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Hillsborough County Canvassing Board Update

November 15, 2018. Hillsborough County, FL – Today, the Hillsborough County Canvassing Board announced the completion of the machine recount ordered for the races of U.S. Senator, Governor, Commissioner of Agriculture and State Senator District 18. The process required the sorting of more than a million ballots in order to re-scan the votes cast on the first page of the ballot.

At the conclusion of the recount, the order of the candidates, the percentage of votes earned and the difference between them in each case remained virtually the same. The total votes tabulated during the recount was 846 fewer than originally counted. This is a difference of less than 0.16 %, so a very small difference.

“Conducting a full recount in a constricted time period is extremely challenging. We are forced to recreate in four days what takes place over a course of weeks. We had an additional challenge yesterday, when we experienced two power outages and lost the use of one of our machines,” said Supervisor of Elections Craig Latimer. “At this time, we haven’t had time to analyze fully how those power outages may have impacted the count, nor to determine where human error may have been involved.”

According to the Division of Elections, if a county is not able to submit its 2nd unofficial returns timely, the 1st unofficial returns submitted become the 2nd unofficial returns and that is used to make a determination about whether to order a manual recount from all county results without further delay.

“The fact that the percentages between the candidates remains the same gives us full confidence in our voting process and systems. Even though we achieved 99.84% success in our recount effort, we are not willing to accept that votes go unreported,” said Latimer. “For that reason, the Canvassing Board has decided that the first unofficial results will stand as our second unofficial.”

The Canvassing Board now stands ready to conduct any manual recounts that may be ordered by the Secretary of State, and, if ordered, will begin that process on Friday at 9 a.m. at the Robert L. Gilder Elections Service Center (2514 N. Falkenburg Rd., Tampa).

All Canvassing Board meetings, including those that take place during the manual recount are open to the public. The tentative schedule for the manual recount is 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Friday, November 16 and Saturday, November 17. Any changes to the Canvassing Board or recount schedule will be posted on the doors of the four Supervisor of Elections Offices and its website, VoteHillsborough.org.

Results can be found at VoteHillsborough.org.