

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, January 6, 2016**

Call to Order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairman Walden called to order a meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission on January 6, 2016 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Invocation: **Commissioner Braly**

Pledge of Allegiance: **Chairman Walden**

Present at Meeting:

Commissioners Walden, Summers, Braly, Clem, and Scott were present at the meeting, as well as staff of the Election Commission.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Braly made a motion to approve the minutes.

Secretary Summers seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

New Business:

Approval of Ballot: March 1, 2016 Presidential Primary

Chairman Walden asked for clarification about the delegates.

Commissioner Clem said Tennessee is a modified winner-take-all state. The overall state winner will receive the delegates-at-large. The winner in each congressional district will get the delegates for that district.

Administrator Steelman said the delegates have to be approved by the campaign of the candidate they wish to represent.

Assisted Administrator Allen added that the uncommitted candidates were not approved by the campaigns.

Commissioner Braly made a motion to approve the ballot.

Secretary Summers seconded the motion.

All approved.

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Early Voting: Wednesday 02/10/16 – 02/23/16

Early Voting proposed locations and times:

1. Brainerd Rec Center (Mon – Sat 10A-6P)
2. Eastwood Church (Mon – Sat 10A-6P)
3. North River Civic Center (Mon – Sat 10A-6P)
4. Election Commission (Mon – Fri 8A-7P, Sat 9A-6P)

Administrator Steelman said the locations and times are the same with the exception of the Hixson location. We are moving from Northgate to the North River Civic Center.

Commissioner Braly asked it's the one behind the mall?

Administrator Steelman said yes, it is between the library and post office. In addition to all the required notices, we also sent out postcards this week to everyone who voted at the Northgate Early Voting location in November 2014 to let them know about the change.

Chairman Walden asked Administrator Steelman to communicate with the media about the change, too.

Commission Braly made a motion to approve the Early Voting locations and times.

Secretary Summers seconded the motion.

All approved.

Poll Worker List

The Commission reviewed the initial list of poll workers.

Secretary Summers said he thinks the ratio of Republican to Democrat poll workers should be 50-50.

Administrator Steelman said the goal is to be reflective of the election commission's makeup.

Commissioner Braly asked which party does "G" signify on this list?

Assistant Administrator Allen said that means General election. Those individuals have not voted in a primary election.

Commissioner Clem said it is a misnomer to label these people as Democrats or Republicans. They are not party activists. They are mostly older, retired people who vote both ways and just happen to vote one way a little more often than the other way.

Chairman Walden agreed and said that many of these people have been working the polls for years, regardless of which party had control in Nashville.

Commissioner Clem said he would like to see a fourth category on the poll worker list. In addition to D, R, and G, he would like to see a "Mixed" category. If someone has voted in eight primaries and five are Republican and three are Democrat, it would be more accurate to list them as "Mixed" than Republican.

Chairman Walden said this list is ok for now, but for the next election there must be a Democrat and Republican at each precinct.

Administrator Steelman said he has met with Terry Lee from the local Democrat party and Kathy Holloway from the local Republican party and discussed this. They are helping us find

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workers. We are working toward the goal of having both parties represented at all the precincts.

Deputy Nathan Foster said he has been involved with the poll worker recruitment program. He has been in communication with both parties and expects to receive around 150 nominations in the next week. We will ensure that we have political representation of both parties at each precinct. And going forward we are working toward the 60-40 split with a Republican officer that has been discussed in previous meetings. It's a work in progress, but to have a large upheaval where we throw away half of our work force and then recruit replacements it too much of a burden.

Administrator Steelman said he would provide an updated list in February.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Scott made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Braly seconded the motion.

All approved.

APPROVED:

Jerry Summers

Secretary

Michael S. Walden

Chairman

Ruth Braly

Commissioner

Chris Clem

Commissioner

Kelvin Scott

Commissioner