

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN  
AND FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: L-2023-45**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER APPOINTING LAKE COUNTY  
CANVASSING BOARD MEMBERS, ALTERNATES, AND  
SUBSTITUTES FOR 2023 ELECTION CYCLE**

**AND**

**RESCINDING, SUPERSEDING, AND REPLACING L-2022-09-A**

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit has the responsibility, pursuant to Section 102.141(1), Florida Statutes, to appoint a county court judge as the chair of the Lake County Canvassing Board; and,

**WHEREAS**, the **HONORABLE CARLA R. PEPPERMAN**, Lake County Court Judge, is qualified to serve as a member of the Lake County Canvassing Board in accordance with section 102.141(1), Florida Statutes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 102.141(1)(e)1., Florida Statutes, requires the Chief Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit to appoint a county court judge as an alternate member of the county canvassing board; and,

**WHEREAS**, the **HONORABLE SARAH J. JONES**, Lake County Court Judge, is qualified to serve in accordance with Section

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102.141(1)(e)1., Florida Statutes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 102.141(1)(d), Florida Statutes, empowers the Chief Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit to appoint substitute or alternate member(s) to the county canvassing board when a substitute member or alternate member cannot be appointed as provided elsewhere in section 102.141(1); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Board of County Commissioners has requested that the Chief Judge appoint a substitute member to the Canvassing Board pursuant to section 102.141(1)(d) in lieu of a County Commissioner because each commissioner is disqualified from serving in accordance with Florida Law; and

**WHEREAS, JENNIFER HILL** is a qualified elector of Lake County who is not a candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed and who is not an active participant in the campaign or candidacy of any candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed is therefore qualified to serve as a substitute member in accordance with section 102.141(1)(d), Florida Statutes; and,

**WHEREAS, FORMER COMMISSIONER TIM SULLIVAN** is a qualified elector of Lake County who is not a candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed and who is not an active

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participant in the campaign or candidacy of any candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed and has been appointed to serve as alternate member by the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with Section 102.141(1)(e)2., Florida Statutes; and,

**WHEREAS,** the **HONORABLE D. ALAN HAYS**, Lake County Supervisor of elections is not qualified to serve as a member of the Lake County Canvassing Board as he is a candidate with opposition in the election to be canvassed; and

**WHEREAS,** no member of the County Commission can be appointed as a substitute member for the Supervisor of Elections pursuant to section 102.141(1)(b), Florida Statutes, the Chief Judge must appoint a substitute in accordance with section 102.141(1)(d), Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS,** the **HONORABLE JASON J. NIMETH**, Circuit Judge, is a qualified elector of Lake County who is not a candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed and who is not an active participant in the campaign or candidacy of any candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed is therefore qualified to serve in accordance with section 102.141(1)(d);

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Based upon the above finding of fact, it is therefore:

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that:

1. The **HONORABLE CARLA R. PEPPERMAN**, Lake County Court Judge, is hereby appointed to serve as a member and Chair of the Lake County Canvassing Board for the 2023 election cycle pursuant to section 102.141(1), Florida Statutes.

2. The **HONORABLE SARAH J. JONES**, Lake County Court Judge, is hereby appointed to serve as an alternate member of the Lake County Canvassing Board and may serve in any seat pursuant to section 102.141(e)1., Florida Statutes.

3. **JENNIFER HILL** is hereby appointed as substitute member pursuant to section 102.141(1)(d), Florida Statutes.

4. **FORMER COMMISSIONER TIM SULLIVAN** has been appointed as an alternate member pursuant to 102.141(1)(e)2, Florida Statutes.

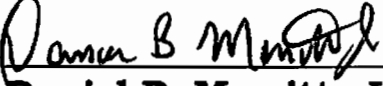
5. **THE HONORABLE MR. ALAN HAYES**, Lake County Supervisor of Elections, shall act in an advisory capacity to the Lake County Canvassing Board as provided by section 102.141(1)(b), Florida Statutes.

*DBA*

6. The **HONORABLE JASON J. NIMETH**, Circuit Judge, is hereby appointed as substitute member to the Lake County Canvassing Board pursuant to section 102.141(1)(d), Florida Statutes.

7. Amended Administrative Order A-2022-09-A is hereby rescinded, superseded, and replaced.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at, Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida on this 1st day of <sup>Nov.</sup>~~October~~ 2023.

  
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**Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.**  
**Chief Judge**  
**Fifth Judicial Circuit**