

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: S-2025-03

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER APPOINTING SUMTER COUNTY
CANVASSING BOARD MEMBERS, SUBSTITUTE(S) AND
ALTERNATE(S) FOR 2025 ELECTION CYCLE**

AND

**VACATING AND REPLACING
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: S-2023-12**

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 Sumter County Canvassing Board; and,

WHEREAS, the **HONORABLE PAUL MILITELLO**, Sumter County Court Judge, is a qualified elector of Sumter 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

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member who is qualified to serve; and,

WHEREAS, RICHARD HOFFMAN is a qualified elector of Sumter 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 who is qualified to serve as a substitute member under 102.141(1)(a), 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; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has named **COMMISSIONER ANDREW BILARDELLO** to serve as substitute to the seat held by the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, JEFFERY BOGUE is a qualified elector of Sumter 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

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ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that:

1. The **HONORABLE PAUL MILITELLO**, Sumter County Court Judge, is hereby appointed to serve as a member and Chair of the Sumter County Canvassing Board for the 2025 election cycle.

2. **RICHARD HOFFMAN** is hereby appointed to serve as an alternate and may serve in any seat in accordance with 102.141(1)(e)1., Florida Statutes. In the event that Judge Militello is unable to serve as Chair, **RICHARD HOFFMAN** shall serve as Judge Militello's substitute and the members of the Sumter County Canvassing Board shall meet and elect a Chair in accordance with Section 102.141(a), Florida Statutes,

3. **JEFFERY BOGUE** has been named pursuant to, and in accordance with, Section 102.141(1)(e)2., Florida Statutes as an alternate member and may serve in any seat.

4. **COMMISSIONER ANDREW BILARDELLO** has been appointed as substitute to the seat held by the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to Section 102.141(1)(c), Florida Statutes.

5. **THE HONORABLE MR. WILLIAM "BILL" KEEN**, Sumter County Supervisor of Elections, will serve on the canvassing board

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pursuant to Section 102.141(1).

6. Administrative Order **S-2023-12** is hereby vacated and replaced with this Order.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at, Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida on this 16th day of January 2025.

Handwritten signature of Daniel B. Merfitt, Jr. in black ink, appearing as 'D B Merfitt, Jr.' with a stylized flourish.

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