

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
July 16, 2007**

**Call to Order:**

Upon notice duly given, Chairperson Eddington called to order a regularly scheduled meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 8:00 a.m. on July 16, 2007 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Moment of Silence:**

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Secretary Quinn

**Present at Meeting:**

Commissioners Eddington, Quinn, Lee, and Walden were present at the meeting. Attorney Jerry Summers and the staff of the Election Commission and members of the press were present as well.

**Minutes:**

Commissioner Walden made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 3, 2007, meeting. Secretary Quinn seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**New Business:**

Quinton Howard from Hazlett, Lewis, and Bieter stated that they performed the same steps that they normally do. It indicated that as far as the ballot stubs, applications etc... "We did not find any discrepancies' and we recommend this morning that you go ahead and accept the audit report as presented and certify the election". Secretary Quinn made a motion to certify the election and accept the audit. Commissioner Lee seconded.

**Legal Matters:**

Chairperson Eddington asked if there were any legal matters. Administrator Knowles stated "we have the senatorial election coming up upon the resignation of Senator Crutchfield. There will be a primary and a general election. He further stated that the Governor has 20 days to call an election after Mr. Crutchfield resigns and I think it would be appropriate for him to go on and resign so we can go on here at the election commission because we have a lot of work ahead of us".

Attorney Summers stated that was his decision. He also stated that if the newspaper was right and he assumed they are correct, he has been contacted and would resign and that is his call and he should be the one to make that because he is the one who has to live with it. I think he will do what is in the best interest of the people who elected him time and time again. He (Mr. Crutchfield) has indicated that he wanted the voters to decide that. Since he has made that statement I assume that

he will resign sometime prior to the Nov. elections which would allow the governor to call the special elections.

Commissioner Lee asked Administrator Knowles how long it took to prepare for this for the election.

Administrator Knowles stated approximately 60 days.

Chairperson Eddington stated that she would like to clarify that we had a motion to certify, could we have a second? Secretary Quinn stated that we had a second, and we just need to vote. All were in favor and the election was certified.

Chairperson Eddington asked if there were any other matters that we need to discuss.

Administrator Knowles stated that was all he had.

Secretary Quinn stated that on behalf of the Commission he would like to express their deep felt sorrow for Administrator Knowles recent loss.

Secretary Quinn stated that the Hamilton County Commission does not have to appoint someone to fill the senate seat regardless of what the governor decides to do.

Attorney Summers stated that it is optional. They can leave things open if they want to, it is optional. If they were appointed it would only be an interim. By tradition and tradition only, the party that holds the seat, the commission has always put someone from that party in that seat, but, I believe there is no rule that mandates that, I believe it has just been the custom. Attorney Summers asked Administrator Knowles if he knew if that has been deviated from? Administrator Knowles stated that he did not.

Attorney Summers stated that he thought Senator Crutchfield has made it very clear that he wanted the voters to make the decision.

Secretary Quinn asked that as for a look ahead, the Election Commission is concerned with this issue (senate seat) and what else is on the horizon?

Administrator Knowles stated that we will have a preliminary and a general election (two unexpected elections) and that will get into our presidential primary work if we are not careful. It all depends on when he resigns.

Commissioner Walden stated that he did not think the governor would take the full 20 days to call the election.

Chairperson Eddington asked if there was any other business to take care of this morning.

Commissioner Walden made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Lee seconded.

**Next Meeting:**

There was no meeting scheduled at this time.

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J. Bartlett Quinn                      Secretary

**APPROVED:**

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Dorothy Eddington                      Chairperson

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Karen M. Lee                              Commissioner

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Sharlotte Polk                            Commissioner

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Michael S. Walden                      Commissioner