Micki Otto
Property Tax and Election Manager
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Red Wing, MN 55066
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TO: County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Micki Otto, Property Tax and Election Manager

SUBJECT: County Canvassing Board Minutes

DATE: November 17, 2026

Discussion:

Minnesota Statute 204C.33, Subd. 1 states that the county canvassing board shall meet between the third and eighth days following the state general election. The county canvassing board met at the Goodhue County Government Center County Board Room on November 10th at 8:00. Attached are the minutes from the meeting.

Canvassing Board of November 3, 2026 General Election Meeting Minutes
Meeting held on November 10, 2026 at 8:00 AM in the Goodhue County Government Center

The Canvassing Board members were Linda Flanders, Goodhue County Commissioner District 1, Susan Betcher, Goodhue County Commissioner District 5, Lucas Dahling, Goodhue County Auditor/Treasurer, Vanessa Jeske, District Court Administrator, and Gary Iocco, Red Wing Mayor.

Micki Otto led the meeting. Three individuals from the public attended.

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1. Meeting Called to Order at 8:01 AM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Micki Otto administered the Oath of Office.
4. Micki Otto reviewed the 2026 election statistics and general information. There were 34,013 registered voters on Election Day. There were 888 voters who registered on election day. There were 24,602 voters in the election. That equated to a 72 percent voter turnout. There were 4,851 voters who voted either by absentee or voted during early voting. This number was higher than previous midterm elections.

   Early voting was new for 2026. However, it operated like direct voting, which the county has been doing for several years. Early voting started on October 16, 2026, and ran through the day before the election. Goodhue County saw 2,350 voters opt to utilize early voting. One of the ways early voting is different is that the county is required to staff an election judge from different major political parties. The party list we received contained the names of 4 individuals representing the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and 158 representing the Republican Party. We used the list to staff our absentee ballot board, election judges conducting health care facility outreach and election judges staffing the early voting location. Where the number of judges needed was greater than the judges available from the party list, we utilized election judges who had previously worked in a polling place or had experience with ballot board.
5. Micki Otto led the group in reviewing the election returns for Cannon Falls Township. She explained that 800 ballots were ordered for Election Day but because of the volume for early voting, 50 ballots were pulled for early voting, and 750 ballots were left for Election Day. She reviewed the chain of custody form which showed that the clerk signed out 750 ballots from the County prior to election day. Furthermore, before polls opened on Election Day, the judges confirmed that they had received 750 ballots. Canvassing Board reviewed the election results by comparing results printouts to the abstract. All members were satisfied with the results.

6. Micki Otto explained that there were two precincts in the County where the ballot had been counted but jammed in the tabulator before falling into the bin. She explained that the tabulator will alert that a jam has occurred. The tabulator will also display if the ballot has been counted or not. After removing the jammed ballot, election judges in one precinct fed the same ballot through the tabulator. The other precinct spoiled the ballot and gave the voter a new ballot to vote and feed in the tabulator. Both precincts ended up with one more ballot tabulated. However, the number of checked-in voters matched the number of physical ballots. Under guidance from the Secretary of State's Office and approval from the Goodhue County Attorney's Office, both precincts were required to zero out their tabulators after the polls closed and election judges were required to feed the ballots into the tabulator. Canvassing Board reviewed the precinct incident logs, the completed summary statement, the Poll Pad summary report, and the results tapes to verify that the number of voters matched the number of ballots tabulated.
7. Micki Otto stated that during early voting, the early voting election judges mis-issued two ballots to voters. Two voters living in Wanamingo City were issued Wanamingo Township ballots. She stated that after this was discovered, new procedures were put into place to prevent it from reoccurring. Canvassing Board reviewed the absentee summary statements, the Statewide Voter Registration System Ballot Count report, and the results to verify the mis-issued ballots.
8. The Canvassing Board signed/certified the Abstracts.
9. Micki Otto announced that the Post-Election Review (PER) will be held on Thursday, November 12th at 9:00AM in the Goodhue County Government Center Room 308.
10. Random draw of precincts to be hand counted at the PER
    a. Hilary Denk drew Roscoe Township
    b. Peter Haug drew Kenyon City
11. Susan motioned to appoint Micki Otto as the PER Official. Gary seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.
12. Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 A.M.

11/10/2026

Lucas Dahling
Auditor/Treasurer

Date

MJO 11/10/2026