

SHELBY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019

APPROVED

Regular Meeting of the Shelby County Election Commission that was held on March 19, 2019, at 4:00 pm at the Election Operations Center, 980 Nixon Drive.

CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman Meyers **Time:** 4:02 pm

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner Lester, Commissioner Nollner, Commissioner Stamson and Commissioner Tate

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 19, 2019 MINUTES

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Nollner made motion to approve February 19, 2019 minutes as presented

SECONDED BY Commissioner Stamson

OUTCOME OF MOTION: Passed unanimously

CERTIFY MARCH 12, 2019 ELECTION RESULTS

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Nollner made motion to approve March 12, 2019 Election results as presented.

SECONDED BY Commissioner Stamson

APPROVED: Passed unanimously

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Given by Attorney Varela

- **John Barzizza vs SCEC**

A consent order was filed to allow the plaintiffs to review the absentee and provisional ballots.

- **Shelby Advocates for Valid Elections(S.A.V.E.) vs Tre Hargett and SCEC**

State and SCEC filed a motion to dismiss. Plaintiff filed a motion to strike our motion to dismiss. State is preparing a response and we plan to join with the State.

ACTION ITEM:

Chairman Meyers inquired about the day and time Mr. Barzizza attorneys plan to review the absentee and provisional ballots. Attorney Varela informed the Chairman that the day and time have not be scheduled.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (SEE ATTACHMENT):

Given by Mrs. Phillips.

The following items were discussed:

- High School registration drives
- The City of Memphis Police Association petitions update
- Appeal of rejected VR applications
- New full-time Democratic machine technician appointee
- Private & school elections
- New building sign update
- Website update
- SB 1356 / HB 1355
- HB 145 / SB 193
- HB 195 / SB 74
- HB 312 / SB 240
- HB 554 / SB 825
- HB 1432 / SB 1012
- HB 46 / SB 761
- HB 547 / SB 589
- HB 1273 / SB 1500
- League of Women Voters Soapbox dinner

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- EC security
- Upcoming Events

ACTION ITEM:

Commissioner Nollner inquired about any action to extend the parking lot at Nixon.

Commissioner Lester inquired about updating the election information on website. AOE, Linda Phillips informed Commissioner Lester that the website would be updated as election dates are confirmed.

Commissioner Lester inquired an update on all issue with the new VR system. AOE, Linda Phillips informed Commissioner Lester that not all issues have been resolved but we are still working toward a resolution.

Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Each visitor was given 3 minutes to speak

- Rose Ann Bradley

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

Old: None

New: Commissioner Lester expressed gratitude for the years served on the board.

Commissioner Nollner expressed gratitude for the years served on the board.

Chairman Meyers expressed gratitude for the years served on the board. Mr. Meyers also prepared a written statement please see below:

ELECTION COMMISSION GOODBYE

From Chairman Robert Meyers

I have had the privilege of serving the citizens of Shelby County as an Election Commissioner since 2008 and as Chairman since 2011. As some of you know, my time on the Election Commission is coming to a close.

As I reflect on my time with the Election Commission particular words keep coming to mind, grateful, thankful, honored and inspired.

*I am **grateful** to the Shelby County Republican legislators for recommending to the State Election Commission that I serve as an Election Commissioner. I am **thankful** the State Election Commission appointed me to this position. I was **honored** to serve with my fellow Commissioners for 11 years and also **honored** to have been selected by them as their Chairman for the past 9 years.*

*But mostly, I have been **inspired** by the hard work of and total dedication of those associated with the Election Commission's day-to-day operations: from former AOE Richard Holden to current AOE Linda Philips, Deputy AOE Joe Young, Managers Al Holmes, Carla Lytle, Genine Taylor, my fellow Election Commissioners, as well as full-time, part-time and seasonal staff – who all work tirelessly for the voters of Shelby County.*

What most people don't know about the Election Commission is that it is made up of Republicans and Democrats who work together to administer each and every election in Shelby County - where we have lots of elections.

As my time on the Election Commission comes to an end, I would like to thank our staff, managers and Administrators for their hard work and dedication to our election process. I also thank my fellow Commissioners for their dedication, hard work and friendship, and thank our legislators and the State Election Commission for giving me this opportunity to serve our community.

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It has always been my goal to hold fair, efficient and transparent elections that support the American belief in democracy and our Republic. I am proud to say that we met this goal during my tenure on the Election Commission.

I wish the Election Commission continued success in the years ahead. I am always available to anyone if there is any issue I can provide assistance on. I have been humbled to be your Chairman - thank you.

Plaques were presented to all retirees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Regular Commission Meeting scheduled for April 16, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Postponed for next regular scheduled meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Phillips, AOE
Joe Young, Chief Deputy AOE
Deborah Upchurch, Staff
Diana George, Staff
Pam Gentry, Staff
Henry Boozer, Jr., Staff
Jackie Trobee, Staff
Sylvia Hampton, Staff
Sharon Logan, Staff
Linda Allen
Janice Mitchell
Kimberly Wilburns
Beverly McCarthy
Brent Taylor
Bennie Smith
Leonard Hopkins, ITS
Attorney Ryder
Attorney Varela
Attorney Bibbs
Attorney Hagler

Rose Ann Bradley
Barbara Williams
Peg Watkins
Suzanne Thompson- Cozza
Michael Hewlett
Janice Banks
Hsuan-Hsin Abraham Lin



Steve Stamson, Chairman



Anthony Tate, Secretary

4-16-19
Date

4-16-19
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**

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- **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**