

## **Final Election Report**

### **for May 5, 2020, Special District Election of the Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District by Wayne Williams, Designated Election Official, May 19, 2020**

1. Publication of Call for Nominations was published in Ranchland News on Thursday, February 13th. Self-nomination forms were available on the district's website and at the district's office with a deadline of Friday, February 28th, 4:30 p.m.
2. Candidates and Ballot Order: Six candidates self-nominated for the two available three-year terms. Five candidates self-nominated for the one two-year term. No write-in candidates filed. The lot drawing for ballot order occurred on March 3, 2020, with the following results:
  - Three-Year Term (2 elected): Anthony Pizzi, Neil Erickson, Arthur W. Wilson, Zachary C Smith, Jonathan G. Martin, Ron Pace
  - Two-Year Term (1 elected): Stacey Popovich, Neva J Herrold, Steve Kinder, Paul Watson-Ausencio, Walter Porter
3. The Mail Ballot Plan was posted on March 11, 2020, and was available for review on the District's website. This contained information about the return of ballots, including the availability of a 24/7 drop box for the first time. As set forth in the Plan, this would be either at Falcon Fire Station 1 or at the Park and Ride located at the northwest corner of Woodmen/Black Forest.
4. Eligible Voters: There are two primary sources of eligible voters – registered voters who reside within the District and property owners who are registered to vote in Colorado but who reside outside the District boundaries. The process used to determine this second category of individuals uses the name and mailing address of the owner(s) as shown in the Assessor's records and cross-referencing this with SCORE, the state's voter registration database. Non-resident property owners whose address with the Assessor did not match their voter registration address were given the opportunity to obtain a ballot by e-mailing a request for a mail ballot to [waynewilliamslaw@comcast.net](mailto:waynewilliamslaw@comcast.net) using state form SD-42 but none did so.
5. Notice of Mail Ballot Election was published on the District's website and in the *Ranchland News* on April 9. It is attached to this report.
6. Printing and Delivery of Ballots: Runbeck Election Services printed and mailed ballots to eligible voters. Runbeck is the same company used by the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder. Ballots and envelopes were designed, printed, and delivered as follows:
  - a. March 20: UOCAVA ballots were mailed to 57 out-of-state military and overseas voters. Ballots were also e-mailed to those UOCAVA voters who had made this request.
  - b. April 13: Ballots were mailed to 5,130 residents and property owners.
  - c. April 20: Ballots were mailed to 20 voters based on changes in registration occurring between April 3 and April 15 (20 days before the election).

d. April 13 - May 5: Ballots were available for pickup from the WHMD office. Five individuals obtained ballots from the office – 2 newly registered within the District, 2 replacement ballots, and 1 individual who did not receive the ballot mailed.

7. Appointment of Judges: Election judges were appointed by April 20 and were posted on the District's website. Training was conducted through the SDA's website. Except for ballot issue judges, all of the judges previously had worked for the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder. (Ballot issue judges were required to be available at the district office for 148 hours so two staff members were trained and appointed. They issued a total of four ballots in 148 hours – I issued the other.)

8. Collection of Ballots: Ballots were retrieved by either my legal assistant or me from the Post Office, the Fire Station 24/7 drop box, and the drop box inside the district office on a periodic basis including the afternoon of May 5. Each time ballots were collected from the WHMD office the collector resealed the ballot box (which was locked in place). The ballot envelopes were then brought to my home office, date-stamped, entered in the ballot log, and placed in a dedicated locked room inside my home office.

On May 5, 2020, at 7 p.m. my legal assistant was at the post office, I was at the Fire Station drop box, and Rachel Hawkins was at the district office. No additional ballots were at the Post Office. I closed the 24/7 drop box at the Fire Station and collected all ballots. I then collected the sealed ballot box from the WHMD office.

UOCAVA ballots had until May 13 to arrive. Because I was out of state for my father-in-law's funeral, one of the other judges checked the post office box to see if any voted UOCAVA ballots arrived by the evening of May 13. None had arrived.

9. Counting of Ballots: Counting ballots occurred in the WHMD West Recreation Center with six judges. The board room was re-keyed and I had the only keys during ballot counting. Ballots received through Thursday, April 30, were counted on that day. The counted ballots and tally sheets were placed in a sealed ballot box and kept in my locked home office until May 5. On May 5, the remaining ballots were counted. Each batch of ballots initially was tallied by two judges whose counts had to match.

Because the initial results showed a 3-vote margin for the 2nd 3-year term, we recounted each and every cast ballot. I had two judges call off the votes for each of the two candidates from each ballot and three other judges each separately tally the results. The count of all 3 was identical and was unchanged from the preliminary results.

Five ballots were rejected and not counted. One was a second ballot from a voter and one was unsigned. These envelopes were never opened.

When a number of envelopes were opened it was determined that the voter included someone else's ballot within the same household. When household swaps occurred (i.e., when each returned the other's ballot), these were counted. In three instances, no corresponding envelope from the other household member was returned. These ballots were not reviewed for results and were not counted by the election judges.

The Judges' Certificate of Returns and Statement of Ballots was prepared, signed, and posted on the front door of the office and on the website. Because ballots can come back from

military/overseas voters until May 13, these results could potentially have changed (although they had to be mailed by May 5 at 7 p.m.). As set forth above, no additional UOCAVA ballots were received by the deadline.

10. Canvass Board. In addition to the DEO, the Canvass Board consists of two members and was appointed on April 20. By law, one Canvass Board member must be a member of the WHMD Board; Troy Stinson was the only WHMD board member who said they were available and therefore was appointed. The other Canvass Board member must be a resident of the District. Because he was an elected board member of one of the HOAs within the WHMD and was willing to serve, I appointed Micah Howell to be the resident member.

One candidate objected to the appointments (the candidate had been charged with a crime to which the resident member was a witness). Mr. Howell stated he could be objective and I therefore retained him. To address any possible concerns, however, I also appointed two other individuals to serve as alternate Canvass Board members: Michelle Godown and Salaria (“Bubba”) Jarmon. Both participated in the Canvass Board proceedings.

The five members of the Canvass Board met on May 18. The Canvass Board reviewed all proceedings of the election. After review of the statutes and guidance from the Special District Association (and without knowing the markings on the ballots), the Canvass Board determined that the votes of the three eligible residents who returned the ballot of another member of their household (but did not otherwise vote) should be counted in order to give effect to the legitimate votes of eligible voters.

The Canvass Board reviewed the three ballots in question and added the votes cast to the corresponding totals. After doing so, the margin in each race increased by one as follows:

| <b>Three Year Term (two elected)</b> |                      |                               |                       |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Candidate for Director</u>        | <u>Initial Votes</u> | <u>Canvass Board Addition</u> | <u>Official Votes</u> |
| ✓ <b>Jonathan G. Martin</b>          | <b>390</b>           | <b>+1</b>                     | <b>391</b>            |
| ✓ <b>Neil Erickson</b>               | <b>317</b>           | <b>+2</b>                     | <b>319</b>            |
| Ron Pace                             | 314                  | +1                            | 315                   |
| Arthur W. Wilson                     | 235                  | -                             | 235                   |
| Anthony Pizzi                        | 230                  | +2                            | 232                   |
| Zachary C Smith                      | 145                  | -                             | 145                   |

| <b>Two Year Term (one elected)</b> |                      |                               |                       |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Candidate for Director</u>      | <u>Initial Votes</u> | <u>Canvass Board Addition</u> | <u>Official Votes</u> |
| ✓ <b>Stacey Popovich</b>           | <b>325</b>           | <b>+2</b>                     | <b>327</b>            |
| Paul Watson-Ausencio               | 184                  | +1                            | 185                   |
| Neva J Herrold                     | 160                  | -                             | 160                   |
| Steve Kinder                       | 89                   | -                             | 89                    |
| Walter Porter                      | 83                   | -                             | 83                    |

The Canvass Board then issued the attached Certificate of Determination (Certificate of Results), with all five members approving and signing.

## NOTICE OF MAIL BALLOT ELECTION

**To the electors of the Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District** of El Paso County, Colorado:

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that a regular election of the District shall be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The election is being conducted as a mail ballot election. **Mail ballots will be mailed to eligible electors during the week of April 13, 2020.**

At said election, the electors of the District shall vote for Directors to serve the following terms of office on the Board of Directors of the District:

The names of persons nominated as Director for a THREE-Year Term (2 elected): Anthony Pizzi, Neil Erickson, Arthur W. Wilson, Zachary C Smith, Jonathan G. Martin, Ron Pace.

The names of persons nominated as Director for a TWO-Year Term (1 elected): Stacey Popovich, Neva J Herrold, Steve Kinder, Paul Watson-Ausencio, Walter Porter.

**Return of Ballots In Signed Return Envelope:** Ballots may be mailed to Wayne Williams, DEO, Woodmen Hills Metro District, PO Box 63780, Colorado Springs, CO 80962-3780. You can drop off your ballot in the signed return envelope at a **secure drive by 24/7 drop box located at: Falcon Fire Protection District Station 1, 12072 Royal County Down Rd, Falcon, CO 80831**, just east of the intersection of Meridian Road and Stapleton Drive. Because you can drop off your ballot from your vehicle, Fire Station 1 is the safest drop off site.

You may apply for a mail ballot at the District's office 8046 Eastonville Rd, Falcon, CO 80831. This location will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning April 13, 2020, and from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, May 5<sup>th</sup>. You also may return your ballot in the signed return envelope inside the lobby at this location, but given the need to maintain social distancing, it is recommended you instead use the outside drop box at Fire Station 1 which is open 24/7.

Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District  
By: Wayne Williams, (719) 439-1870,  
Designated Election Official

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