

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023, 4:00 P.M.**

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling; Secretary Denise D. Shepherd; Commissioner Patricia D. Collins; Commissioner J. Michael Fussell; and Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulsey (arrived at 4:09 p.m.). Also present: Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections (AOE) and Annette P. Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections (AAOE).

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Ehmling with a motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 4 – 0. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Fussell made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 4 – 0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one signed up for public comments.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the September 18, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Fussell and the motion passed 4 – 0.

A motion to approve the October 5, 2023, Special Call Meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Fussell and the motion passed 4 – 0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

There was one appeal. The applicant (CM) when attempting to register to vote checked “Yes” to the “Have you been convicted of a felony?” declaration

question. An appeal form was sent to the applicant who returned the form as having inadvertently checked “Yes” to “Have you been convicted of a felony?”

All Commissioners present reviewed the appeal documentation presented. Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to find the registration application of CM sufficient to allow the applicant to properly register to vote. The motion passed 4 – 0.

B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

- Commissioners inspected 51 voter registration applications out of 507 new voter applications with no discrepancies noted. Commissioners present signed the report to be submitted to the State Division of Elections.

C. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR

- FACILITY UPDATE

- AOE advised the matter is still unresolved and the SCEC continues to operate in two separate locations.

- BUDGET UPDATE

- Status unchanged. The County Commission approved an SCEC budget (not the one approved and submitted by the SCEC, but the previous year’s SCEC budget 2022 -2023) and that budget passed.

- VOTING MACHINE CASE DELIVERY UPDATE

- AOE reported that the voting machine cases are expected to arrive between October 9, 2023, and October 18, 2023, per the vendor.

- VOTER REGISTRATOIN DRIVE POLICY

- AOE reported that a request had been made for the SCEC to provide a deputy to attend an upcoming event to assist in voter registration. AOE wanted to revisit the SCEC policy on voter registration drives. AOE cautioned that due to limited staff resources and during election time, it would be difficult to provide a deputy for all such drives and did not want to garner the appearance of favoritism of one group over another. AAOE distributed the Secretary of State (SOS) guidelines for training and procedures per the SOS website. AOE stated that Commissioners Collins and Shepherd had tremendous success in distributing the QR codes at events and high school required drives and recommended continuance of that versus the written applications due to the sensitive nature of the information on the form.

- **OTHER**

- AOE stated that the latest Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) election law books were received from the State Election Office, and they were distributed to the Sumner County Election Commission (SCEC) members.

VI. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

- Chairman Ehmling stated that he had contacted the City of Hendersonville Mayor Jamie Clary regarding the proposed Sales Tax Referendum. AAOE stated that since the school calendar had been set, the schools could be open if a Special Election were held for the referendum, versus in conjunction with a regularly scheduled election. The schools represent 8 out of the 10 precincts that would be required to be open for a Special Election for the City of Hendersonville, and recently enacted legislation would require extra security and poll workers for these precincts. Chairman Ehmling stated he relayed this information to the Mayor and the Mayor acknowledged these additional costs were not included in the original estimate provided to the City.

B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Collins inquired if there was any more information regarding the October 30, 2023, TACEO meeting. AAOE advised the meeting would be in some part of the Cordell Hull Building or one of the other State buildings downtown, and details would be provided as soon as they are available. AAOE also stated there were no breakout sessions for Election Commissioners.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

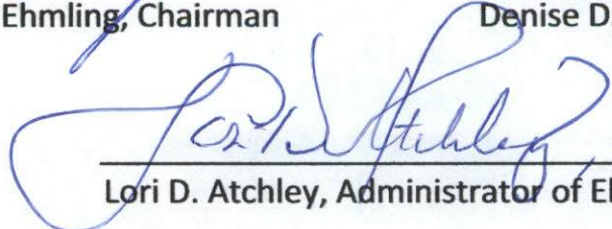
- Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.



M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman



Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary



Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections AOE