

**SHELBY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

August 24, 2020

The regular meeting of the Shelby County Election Commission was held electronically on August 24, 2020.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Chairman Stamson at 4:00pm

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioners Tate, Uhlhorn, Taylor and Smith

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Phillips, AOE
Joe Young, DAOE
Pablo Varela, attorney
Stacey Scott, staff
Carol Collinsworth, staff

APPROVAL OF JUNE 16, 2020 MINUTES

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Uhlhorn
OUTCOME OF MOTION: passed unanimously

APPROVAL OF JULY 21, 2020 MINUTES

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Smith
OUTCOME OF MOTION: passed unanimously

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Attorney Ryder stated there are three active litigations.

- Latroy Williams, Jr. case was dismissed
- Shelby Advocates for Valid Elections have a petition to the US Supreme Court
- Pamela Moses case is on appeal

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Attached.

AOE Phillips discussed the suggestion of using the FedEx Forum as a voting location. Since we are 51 days from the election it is too late to make a major change and there are several problems including staffing, equipment, eliminating regular sites and not having secure data lines. And, Tennessee law only allows for a change like this in case of an emergency.

Commissioner Tate asked for clarification on several points about using FedEx Forum. The Early Voting sites are linked in real time and are not connected to public wifi. Shelby County IT doesn't connect Shelby County devices to other networks. Commissioner Smith inquired about the feasibility of using the FedEx Forum and stated an interest in researching its possible use for the November Election.

AOE Phillips stated that she has several contingency plans for Election Day.

Congressman Cohen has put out word that ballots dropped off at Bartlett Post Office will be handled faster. That is not true. Prior to election day they will go from Bartlett to downtown so there is no benefit to dropping at the Bartlett Post Office.

19,440 ballots were mailed in August. 2792 have not been returned but we think voters requested the ballots thinking it would be the November ballot. 389 were received too late.

Commissioner Stamson and others stated they were pleased with the smoothness of the August election processes.

CERTIFY THE AUGUST 6, 2020 ELECTION:

Commissioner Smith expressed concerns with the disparity of the totals between the paper ballot totals vs the GEMS tabulated totals, after inquiring and learning that the paper ballots were not audited, he requested the SOVC to compare the precinct totals.

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to certify the August election results

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Smith

Taylor – yes, Uhlhorn – yes, Smith – no, Tate – yes, Stamson - yes

OUTCOME OF MOTION: passed

CERTIFY THE CANDIDATES FOR THE NOVEMBER AND MUNICIPAL BALLOTS:

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to accept the candidates

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Uhlhorn

Taylor – yes, Uhlhorn – yes, Smith – yes, Tate – yes, Stamson - yes

OUTCOME OF MOTION: passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:

Old Business: Commissioner Smith asked for an update on his requests and Attorney Varela said the response should be ready by the end of the week.
Commissioner Tate asked that an election day voting site be reviewed.

New Business:

Commissioner Smith questioned the wording on the absentee application for a reward for fraud. AOE Phillips stated it came from the state.
Commissioner Taylor made a motion that a letter be sent to the Coordinator of Elections asking for clarification regarding the wording.
Seconded by Commissioner Smith.
Outcome: passed unanimously

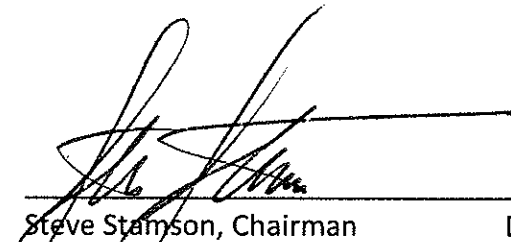
Commissioner Smith asked when ballots can be mailed. AOE Phillips stated that the earliest the state will approve the ballot is September 12, then we have to have the ballots printed so we expect ballots to be ready to mail at the end of September or early October.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:


There were several comments and questions.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Commissioner Tate to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Uhlhorn.
Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.



Steve Stamson, Chairman Date

 9-22-2020

Anthony Tate, Secretary Date



Shelby County Election Commission

Administrator of Elections Monthly Report August, 2020

Voter and Candidate Services

- We have received 4,449 absentee requests so far.

Administrator

- A citizen suggested that we use the Fed Ex Forum as an early voting location. The requester felt that this would make an excellent early voting location. Unfortunately at only 51 days until the start of EV, we are too far down the path to make any major changes. There are several problems – first, while Fed Ex forum is very large, we don't have the staff or equipment to add an additional location, so one of the existing EV locations would need to be eliminated. But the bigger problem is that we would have had to request secure data lines by July 15th, which has obviously passed.
- Ballot Boxes - We would like to lock the ballot boxes on Friday, September 11, 2020 at 9:00am. We will be using a new ballot box for the bulk of our needs. This was approved by the State Election Commission.
- Absentee Processing – Actually went extremely well. For November, we will likely move this to the Agri-Center in their Exhibition area. If we need to process 100,000 ballots, then we will need 300 workers; 150 from each party. Our August plan worked quite well; we are tweaking it in some minor ways. USPS is still the weak link in this process. We received a ballot today that was postmarked July 23rd.
- Commissioner Smith did visit the Operations Center to view the absentee processing. So far, he has made no suggestions as to process improvements.
- Days to Upcoming Events:
 - Start of Early Voting – 51 Days
 - Presidential Election – 71 Days