

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: L-2023-45-A

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER APPOINTING
LAKE COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD MEMBERS,
ALTERNATES, AND SUBSTITUTES
FOR 2024 ELECTION CYCLE
(amended to clarify seats occupied by substitute members)**

WHEREAS, Section 102.141, Florida Statutes, establishes the membership for county canvassing boards which shall be composed of the supervisor of elections, a county court judge, who shall act as chair, and the chair of the board of county commissioners; and

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,

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

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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 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

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serve in accordance with section 102.141(1)(d);

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 pursuant to section 102.141(1)(d), Florida Statutes, as substitute member for the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with section 102.141(1)(c).

4. **FORMER COMMISSIONER TIM SULLIVAN** has been appointed as an alternate member in accordance with section 102.141(1)(e) and pursuant to 102.141(1)(e)2, Florida Statutes, and may serve in any seat.

5. **THE HONORABLE D. ALAN HAYES**, Lake County

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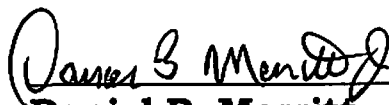
Supervisor of Elections, shall act in an advisory capacity to the Lake County Canvassing Board as provided by section 102.141(1)(b), Florida Statutes.

6. The **HONORABLE JASON J. NIMETH** is hereby appointed as substitute member to the Supervisor of Elections in accordance with section 102.141(1)(b), to the Lake County Canvassing Board pursuant to section 102.141(1)(d), Florida Statutes.

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 Amended Administrative Order A-2022-09-A remains rescinded, superseded, and replaced.

8. The appointments clarified herein were made November 1, 2023 and have been continuously in effect since that date, and will remain in effect until further order of the Court. Nothing in the present order shall be construed as making any reconfiguration or reappointment of said appointments.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at, Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida on this 28th day of March 202⁴~~3~~.



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