

**Sumner County Election Commission  
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, August 13, 2019**

**Members present:** Chairman M. Allen Ehmling, Secretary Patricia D. Collins and Member John W. Smith. Also present: Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections and Annette Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections. The meeting convened at 4:05 p.m. in Room 106 in the County Administration Building, Gallatin TN and a quorum was present.

I. Call meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order, motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 3-0.

II. Approve Agenda

The Agenda was approved with a motion by Commissioner Collins seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Agenda and the motion passed 3-0.

III. Old Business

Approve minutes of the following meetings:

June 11, 2019

Motion to approve by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Fussell arrived in attendance at 4:08pm.

IV. New Business

A. Commissioners present inspected 151 newly processed voter registration applications out of the total registrations of 1504 processed as required by statute with no discretions noted. All Commissioners present signed the report.

B. No appeals.

C. Report from Administrator

AOE requested approval of the Hendersonville Church of Christ as an Early Voting location for Hendersonville for the 2020 election cycle. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Smith and the motion passed 4-0.

AOE discussed the process and fines of Campaign Finance & Political Treasurer documents being submitted late or not at all which falls under the authority of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance. After notification and failure to comply, a candidate/elected official can be fined up to \$10,000. A flow chart was provided.

AOE stated that a County Commissioner made an inquiry regarding relocating early voting from conference room 112 to another location in the Administrative Building or in Gallatin due to interest in installing camera system with audio capability. AOE contacted the state and was told it potentially could lead to voter intimidation. Further contact with Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins stated cameras could be used, but must be covered and audio turned off during early voting. In addition, AOE spoke to Coordinator Goins of the difficulty finding another location in Gallatin and the only other large area available would be the Gallatin Civic Center which had been denied to us. Goins stated the City of Brentwood in Williamson County had a similar issue whereby the Brentwood library refused the use of the facility for voting. A lawsuit ensued against the Williamson County Election Commission. The court ruled in favor of the commission stating that if any public dollars were used for the building, the facility can be used for voting. Goins is going to email AOE the TCA regarding the matter on Wednesday, August 14, 2019. Once received AOE will review and forward to the Election Commission.

AOE presented "Your Vote is Secure" flyer and requested the Election Commission review it as well as a February 20, 2018 article in the Tennessean interviewing Coordinator Mark Goins, titled "Tennessee election systems safe, despite Democratic calls for paper ballots". AOE would like input on placing both on our website. Election Commission members to review and submit any suggestions regarding content.

The new Station Camp precinct legal notice was presented and will be published in the newspaper. Letters and new registration cards are required for each voter affected.

Discussion by AOE on budget committee meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> regarding budget decision for AAOEs increase not to include all of the FY19 comp and exclude COLA to offset the change to a salary position versus hourly. Chairman Ehmling to send an e-mail to the budget committee. SCEC members directed AOE to speak to Law Director again.

AOE discussed that the County Commission is operating on a continuation budget but may pass the finalized budget on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

AOE concluded the Administrator report.

## V. Report From Election Commissioners

### A. Chairman

Chairman Ehmling stated that he planned to attend the Ad Hoc meeting September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 4pm specifically on the topic of cameras with audio in room 112.

### B. Election Commissioners

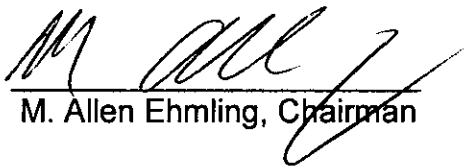
Commissioner Collins stated that she attended the July 22 State Election Commission meeting along with AOE Atchley and AAOE Haw and the discussion of the County Election

Commissions Code of Conduct draft removing 5 items and her specific request to add TCA reference to each Code of Conduct item. The next State Election Commission meeting will be Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at NOON.

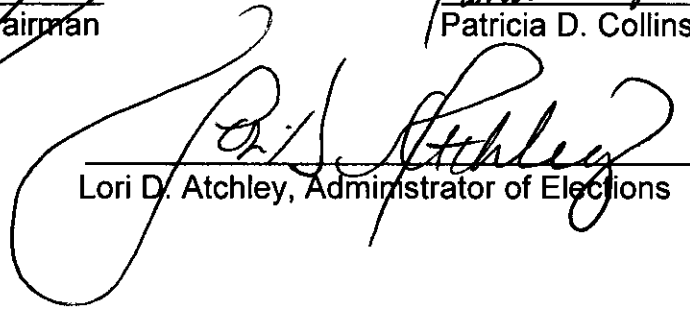
Commissioner Collins requested an email to Coordinator Mark Goins documenting a telephone call received by AOE from Goins stating a commissioner had called SOS office claiming AOE stated SOS Tre Hargett would not allow cameras and audio in the voting area, which AOE had relayed to the Coordinator never occurred.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Smith and the motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

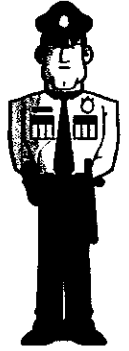
  
M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman

  
Patricia D. Collins, Secretary


  
Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections



# Vote






## YOUR VOTE IS SECURE!

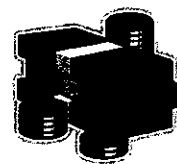
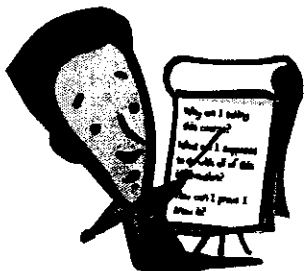
- Microvote Voting machines (Sumner County's Vendor) are NEVER connected to the internet. There is no ability to do so.
- All voting machines are programmed for the specific ballot for EACH precinct. These ballots are reviewed and approved by attorneys at the State Election Office.
- Voting machines are verified, after programming by a machine technician, by an independent team. At least three signatures must accompany this verification. The report shows that each office can receive a vote.
- "Zero" 0 Tally Tapes are run for each voting machine that show no votes have been placed on the voting machines. Tapes are run for each machine after programming and verification.
- Five Election Commissioners (Three Republicans, Two Democrats) review these zero tally tapes, and lock  and seal the voting machines and record the seal numbers. All of the Sumner County Election Commissioners sign the report, and a certified copy is sent to the State Election Office.
- On election morning, the Officer of Election, Special Registrar and Machine Operator (Three Total Election Workers) verify the seal numbers, run another set of zero tally tapes to confirm there are no votes on the voting machines, sign a certification document, then start the voting machines for the election.
- When a voter checks in at the Registrar area, a detailed "Application for Ballot" after they verify their name, address, date of birth and voting districts. The Registrar keeps a tally of these totals throughout the day for each E-Poll Laptop.
- The voter takes the lower half of the Application for Ballot, called the "Machine Application" to a machine operator. The machine operators likewise keep a running total of applications, in addition to the votes recorded on the machine. They reconcile this throughout Election Day.

###



- At the close of voting, all of the vote totals in the machines **MUST** match the number of Applications for Ballot, the Machine Applications, and the totals on both the E-Polls and the Voting Machines must be equal.
- The totals on the voting machines are summarized on a "Tally Card". There is one tally card per voting machine. The results on the tally card must match the totals on each voting machine, and the total of the paper Applications for Ballot and the total of the Machine Applications. All of these paper trails support and balance back to the E-Poll and Voting Machine totals. Tally tapes are run for each machine for the day, and posted at the precinct where they are visible from the exterior of the building.
- Tally Cards are returned to the Election Commission (by, at a minimum, one Republican and one Democrat) who were members of that voting poll worker team for that precinct for Election Day. 
- Tally Cards are read and processed by a Microvote voting machine technician on a stand-alone system. Personnel, poll workers, Election Deputies and Election Commissioners are present as witnesses.
- The tally machine is **NOT** connected to the internet.
- The official results are printed **FROM THAT MACHINE**. 
- Those results are posted on our website, as they come in, and they are posted on a door visible from the exterior of the building throughout the evening.
- There is no avenue for the voting machines to be hacked-as they are **NEVER** connected to any device that could modify the results.
- The voting machine has an internal proprietary audit system. 
- There has never been an incident of fraud with the voting machines used in Sumner County nor anywhere in the State of Tennessee per the State Election Office. The proposed legislation has a \$50 million dollar price tag. If Sumner County were to receive Federal Funds, it would require State matching funds, as well as Sumner County funds, all taxpayer dollars.

**IN SUMMARY,**



**YOUR VOTE IS SECURE!**

# Election coordinator: Tennessee election systems safe, despite Democratic calls for paper ballots

Jordan Buie, USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee Published 6:49 p.m. CT Feb. 20, 2018



(Photo: Submitted)

Tennessee's election systems are safe, despite a call from some Democrats for a multi-million paper ballot backup system, a top election official said Tuesday.

"I am very confident our election systems are secure," Tennessee Elections Coordinator Mark Goins said by telephone Monday. "Elections are run by local people in a bipartisan fashion. It would be extremely difficult to affect the vote tallies, just because of the way the system is set up."

**More:** [U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper calls for \\$28 million to address hacking threat](#) ([/story/news/2018/02/16/jim-cooper-tennessee-voting-system-hacking/345881002/](#))

**More:** [Some states are returning to paper ballots to prevent interference](#) ([/videos/news/politics/elections/2018/02/19/some-states-returning-paper-ballots-prevent-interference/110603406/](#))

Goins, who spoke on behalf of Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett on Monday, attended confidential briefings with Hargett on election security in Washington, D.C., last week. Goins addressed concerns raised by Democrats.

On Friday, U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Nashville, [told reporters](#) ([/story/news/2018/02/16/jim-cooper-tennessee-voting-system-hacking/345881002/](#)) that warnings from the national intelligence community point to a "serious threat" to the nation's voting system, and immediate changes are needed in Tennessee to avoid a compromised 2018 election cycle.

He referenced [comments](#) ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2018/02/14/the-u-s-s-top-spies-issue-a-challenge-to-trumps-agenda/?utm\\_term=.a273662272c5](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2018/02/14/the-u-s-s-top-spies-issue-a-challenge-to-trumps-agenda/?utm_term=.a273662272c5)) from top intelligence chiefs at a U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee meeting earlier in the week and [called](#) ([/story/news/2018/02/16/jim-cooper-tennessee-voting-system-hacking/345881002/](#)) for a paper ballot back-up system to electronic voting machines paid for by \$28 million in state-held federal funds.

Similarly, on Monday morning, Senate Minority Caucus Chairman Jeff Yarbro, D-Nashville, expressed frustrations that his own bill calling for paper ballots stalled in the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

"It's disturbing the Senate appears uninterested in having a conversation about a paper trail, which is pretty essential to the integrity of our elections in our democracy," he said. "There's bipartisan consensus in Washington that our elections are under attack by foreign governments with sophistication. It is baffling there is not greater concern from the other side of the aisle on this issue."

Adam Kleinheider, a spokesman for Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, R-Oak Ridge, said the speaker looked forward to talking to Hargett about what he learned in Washington.

But Goins said Monday afternoon there has been confusion about the nature of threats and when they originated.

"I realize Congressman Cooper had the press conference on Friday, but this wasn't a Friday sounding the alarm situation," Goins said. "The alarm, actually if you go back and look historically, was really sounded during the 2016 election and even prior to that."

The elections coordinator said bad actors are always looking to disrupt the system, thus far through secondary means such as influencing voters through social media, hacking into politicians social media feeds and changing election results on local websites.

These actions can hurt voter confidence, he said, but actually changing vote tallies is another matter, and Goins said he is confident can't happen.

"I've watched the (U.S.) Senate hearing Congressman Cooper was talking about," he said. "There's nothing new out there. All this information your hearing is information that was available during 2016 or shortly thereafter."

He said Tennessee has not been targeted in efforts to attack the actual voting system, nor has there been a breach in system security.

"There is absolutely no evidence whatsoever that vote tallies were tampered with," he said.

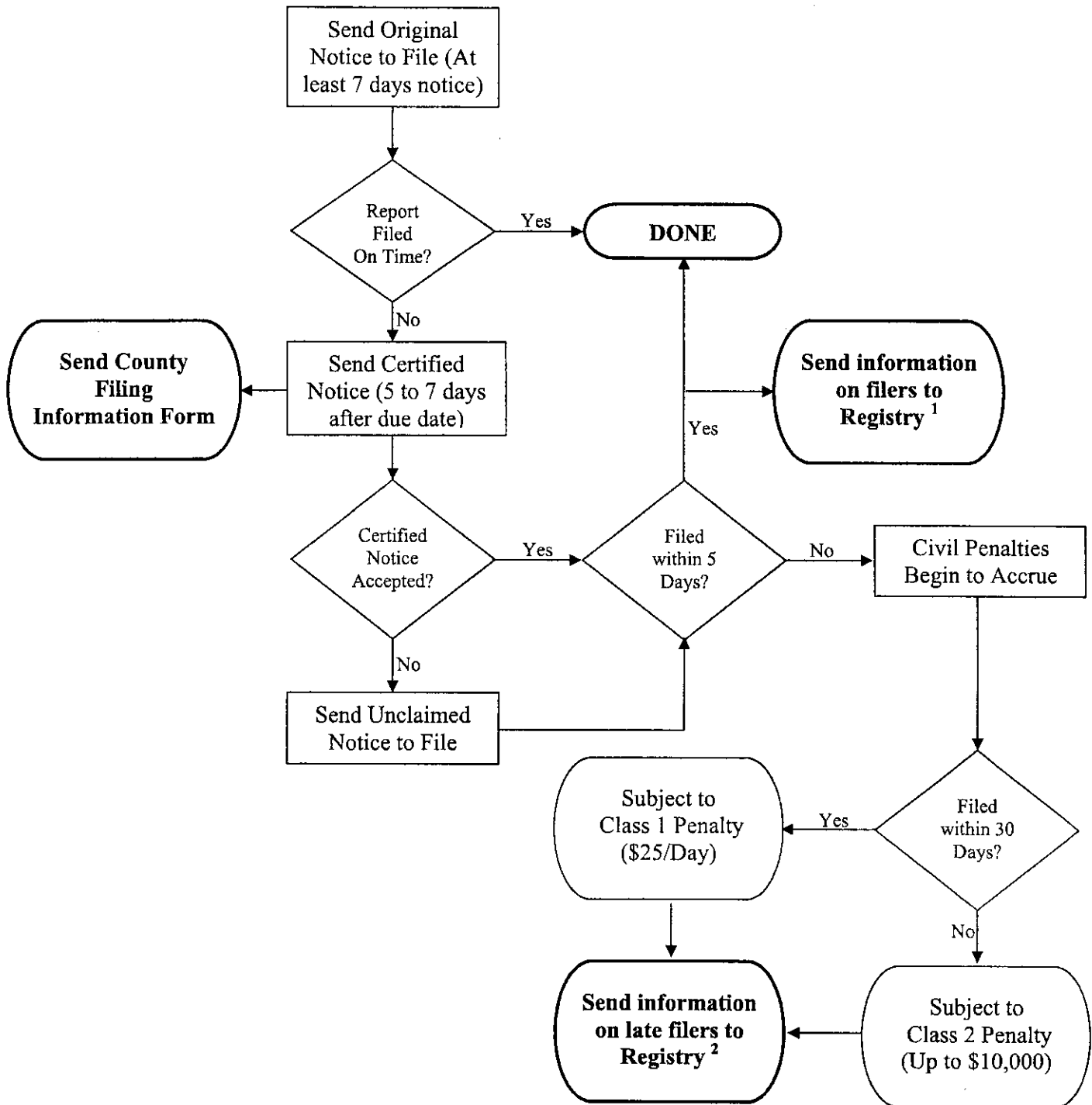
Goins said he believes some lawmakers' calls for paper ballots are misplaced.

"It's very costly to go to paper ballots. It's one thing to say that voting machines can be hacked, but the reality is there are 95 counties here and thousands of machines and they are in secure locations," he said. "They are not connected to the internet, and the internet capability is disabled."

Reach Reporter Jordan Buie at 615-726-5970 or at [jbui@tennessean.com](mailto:jbuie@tennessean.com) (<mailto:jbuie@tennessean.com>). Follow him on Twitter [@jordanbuie](https://twitter.com/jordanbuie) (<http://twitter.com/jordanbuie>).

Read or Share this story: <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/politics/2018/02/20/election-coordinator-tennessee-systems-safe-democrats-paper-ballots/358753002/>

# Notification Process Flowchart



1. Notify Registry of filers so the candidate may be marked off your County Filing Information Form.
2. Send notice to file, certified letter, green card and green card receipt. In addition, unclaimed letter if applicable. If candidate has filed report, send a copy of the report.

# LEGAL NOTICE

**CHANGES TO:** Howard Elementary School Precinct - 805 Long Hollow Pike, Gallatin, TN

**CREATION OF:** Station Camp High School Precinct - 1040 Bison Trail, Gallatin, TN

Sumner County Commission District 4, Sumner County, Tennessee

Pursuant to T.C.A. 2-3-105, the Sumner County Election Commission hereby gives public notice for changes in the Howard Elementary School precinct boundary and the creation of a Station Camp High School precinct within Sumner County Commission District Four. **[All active registered voters whose polling place changed will be mailed a new voter registration card. The voter's precinct and precinct address is printed on the new voter registration card.]**

It is important to read your card carefully.

## Sumner County Election Commission

M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman

Patricia D. Collins, Secretary

Members:

J. Michael Fussell

Jeffery B. Hulsey

John W. Smith

Attest: Lori D. Atchley

Administrator of Elections

