

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: H-2025-40-A**

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER APPOINTING AND  
NAMING HERNANDO COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD MEMBERS,  
AND ALTERNATES FOR 2025-26 ELECTION CYCLE  
(Amended to correct scrivener's error as to election cycle.)**

**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 Hernando County Canvassing Board; and,

**WHEREAS**, the **HONORABLE KURT E. HITZEMANN**, Hernando County Court Judge, is a qualified elector of Hernando 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,

**WHEREAS**, Section 102.141(1)(a) and (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 or, if each county court judge is unable to serve, an alternate member who is qualified to serve; and,

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**WHEREAS**, the **HONORABLE BARBARA JO BELL**, Hernando County Judge, is a qualified elector of Hernando 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,

**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; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners has named **JERRY CAMPBELL**, Hernando County Commissioner, to serve as substitute to the seat held by the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners; and,

**WHEREAS**, Jerry Campbell is a qualified elector of Hernando 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,

**WHEREAS**, **DENISE LAVANCHER**, Supervisor of Elections for Hernando County is statutorily required to serve; and

**WHEREAS**, **JOHN MITTEN** is a qualified elector of Hernando

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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;

**WHEREAS, RYAN AMSLER**, Hernando County Commissioner, is a qualified elector of Hernando 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;

**WHEREAS, DOUG CHORVAT, JR.**, Hernando County Clerk of Court, is a qualified elector of Hernando 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;

Based upon the above-stated factual finding, it is hereby

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that:

1. The **HONORABLE KURT E. HITZEMANN**, Hernando County Court Judge, is hereby appointed to serve as a member and Chair of the Hernando County Canvassing Board for the 2025-26 election cycle.

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2. **The HONORABLE BARBARA JO BELL** is hereby appointed to serve as the substitute for Judge Hitzemann, should Judge Hitzemann be unable to serve, and as alternate member who may sit in any seat. In the event that both Judge Hitzemann and Judge Bell are unable to serve as Chair, the members of the Hernando County Canvassing Board shall meet and elect a Chair in accordance with Section 102.141(a), Florida Statutes.

3. **JERRY CAMPBELL** is hereby appointed to the Canvassing Board as substitute for the Chairperson of the Hernando Board of County Commissioners.

4. **DENISE LAVANCHER**, is hereby named to serve as a statutorily mandated member of the Canvassing Board in her role as Supervisor of Elections.

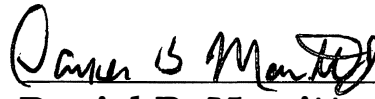
5. **JOHN MITTEN** is hereby appointed as an alternate member and may serve in any seat.

6. **RYAN AMSLER** is hereby appointed as an alternate member and may serve in any seat

7. **DOUG CHORVAT, JR.** is hereby appointed as an alternate member and may serve in any seat

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**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at, Brooksville, Hernando  
County, Florida on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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