



Laurence K. Flynn  
Executive Secretary

Mark J. Lomazzo  
Commissioner

George T. Smith, Jr.  
Clerk

CITY OF PROVIDENCE BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Mr. Michael Clement  
City Clerk  
Providence City Hall  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 2002 Annual Report

Dear Mr. Clement:

Pursuant to Article XII, Section 1201 (e) of the Providence Home Rule Charter, I am forwarding to you the 2002 Annual Report of the Providence Board of Canvassers.

Sincerely yours,

Laurence K. Flynn

IN CITY COUNCIL

DEC 19 2002

READ  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED  
THAT THE SAME BE RECORDED.

FILED

DEC 12 3 19 PM '02

DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

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## CITY OF PROVIDENCE BOARD OF CANVASSERS

### 2002 ANNUAL REPORT

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The year 2002 was a very busy, but productive year for the Board of Canvassers. The two major events that drove the efforts of the Board this year were redistricting on the federal, state and municipal level, and the downsizing of the legislature. The Board worked with the City Council Committee on Redistricting and Mr. Kimball Brace and Election Data Service of Washington, D.C. After the lines were drawn and approved by the City Council and the Mayor, the staff assigned all the voters to their appropriate precincts.

In June the candidates filed for office. Because the current Mayor decided at the last moment that he would not run for reelection there was an unusual flurry of activity on the last day of filing. Also, because the General Assembly was downsizing, there was the uncommon situation that several incumbents were running against each other.

In March the Administrator of the Board left to take employment in another city department and then in April the Chief Clerk retired. Neither of these employees was replaced. This left the office extremely short staffed at a critical time. Nevertheless, the staff was able to certify all the candidates and meet all the necessary deadlines.

During the certification of nomination paper, an employee noticed that on two persons papers it appeared that the same individual wrote a series of names. The Board had a hearing on this violation and disqualified both candidates. The State Board of Elections first reversed this decision but later the candidates were indicted by the Grand Jury.

In September the Board moved to using a "Peel & Stick" voting label. This was met with moderate success. For the General Election, some modifications were made, including the addition of the bar codes to the voter list. The training for poll workers

was also upgraded. For this election, Wardens and Clerks were trained separately from Supervisors. This led to more specialized training for each position.

A problem that was encountered in the Primary was an inordinate amount of poll workers who did not show up on Election Day and that some polls did not open up on time. To alleviate this situation in the General Election, the Board recruited poll workers through ad in the Providence Journal and the Providence American. The Providence School Department also provided a number of poll workers. To insure that the polls would open on time the Board took two successful proactive steps. The first was to go out the night before the election and set up selected polls. Especially in multiple precinct locations, this assured that there would be no cross over of ballots in the wrong district. The second step the board took was to form a partnership with Vote America (formerly the Democracy Compact). Vote America provided one of their members to each Ward in the city. They went out between 6:00 am and 7:00 am the morning of the election to be sure that the poll workers showed up and that the poll opened on time. These volunteers then called the Board with a report of short staffing or other problems. This allowed the board to send substitute workers (of which 30 were trained) to any site that a worker did not report to. All of these measures made for a very smooth and efficient election.

We believe that 2002 was a very successful year for the Board of Canvassers. In closing it is interesting to note that the voter rolls in Providence now contain 104,000 voters - the largest amount in the history of the city.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence K. Flynn