



Questions about Montana Election Certifications

Neither the 2020 nor the 2022 Montana election were certified, so how can “winners” be sworn into office in 2023?

Citizen investigations into Montana’s recent elections revealed that illegible signatures of unknown people are shown without printed identification, on the state election canvass certificates. MCA 13-15-502 defines the board of state canvassers as “the state auditor, superintendent of public instruction, and attorney general.” They “shall meet *as a board of state canvassers* in the office of the secretary of state and determine the vote...within 27 days after the election.” “The secretary of state shall serve as secretary of the board, keep minutes of the meeting of the board, and file them in the official records of the secretary of state’s office.”

According to citizens observing the 2022 state canvass, the actual members of the board of state canvassers were not in the meeting in the Secretary of State’s office and therefore did not participate in the canvass. The Secretary of State did not appear, and therefore could not take minutes of the meeting. In 2020 again the actual members of the board were not present according to a news report¹. The Secretary of State “ducked in for a few minutes,” coffee mug in hand to make light hearted comments about “Doing the Lord’s work” to the unelected staff members who illegally were conducting the state canvass. He too was unable to take minutes of the meeting.

In 2022 citizens were hoping to confirm with those conducting the canvass, that they would be able to verify that all votes they were canvassing came from a valid Montana voter at a valid address, but an unelected staff member who was identified as the chair of the board of canvassers did not allow questions or public comment until after the certification had taken place. The concerns about certification from members of the public were never heard by the proper elected officials who comprised the legal board of state canvassers – because neither the board nor its secretary were present. The staff member told those present that certification was non-discretionary, and that the process was merely a formality.



¹ <https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2020/dec/01/board-canvassers-certifies-montana-election-result/>

Even more curious is that the 2020 certificate for Ascertainment for the three Presidential Electors for Montana included the reference to MCA 13-15-502 and its language regarding the composition and activity of the board of state canvassers. However that document improperly described the state law as allowing designees for the board members and Secretary of State. That certificate was signed by Governor Bullock and Secretary of State, Corey Stapleton with the illegal language included. And it referenced the board of state canvassers which did not meet. This document would have been sent to the federal government authorizing the Montana electors for the Electoral College.



“Designee” is NOT in MCA 13-15-502

State certifications of the 2020 and 2022 are invalid because the board did not meet to canvass the election results, and improper signatures are included on the certificates. The certificate for the Presidential Electors is invalid because it improperly described state law as permitting designees for the actual board of state canvassers, which did not meet. Montana citizens take certification of their vote seriously as evidenced by a valid ballot because it is the physical documentation of their consent to be governed. Yet Montana government members view election certification as merely a formality or make light hearted comments about it, coffee mug in hand.

Citizens are asking why the elected officials who by law are required to conduct the canvass would not fulfill that requirement. Why would they not sign their names to the certificate verifying that they had done it and that the report is a “full, true, and complete abstract and report of the total number of electors voting in each county, in each legislative district and the total in the state...” Could it be that they know there are problems with Montana elections? The Montana Election Integrity Project’s 2020 Canvass Report showed over 120,000 invalid votes were certified. All of the members of the Board of State Canvassers and the Secretary of State received a copy of that Canvass Report, yet none has contacted us to learn more. With the Canvass Report, they received a bookmark with eight categories of additional citizen concerns about the elections. Questions about anomalies in the 2022 election remained unanswered.

It appears that since at least 2020, people in Montana are holding offices illegally and state electors cast illegal votes in the Electoral College. Every elected official and government employee takes an oath to support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. In light of uncertified elections as well as the other citizen concerns about elections expressed throughout the state, how can Montana officials claim to have fulfilled their obligations to that oath?