

SHELBY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2019

APPROVED

Regular Meeting of the Shelby County Election Commission was held on April 16, 2019, at 4:00 pm at the Election Operations Center, 980 Nixon Drive.

THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER: Commissioner Stamson **Time:** 4:02 pm

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner Price, Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Tate

ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION

ELECT CHAIRMAN

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made motion to nominate Steve Stamson as chairman

SECONDED BY Commissioner Price

OUTCOME OF MOTION: Passed unanimously

ELECT SECRETARY

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Smith made motion to nominate Anthony Tate as secretary

SECONDED BY Commissioner Taylor

OUTCOME OF MOTION: Passed unanimously

Chairman Stamson presided and called the regular meeting to order at 4:05 pm

APPROVAL OF MARCH 19, 2019 MINUTES

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made motion to approve March 19, 2019 minutes as presented

SECONDED BY Commissioner Tate

OUTCOME OF MOTION: Passed unanimously

VR APPLICATION APPEAL

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made motion to approve the recommend approval list and deny the recommend denial list as presented.

SECONDED BY Commissioner Price

APPROVED: Passed unanimously

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Given by Attorney Varela

- **Lowry vs. SCEC**
Motion to dismiss hearing is scheduled for May 9, 2019.
- **Shelby Advocates for Valid Elections(S.A.V.E.) vs. Tre Hargett and SCEC**
Hearing was held last week to address the plaintiff's motion filed. Plaintiff filed a second amendment complaint. Court denied our motion to dismiss. We are expecting the plaintiff to file another second amendment complaint. The State will review, and we will join with the State in filing a motion once a decision is made.
- **John Barzizza vs. SCEC**
An order was entered, allowing the plaintiffs to review the absentee and provisional ballots. We are in the process of viewing the documents.
- **M. Latroy Alexandria-Williams vs. SCEC**
Second lawsuit: Motion to dismiss was filed. TN Democratic Party have not set the motion hearing date as of yet.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (SEE ATTACHMENT):

Given by Linda Phillips.

The following items were discussed:

- High School registration drive update

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- Online application for March
- Prep hours for Barzizza ballot review
- The City of Memphis Police Association petitions update
- March 12th Special Election cleanup completion
- Polling locations that are not available for October Memphis Municipal Election
- Polling location confirmation letters mail in prep for 2020 elections
- Processed poll worker applications
- Logged and disposed election related documents
- Private elections
- HB 965 / SB 1093
- HB 1079 / SB 971
- HB 28 / SB 71
- SB 1355 / HB 185
- HB 312 / SB 240
- HB 554 / SB 825
- HB 1432 / SB 1012
- HB 467 / SB 761
- HB 547 / SB 589
- SB 770 / HB 888
- HB 768 / SB 503
- VR system purchase update
- New Building Sign
- Pink Palace Memphis History Lecture by Jimmy Ogle
- Voter registration drive at Southern Women's Show
- Social media update
- Deputy registrar class
- "How to Run for Office" class
- Cellular tablet purchase
- List maintenance project (NCOA)
- Spring newsletter
- Office closed for Holiday
- Website update
- Upcoming Events

ACTION ITEM:

Chairman inquired about "All Detail Report". AOE Linda Phillips informed the Chairman that a meeting is scheduled for next week and a representative will be on site to address issues. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

Old: Commissioner Smith:

- Inquired clarity about new VR system issues.
- Requested more clarification about the reason the new VR system is unable to produce the "All Detail Report".
- Requested clarity on "List Maintenance Project (NOCA)".
- Requested to be involved with resolving the report issues with the new VR system.

New: None

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Regular Commission Meeting scheduled for May 21, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission recessed the public meeting for an Executive Session to meet with legal counsel concerning the pending litigation. Chairman Stamson, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Tate, Commissioner Price, Commissioner Taylor, AOE Linda Phillips, Chief Deputy AOE Joe Young, Attorney Varela, and Attorney Hagler went into a private executive session. The public meeting resumed afterwards.

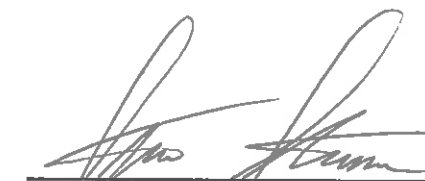
ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Phillips, AOE
Joe Young, Chief Deputy AOE
Genine Taylor, VCS Manager
Carla Lytle, Operations Manager
Deborah Upchurch, Staff
Carol Collinworth, Staff
Leonard Hopkins, ITS
Attorney Ryder
Attorney Varela
Attorney Bibbs
Attorney Hagler


Rose Ann Bradley
Barbara Williams
Peggy Watkins
Suzanne Thompson- Cozza
Chris Tutor
Janice Banks
Earle Fisher
Y. Nird.



Steve Stamson, Chairman

5-21-2019

Date



Anthony Tate, Secretary

5-21-19

Date



Shelby County Election Commission

Administrator of Elections Monthly Report April 2019

Voter and Candidate Services

- 15 schools have been visited; 11 are scheduled and 22 opted to use OVR. Still working on the remaining 48 schools. 671 applications have been received so far.
- We received 1,867 on-line voter registrations in March.
- We have spent considerable time in VCS prepping for the Barzizza review of ballots.
- The MPA project is taking most of our time: we have processed 16,820 valid signatures as of earlier today. As to the question of when we will finish, I don't know. It will take as long as it takes. I will say we are going to quit when we reach the required number of signatures, which is 38,450.

Operations Department

- We completed all of the tasks necessary to close out the March 12th special election – polling place payments, election day payroll, cleaned out supply bags, inventoried supplies, organized the cell phones, set the supervisor cards back to default and cleared the archives on the ED and EV voting machines.
- We contacted the polling locations for the October Memphis Municipal Elections. The following locations are not available for October:
 - 4401– St Michael Catholic School
 - 8702– Messiah Lutheran Church
 - 9703– Solid Rock Christian Center
 - 9507– Episcopal Church of the Annunciation **(EV and ED)**

- We are sending out Polling Location Confirmation Letters for the 2020 elections. We are reaching out to the School Districts about Public Law 867, which requires them to be closed for the November, 2020 election.
- Logged evaluations from the November 2018 election.
- Processed applications of potential poll workers and placed on a spreadsheet
- Logged and disposed of 150 boxes of election related documents that were past the required retention date.
- Prepared three private elections.

Legislative Update

- **HB 965/ SB 1093 Failed in House Local Committee** This bill would allow a voter who registered by mail (who would then normally have to vote in person the first time) to vote absentee if they provided a copy of a valid ID or a copy of an expired ID and proof of residence.
- **HB 1079/ SB 971 – Passed by the House; on Senate Calendar for 4/18/2019**
 - This bill would regulate voter registration drives conducted by organizations that were paying people to collect registrations; they could not be paid a per form fee or required to meet a quota but could be paid by the hour. It requires on-line training. It exempts registration drives conducted by volunteers or organizations that have been authorized by the county election commission.
 - It would require pollwatchers to be residents of Tennessee.
 - It prohibits voting systems vendors from giving gifts, loans, or things of value to the State Election Commission, County Election Commissions or employees of election commissions, unless the item is a novelty such as a pin, button or similar item routinely given.
 - It requires public communications, not from state or local government regarding voter registration to clearly show that the communication is not made in conjunction with or authorized by the Secretary of State.
- **HB 28 /SB 71 – Signed by the Governor.** Allows the election commission to designate one entrance to a polling place. Other entrances to the building would not have to be measured off and declared off limits for political activity.

- **SB1355 / HB 185 – Passed the Senate 26 – 1; Placed behind the budget in the House. Fiscal impact is minimal. The bill would have revised the process by which a vacancy in the TN Senate that occurs within 45 days of a general election is filled. Currently, it is filled by whomever gets the most write-in votes.**
- **HB 312/ SB 240 This would establish election day registration. If this is done correctly, it can be a huge improvement in the process since it can eliminate provisional ballots. This bill is dead; it was not assigned to be heard in committee.**
- **HB 554/ SB 825 This would require us to establish an early voting location on college campuses with more than 8,000 students. This bill appears to be dead for this session.**
- **HB 1432/SB 1012 This would require the use of precinct based optical scanners for elections. This bill failed in the House Elections & Campaign Finance Subcommittee.**
- **HB 46/ SB 761 – Would require us to have early voting on Sunday. This bill is dead.**
- **HB 547/ SB 589 - Would restore the voting rights for most felons without condition. Action deferred in both houses until the first calendar of 2020.**
- **SB 770/ HB 888 – This bill would affect members of the county election commission who has a spouse, parent, sibling or child run for public office; you would be recused from official duties at least 30 days before the election and reinstated after the election is certified.**
- **HB 768/SB 503 – This bill failed in the House Elections & Campaign Finance Subcommittee. It would have required us to conduct two voter registration drives each year in each high school.**

Administrator

- **Our voter registration system was purchased from VOTEM by a St. Louis firm, KNOWiNK. KNOWiNK hired many of the VOTEM employees who were working on the project. There was a halt in forward progress on the system while all the contracts got worked out. I appreciate the assistance of Ginny Bozeman, who is**

the Shelby County Contracts administrator for her prompt handling of the contract assignments to KNOWiNK. The Voter Registration product manager is Brandon Johnson; KNOWiNK has hired Natalie Mercado as the new project manager; our previous project manager didn't want to move to St. Louis. I'm very pleased with the appointment of Natalie; she is a former election administrator and was the help desk lead for the same product in New Jersey.

- You undoubtedly noticed the new sign designating this as the O.C. Pleasant Elections Operations Center; be extremely careful as you exit the parking lot. We have had several near misses since it is difficult to see on-coming traffic from the left as you exit.
- We had a table at the Pink Palace Memphis History Lecture by Jimmy Ogle; we were recruiting pollworkers and we got some applications.
- We held a VR drive at the three days of the Southern Women's Show at the Agri-Center; it was a relatively successful outreach event.
- We continue to grow our presence on social media; we will be hiring an intern this summer to help us with growing our presence on Instagram, so if you know of any high school students (who are not related to any of you) whose phones never leave their hands, encourage them to send me an email expressing their interest.
- We held a Deputy Registrar Class, in conjunction with the I Am A Voter Collaborative on March 27th at the Benjamin Hooks Library. These volunteers will be assisting in registering high school students.
- We are holding two "How to Run for Office" classes on May 9th and May 11th – the flyer is in your packets. Please encourage potential candidates to attend – we'll cover issuing petitions, deadlines, and campaign finance.
- We have purchased some cellular tablets for groups to use in VR drives; they are locked down so that they will only connect with the GoVoteTN website; voters can check their registration and register on-line. We are hoping to encourage groups to use these; first, you can use the app to confirm VR, so people don't re-register if they don't need to and second, it is faster for us to process an online voter registration than a paper form. A big thanks to Shelby County IT for their rapid response for this request.

- **We will begin our list maintenance project required under TCA § 2-2-106 as soon as we finish with the Memphis Police Association petition project. There are approximately 42,000 VR records that have to be individually opened to make sure that they meet the criteria for cancellation – the required notices were sent, the voter did not respond and has not voted in 2016 or 2018. Then and only then can a voter be cancelled. In phase 2 of the project, we have received a list from the NCOA system of 10,738 voters who have a newer, different address outside of Shelby County. These voters must be mailed a forwardable notice to their Shelby County address and their status changed to inactive. And finally, we have about 25,000 pieces of returned mail to process. We submitted the new returned mail card generated by our VR system to the Coordinator for approval last October; we are still awaiting approval. I re-sent the form last week; one of the staff has promised to place it in the Coordinator's hands.**

- **The spring newsletter is finished and just awaiting the photos taken today.**

- **Our website has had 887,430 page views through Sunday, April 14th.**

- **We will be closed on Friday, April 19th since it is a Shelby County Holiday.**

- **Days to Upcoming Events:**
 - **Town of Arlington – 156 Days**
 - **City of Memphis – 170 Days**
 - **Presidential Preference Primary – 322 Days**
 - **County General/State Federal Primary – 478 Days**
 - **Presidential Election – 567 Days**