



2020 Primary Canvass Monitoring Training | Cheat Sheet

What Is It?

- Under North Carolina law, the term “canvass” means the process of determining the final vote count, including the tabulation of all properly cast ballots. Learn more at demnc.co/canvass.
- As part of the process, county election officials review absentee ballots and provisional ballots to determine if they should count.

When Is It?

- By law, county boards of elections meet at 11 a.m., on the 10th day after the election (i.e. the “Day of Canvass” for the March 2020 Primary is Friday, March 13); but counties can have preliminary meetings (pre-canvass meetings) when one day may not be enough.
- Some counties may have had preliminary canvass meetings already (i.e., throughout this week).

Who will be there?

- Five (5) County Board Members (three Democrats, two Republicans)
- County Board of Elections staff, including at least the director, maybe more staff
- Partisan observers, potentially from various local, state, and federal campaigns

What to expect

- These are public meetings. We’re entitled to attend, but the boards may not be used to people caring about what goes on, especially at the preliminary canvass meetings.
- Don’t be intimidated. You have a right to be there and observe what the county board is doing.
- Don’t be afraid to ask county board staff if there are any mechanisms for public input, if necessary. This can be phrased delicately, e.g., “Can we ask a question if we can’t understand what is being said, so the public can follow what is happening?”

What we need you to do

- Take lots of notes.
 - Try to identify who is in the room (e.g., which board members are speaking, the director)
 - Board may discuss provisional ballots by category; If you catch names of provisional ballots being discussed, jot those down, e.g.,
 - Out of precinct
 - No record of registration
 - Jurisdiction dispute
 - Any overall numbers—jot those down
- We will provide you with an online report form (demnc.co/canvassreport), but bring extra paper or, preferably your computer to take notes so we can get your notes more quickly

Provisional Categories to Monitor

- **No Acceptable ID**
 - The photo ID requirement was blocked for the 2020 Primary, but first time voters,

depending on how they registered, might have been asked to show some sort of identification, known as a HAVA document (any government document, utility bill, bank statement or payroll stub with the voter's name and registration address)

- Voters should be allowed to cure their provisional by bring in a HAVA document even if they didn't have that documentation on Election Day
- Might be some discussion of the numbers of folks who have brought in HAVA documents already. If it's a pre-canvass meeting (prior to March 13), is the board making an effort to reach voters who failed to return with an ID? They could do so.

More Provisional Categories

- **No Record of Registration** – registered or updated address at DMV
 - Voters who registered/updated their registration at DMV but didn't show up on the rolls were supposed to be given a yellow form to sign.
 - If the DMV didn't convey the registration, the provisional ballot may still count, depending on research the County Board does with the DMV.
 - We want to document how many of those are dealt with, the results of the DMV research, or if there are DMV registration provisionals without a yellow form.
 - Did you hear the board say that all voters with "no record of registration" were submitted to DMV to see if they had visited DMV?

Other Issues to Monitor

- **Absentee ballots**
 - Any discussion of late mail-in absentee ballots?
 - Any count of how many absentee ballots are being rejected for certain reasons? (e.g., lack of signature, lack of witnesses)
- **Same-Day Registration and Voting**
 - Any discussion of mailings (verifications) being sent to SDR voters and those mailings being returned?
 - Were any SDR ballots being challenged or denied? If so, how many?
- **Machine or Software Issues**
 - Any discussion about problems involving equipment or voting procedures?
 - What was discussed—and concluded?
- **Challenges/Hearings**
 - Was there a hearing in which a voter was questioned about their eligibility to vote?
 - What happened?

Report Form

- Find and fill out the form online at: demnc.co/canvassreport
 - 10 Entries for Provisionals NOT Counted
 - 3 Entries for Voter Challenges
 - Need more space? Feel free to also document initial or additional observations and send via email (send in email body or scan and attach).

What we'll do with the information (and when)

- Your observations on or before Friday, March 13, will help election experts flag problems and advocate for better election policies and voting access for the General Election.