

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
June 27, 2005**

**Call to Order:**

Upon notice duly given, Chairperson Linda Morris-Avila called to order a regularly scheduled meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 8:00 a.m. on June 27, 2005, at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 514 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Invocation:** Linda Morris-Avila

**Pledge of Allegiance:** J. Bartlett Quinn

**Present at Meeting:**

Chairperson Linda Morris-Avila, Secretary Quinn, and Commissioners Eddington, Lee and Walden were present at the meeting. Attorney Jerry Summers and the staff of the Election Commission were present as well. Also present was Kathleen Baydala of the Chattanooga Times Free Press, as well as Quinton Howard from Hazlett, Lewis & Bieter, PLLC.

Chairperson Avila stated she was glad to have attended the T.A.C.E.O. meeting, that she learned A lot, and was pleased that two of the staff members were allowed to go as well.

**Old Business:**

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Secretary Quinn that the minutes be approved. Commissioner Eddington seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Howard explained the audit for the Election returns. Normally we test five precincts, and this time we tested all four precincts involved in the Soddy Daisy Election.

Commissioner Walden asked if we had any complaints from the Soddy Daisy election and Mr. Summers stated: "We did get a call from an attorney whose grandmother is in a nursing home and she is incompetent and she may have voted. I immediately called Mr. Knowles and he checked on it and it turned out that the lady was registered but did not vote, so there was no element of fraud." There were only nine voters registered in the nursing homes and no indication of fraud. In addition, three Commissioners were elected: Adams with 549 votes, Shipley with 440 votes and Skates with 431 votes. So even if the nine votes had been fraudulent they would not have affected the outcome of the election.

**Jerry summers:**

Mr. Summers stated that he had spoken in detail to Knox County and Davidson County regarding the bylaws. Neither county has bylaws. He is still waiting to hear from Shelby Co. He further stated that "It is really a matter of whether you want me to pursue this matter any further. I can draw up a draft of it. You are not bound by what other counties do, and they think the state law is sufficient." He also stated that upon looking through the handout from the TACEO

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meeting he noticed some dates regarding the financial disclosure (pg 6-8) and that the staff should distribute this information when the candidates pick up their petitions.

Staff member Louise Patterson stated that we already do give that out, and also update the information.

Chairperson Avila stated that she had spoken with Beth in the Coordinator of Elections office and Beth said we do not need bylaws and we can call that office anytime if we have any questions. She also had talked with the other administrators & Commissioners and none of them have bylaws. Do we want to pursue this any further? It is up to the Commission. Chairperson Avila stated that we will not pursue this further.

### New Business:

Commissioner Lee made a motion to certify the Soddy Daisy Election and Secretary Quinn seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Secretary Quinn Made a motion to certify the expenses of the Soddy Daisy Election, and Commissioner Walden seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Walden made a motion to certify the Early Voting and Absentee voting and Secretary Quinn seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Walden asked what the status of the employee handbook was and she said she wanted to appoint a committee to look at the handbook and the county handbook and give us their opinions or concerns. Administrator pro tem Bud Knowles, Commissioner Eddington, & Secretary Quinn will be on the committee.

### Candidates:

Bob Davis & Gerald Mason have reaffirmed their candidacy. We haven't heard from Larry Ables as yet. Luanne DeWitt has withdrawn her name. We have two new candidates' names, and they are as follows: Robert J. "Bobby" Williams & Brenda Hixson-Rye. A letter will be sent to the new candidates to let them know to be here on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2005 @ 8:00 a.m.

### Adjournment:

Commissioner Eddington made a motion to adjourn and Secretary Quinn seconded.

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J. Bartlett Quinn      Secretary

APPROVED:

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Linda Morris –Avila      Chairperson

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Dorothy Eddington      Commissioner

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Karen M. Lee      Commissioner

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Michael S. Walden      Commissioner