

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Monday, August 25, 2014**

Call to order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairman Walden called to order a called meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 8 a.m. on August 25, 2014 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Present at Meeting:

Commissioners Walden, Summers, Braly, Clem, and Scott were present at the meeting, as well as County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, staff of the Election Commission, Christian Bennett of Mauldin and Jenkins, and members of the media and the public.

Invocation: **Commissioner Braly**

Pledge of Allegiance: **Chairman Walden**

Approval of Minutes:

**Commissioner Braly** made a motion to approve the minutes.

**Secretary Summers** seconded the motion.

All approved.

New Business:

Certification of expenses

**Chairman Walden** read through the expenses of the August 2014 election.

**Commissioner Braly** made a motion to approve the expenses.

**Secretary Summers** seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Certification of Early Voting and Absentee Voting

Certification of Election Results

**Auditor Christian Bennett** gave a brief report on the audit process after the election. He said they encountered no difficulties during the audit procedures and identified no significant issues. Based on the audit procedures, he recommended certification of the election.

**Chairman Walden** asked about the total percentage of voter turnout.

**Assistant Administrator Allen** said overall there was a 26% turnout. Early Voting had a 10.45% turnout which accounted for 40% of the total vote.

**Commissioner Braly** made a motion to certify the results.

**Secretary Summers** seconded the motion.

All approved.

Other Business:

East Ridge City Charter Amendment

**Administrator Steelman** said East Ridge has proposed four amendments to the city charter.

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**Secretary Summers** asked for some background on the amendments.

**Commissioner Braly** said East Ridge reviews its charter about every five years.

**Commissioner Clem** made a motion to put the amendments on the ballot.

**Commissioner Scott** seconded the motion.

All approved.

Wine in Grocery update

**Administrator Steelman** said the signature validation on the petitions was proceeding. Only two were still pending, Chattanooga and the unincorporated areas of the county. He said Chattanooga is close as of this morning with only about 600 signatures to go. Chattanooga will get the signatures they need and should be approved sometime by the end of today or tomorrow. As for the unincorporated areas of Hamilton County, Red Wine and Food completed their own audit of the signatures they accumulated and they had just over 3,400 signatures. We have already counted a significant number and declined over 200. The odds are no, they will not have enough signatures for the unincorporated areas of the county.

**Chairman Walden** asked if the commission needed to take action on the Wine in Grocery petitions.

**Administrator Steelman** said yes, but not at this meeting. This will be one of several ballot items on the September 10 agenda for approval, but there is no action today.

Early Voting Data

**Administrator Steelman** said there was a question raised about our ability to report certain data relative to Early Voting, and as Early Voting is becoming an every-increasing percentage of the total voter turnout the staff is looking at taking steps to resolve that issue. Previously there was a software issue that prevented us from being able to provide Early Voting numbers by precinct.

**Secretary Summers** voiced a concern about whether this data would be available during Early Voting and if it would compromise election results.

**Chairman Walden** said no, this is information that would not be uploaded until Election Day.

**Administrator Steelman** reiterated that this was simply for providing data at the end of the Election.

**Nathan Foster**, Election Commission employee, briefed the commission on how he would use the new software to provide this information.

Marker Bleed-through on Ballots

**Commissioner Scott** said he had heard complaints about the markers bleeding through the ballots.

**Administrator Steelman** said it was his understanding the equipment requires a darker marker. The machine is looking for a mark in a certain spot and the bleed-through has no bearing.

**Chairman Walden** said when he voted the machine rejected his first ballot. We can't be the only one with this problem. We can ask the company how they are going to address it.

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### State App

**Commissioner Scott** said at the last TACEO conference the state said they are going to launch a new app in November. What is the status of that?

**Administrator Steelman** said he participated in the BETA test of the GoVoteTN App during the August election. It has some helpful information, but the app is not very intuitive and needs improvement. He has not received an update from the state on the status of its release to the public.

### Legal matters:

**Attorney Taylor** said he had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Scott** asked about the status of the Cooper appeal.

**Attorney Taylor** said her attorney had filed a notice of appeal but nothing further had been done. He has not been able to get in touch with Cooper's attorney to find out if they are going to pursue it.

### Adjournment:

**Commissioner Braly** made a motion to adjourn.

**Commissioner Clem** seconded.

All approved.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 8 a.m.

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APPROVED:

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Jerry Summers

Secretary

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Michael S. Walden

Chairman

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Ruth Braly

Commissioner

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Chris Clem

Commissioner

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Kelvin Scott

Commissioner