**Minutes**

**Approved**

**Groton Board of Registrars**

**Recount for First Middlesex Representative in General Court**

**December 8, 2022**

A recount for the office of Representative in General Court – First Middlesex District was held at The Groton Center on December 8, 2022. All members of the Board of Registrars were present. Groton Town Clerk (Dawn Dunbar) administered the proceedings. Groton Town Counsel (Brian Falk) was present.

The recount was properly noticed to the public and to the campaigns of Margaret Scarsdale (D), Andrew Shepherd (R) and Catherine Lundeen (I). The Scarsdale and Shephard campaigns had counsel present and teams of observers to monitor 10 counting teams.

The Recount in Groton is only for this Office in Precincts 2 and 3 in First Middlesex State Representative District. Groton Precincts 1 and 3A are in the 37th Middlesex District, and were not counted at the recount.

The recount began at 9:00 AM. Approximately 3500 ballots in Groton’s Precincts 2 and 3 were to be hand counted. Ballots and other election materials were delivered to The Groton Center at approximately 8:30 AM, under police escort. All ballot bins were sealed and opened in public at the appropriate time during the recount. Instructions for the proceedings were given to Counting Teams and to Campaign Observers.

Challenges and Protests

* Both campaign counsels lodged formal protest that Precinct 2 ballots were counted before the completion of the counting of Precinct 3 ballots.
* Ballot protest: Precinct 3 Block 9
  + Call at the table was a vote for Shepherd
  + Ballot had ovals for both Shepherd and a write-in (for Jane Doe) additionally marked with a completed oval.
  + Town Clerk Dunbar explained that the optical tabulator would have counted this as a “blank” vote due to both completed ovals.
  + The Board of Registrars voted 4 – 0 to count the ballot as a blank.
  + Counsel for Shepherd protested the call.
  + The ballot was placed in a “challenged ballot” envelope at the Registrars table. The protest sheet was returned to the counting table.
* Ballot protest: Precinct 2 Block 6
  + Ballot had ovals for both Shepherd and Scarsdale completed, and additionally an “X” marked over the oval for Scarsdale.
  + Call at the table was a “blank” vote
  + Shepherd Counsel argued the “X” was an obliteration and this should be counted as a vote for Shepherd.
  + Scarsdale Counsel argued that the “X” is an emphasis, and that it should be counted for Scarsdale. Due to the markings, the least the ballot should be called is a “blank” vote.
  + The Board of Registrars voted 4-0 to count the vote for Shepherd.
  + Counsel for Scarsdale protested the call.
* Precinct 2 Block CV-18 had 2 challenged by the Shepherd campaign during the public hand counting (residence based on absentee ballot mailing address and a signature). Counsel for Shepherd withdrew both challenges.
  + These ballots had been counted during the recount process at the Tally Table. No further action taken.
* Challenged ballot in Precinct 3 Block 19 was to be preserved.
* 2 hand count ballots in Precinct 3 Block 20 were to be preserved.
* The Board of Registrars voted 4-0 to affirm votes as recounted.
* Vote totals are:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Vote Totals Prior to Recount | | | Vote Totals Affirmed in Recount | | |
|  | Precinct 2 | Precinct 3 | Total | Precinct 2 | Precinct 3 | Total |
| Scarsdale | 997 | 1040 | 2037 | 1001 | 1043 | 2044 |
| Shepherd | 667 | 596 | 1263 | 664 | 597 | 1261 |
| Lundeen | 94 | 89 | 183 | 89 | 84 | 173 |
| All Others | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Blank | 39 | 41 | 80 | 43 | 45 | 88 |
| **Total** | **1800** | **1771** | **3571** | **1801** | **1774** | **3575** |

**Administrative**

Ballots were resealed as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ballot Block** | **Bin** | **Bin Seals** |
| P2 B1 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B2 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B3 | P2 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P2 B4 | P2 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P2 B5 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B6 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B7 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B8 | P2 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P2 B9 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B10 | P2 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P2 B11 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B12 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B13 | P2 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P2 B14 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B15 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B16 | P2 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P2 B17 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B18 | P2 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P2 B19 | P2 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P2 B20 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P2 B21 | P2 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
|  |  |  |
| P2 AP 1 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 2 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 3 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 4 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 5 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 6 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 7 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 8 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 9 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 10 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 11 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 12 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 13 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 14 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 15 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
| P2 AP 16 | P2 AP Bin 1 | 0738923 / 0738924 |
|  |  |  |
| P3 B1 | P3 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P3 B2 | P3 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P3 B3 | P3 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P3 B4 | P3 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P3 B5 | P3 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P3 B6 | P3 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P3 B7 | P3 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P3 B8 | P3 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P3 B9 | P3 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P3 B10 | P3 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P3 B11 | P3 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P3 B12 | P3 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P3 B13 | P3 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P3 B14 | P3 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P3 B15 | P3 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
| P3 B16 | P3 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P3 B17 | P3 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P3 B18 | P3 Bin 1 | 0738978 / 0738977 |
| P3 B19 | P3 Bin 2 | 0738979 / 0738980 |
|  |  |  |
| P3 AP 1 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 2 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 3 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 4 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 5 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 6 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 7 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 8 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 9 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
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| P3 AP 11 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 12 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 13 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 14 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 15 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 16 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
| P3 AP 17 | P3 AP Bin 1 | 0738931 / 0738932 |
|  |  |  |
| Board of Registrar Materials including preserved and protested ballots | MSB Bin 1 | 0738933 / 0738934 |

Approved: 01/24/2023