

**SHELBY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019**

APPROVED

Regular meeting of the Shelby County Election Commission was held on September 17, 2019 at 4:00pm at the Election Operations Center, 980 Nixon Dr.

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioners Taylor, Smith and Tate.
Commissioner Price resigned due to a new job out of state.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 20, 2019 MINUTES

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes.
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Tate
OUTCOME OF MOTION: Passed unanimously

APPROVAL OF JULY 25, 2019 MINUTES

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

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 20, 2019 MINUTES

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Smith requested a delay on approval.
OUTCOME OF MOTION: Delayed

VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS:

Approval of Brooklyn Garland
Denial of Russell Davis
Delay on Michael Joy
Denial of Pamela Moses – changed to delay
Denial of Rosie Wheaton

Discussion:

AOE Phillips read a letter from the coordinator's office. Attorney Varela explained related TN law.
Pamela Moses and Lawrence Pivnik spoke re: Pamela Moses status.
Attorney Hagler advised to follow the recommendation of the State Coordinator.
Commissioner Smith and Taylor requested delay on Moses till she provides proof of restoration of rights.

MOTION: Commissioner Smith motioned to approve recommendations but to delay Moses until next meeting.
SECOND: Commissioner Taylor

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OUTCOME OF MOTION: Passed with Commissioner Tate abstaining.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Deferred to executive session

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

See attachment.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mitchell Morrison
Joseph Weinberg
Suhkara Yahwea
Dell Gill
Karen Spencer McGee

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Special Commission Meeting scheduled for October 2, 2019 at 12 noon to certify the results of the October 3 City of Memphis Election.

Regular Commission Meeting scheduled for October 21, 2019 at 4pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission recessed the public meeting at 5:27pm for an Executive Session to meet with legal counsel regarding pending litigation. Chairman Stamson, Commissioners Taylor, Smith and Tate, AOE Linda Phillips, Chief Deputy AOE Joe Young, Attorney Varela and Attorney Hagler went into a private executive session.

Executive Session ended at 6:18 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Phillips, AOE
Joe Young, Chief Deputy AOE
Deborah Upchurch, Staff
Carol Collinsworth, Staff
Leonard Hopkins, ITS
Attorney Varela
Attorney Hagler
Frank Uhlhorn



Shelby County Election Commission

Administrator of Elections Monthly Report September 2019

Voter and Candidate Services

- We received 6,295 VR applications in all forms in August. This resulted in 2,939 new voters; the rest were duplicates, address changes, rejections or a few that belonged to other counties.
- Voter registration in September has been considerably lower than expected. We only added 779 voters in total; only 630 were in Memphis.
- 511 absentee ballots have been mailed or emailed for the City of Memphis election. 217 have been returned so far. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is September 26, 2019.
- Pre-General Campaign Finance is due September 26th. Notices have been sent.

Operations Department

- The Town of Arlington election is Thursday, September 19th. Please remember that the Commission members with keys need to arrive no later than 5pm to unlock the absentee boxes as that is the requirement in TCA. There will not be more than 12 -15 absentee ballots, so even if the scanners fail, we'll have plenty of time to count the ballots. All commission members need to be at the operations center by 6:30pm and you need to be "available" during the day. There are only two precincts, so results should be available fairly quickly.
- The voting machines for Memphis have been programmed and tested and awaiting the auditors.
- Early voting opened on time. While there were a few minor problems right at 11:00 am at 3 sites, they were resolved quickly. The number of voters has not been as robust as predicted, so we are a bit overstaffed but we will not be changing anything.

Administrator

- **As you may know, the United States has announced that it may pull out of the Universal Postal Union. If this occurs, it may impact UOCAVA voters. It will not impact Memphis – there are currently 10 UOCAVA ballots that have been emailed or mailed out but the deadline for their return is prior to the October 17, 2019 withdrawal date. However, it might impact a run-off election. The coordinator's office is aware of the situation and is working with the Federal Voting Assistance Program. Ballots from military voters will not be impacted; they will continue to use the APO/FPO system. Ballots from non-military voters could be impacted. If this is a problem for the run-off my fallback position is FedEx. Worst case, it might impact 6 voters; it would cost us no more than \$750.**
- **Sometime yesterday morning, our website shelbyvote.com had our one millionth unique page view since its debut on January 31, 2018.**
- **We have taken some complaints from voters who believe that they are in a different district than they really are. There is a district locator tool on our website; Deborah is going to demonstrate this tool. There is an information sheet in your folders as well.**
- **Early voting has gone quite well. Our major problems, as always, revolve around campaign workers who do not respect the 100 ft boundary. We've also taken complaints about signs. Remind everyone that we are not the sign police. The City of Memphis has very specific guidelines about signs; they will remove signs that are safety hazards. At least four large signs have been removed from corner of 157 Poplar. One, amusingly enough, was put right in front of this sign**



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- We created a one page poll watcher information guideline sheet, which we are providing to all poll watchers. We hope that this will assist them in understanding what they can and cannot do. A copy is in your folders.

- Just as an FYI, a poll worker cannot also be appointed as a poll watcher and do both jobs simultaneously. Poll workers represent the election commission and take the oath required in §2-1-111 to be impartial. Poll watchers, on the other hand, are appointed by a candidate or party and represent the interests of that candidate or party. Therefore, they are obviously not impartial.

- Once again, campaign workers may not, under TCA §2-7-103 enter the building where early voting is taking place. So, yes, they have to find somewhere else to use the restrooms and get drinks of water.

- There was a rumor going around that we reduced the number of early voting sites for the Memphis election from 2015. This is not true. There are actually two more sites than in 2015.

- The RFP and RFQ's for the first four phases of the new voting equipment are in the hands of purchasing. The phases of the project are:
 - RFP for Election Equipment
 - RFQ for Voter Education and PR (Local)
 - RFQ for Destruction of Existing Machines (Local)
 - RFQ for Production of Training Materials (Local)
 - Future RFP for Electronic Pollbooks
 - Future RFP for Destruction of Existing EPB (Local)
 - Building Modifications – Generator and Secure Fireproof Storage (Through Building Services)

- Days to Upcoming Events:
 - Town of Arlington – 2 Days
 - City of Memphis – 16 Days
 - Presidential Preference Primary – 168 Days
 - County General/State Federal Primary – 324 Days
 - Presidential Election – 413 Days