

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: L-2026-04**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NAMING AND APPOINTING  
LAKE COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD MEMBERS,  
ALTERNATES, AND SUBSTITUTES  
FOR 2026 ELECTION CYCLE**

**AND**

**RESCINDING, SUPERSEDING, AND REPLACING  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER L-2024-60**

**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 CHAD J. MONTY**, 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,

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**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 EMILY CURINGTON**, 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, KIRBY SMITH** 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)(c), Florida Statutes; and,

**WHEREAS, TIMOTHY MORRIS**, 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 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,

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**WHEREAS**, the **HONORABLE D. ALAN HAYS**, Lake County Supervisor of Elections is statutorily required to serve as a member of the Lake County Canvassing Board unless he is otherwise unable to serve or is disqualified as provided for by Section 102.141(1)(b), Florida Statutes; and

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

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that:

1. The **HONORABLE CHAD J. MONTY**, Lake County Court Judge, is hereby appointed to serve as a member and Chair of the Lake County Canvassing Board for the 2026 election cycle pursuant to section 102.141(1), Florida Statutes.

2. The **HONORABLE EMILY CURINGTON**, 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. **KIRBY SMITH** has been appointed to serve as substitute member for the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to section 102.141(1)(c).

4. **TIMOTHY MORRIS** has been appointed as an alternate member pursuant to 102.141(1)(e)2, Florida Statutes, and may serve

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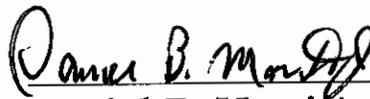
in any seat.

5. **THE HONORABLE D. ALAN HAYS**, Lake County Supervisor of Elections, is to serve on the Lake County Canvassing Board pursuant to section 102.141(1), Florida Statutes.

7. Administrative Order L-2024-60, and any amendment thereto, is hereby rescinded, superseded, and replaced.

8. This Order is effective when signed and shall remain in full force and effect until amended, superseded, replaced, vacated, or rescinded.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at, Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2026.

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