



Kingman County Commission

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Vote canvass narrows special election margin

A canvass Monday of an Oct. 29 special election in Kingman County added six votes to the preliminary total and made an already close election even closer.

The sole ballot question was whether the county should impose a one-quarter percent countywide retailers' sales tax and extend a three-quarters percent countywide sales tax and use proceeds from both to help fund construction of a new law enforcement center. Voters rejected the proposal.

The preliminary vote total was 802 to 749 – a 53-vote margin. Twenty-three provisional votes were considered by the Board of County Commissioners at Monday's canvass but only six were deemed eligible to be counted. Five were "yes" votes and one was a "no" vote. That made the final vote total 803-754, narrowing the final margin to 49 votes.

The other 17 ballots were disqualified for several reasons. Two voters failed to show photo identification at the polls as required by Kansas law. Two new voters failed to provide proof of citizenship when registering, which also is required by state law. None of these voters provided the necessary documentation prior to the 8 a.m. canvass Monday.

Six people who cast ballots were not registered to vote. Seven new voters who cast ballots had registered after the Oct. 8 voter registration deadline for this election.

Kingman County Commissioners stressed in a news conference Monday afternoon that they remain committed to building a new law enforcement center and will begin examining their options to proceed in light of the failed funding vote.

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