen, to adjourn the meeting at 3:33 pm.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Becky Bruin-Slot

Valorie Troesch

Barbara Manninen

Sharon Foix

Jennifer Kelly
Clerk of the Houghton County Canvassers