

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, May 29, 2018**

Call to Order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairman Walden called to order a meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 8 a.m. on May 29, 2018 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Invocation: **Commissioner Braly**

Pledge of Allegiance: **Commissioner Meadows**

Present at Meeting:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Braly made a motion to approve the minutes.

Secretary Summers seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

New Business:

Presentation of Service Plaque

Chairman Walden presented former Commissioner Kelvin Scott with a plaque for his four and a half years of service as a member of the Hamilton County Election Commission.

Approval of Ballot

Administrator Steelman said there are three ballots for the August election. The August state primary election is also the Hamilton County general election. On the Republican ballot you will see the candidates for the Hamilton County General Election as well as the State Republican Primary candidates. The same is true on the Democratic ballot. You also have a third ballot which only has the general election races. We are required by state law to provide a ballot for any voter who chooses not to participate in either the Republican or Democratic state primary. Quite frankly, there is a small number of voters who request a general-only ballot; however, we order a minimum number to be prepared for these voters.

Commissioner Braly asked what is the minimum number?

Administrator Steelman said the number of ballots is based on a formula Nate has developed taking into consideration the turnout in previous comparable elections. For May we are ordering 22,900 general election ballots, 42,750 Democratic ballots, and 70,100 Republican

Hamilton County Election Commission – Minutes of Meeting May 29, 2018

ballots. The State coordinator has already reviewed and approved the ballot and each Election Commission staff member has reviewed the ballots at least twice.

Secretary Summers made a motion to approve the ballot.

Commissioner Braly seconded the motion.

All approved.

Early Voting

Administrator Steelman said Early Voting will begin Friday, July 13 and run until Saturday, July 28. The August election is the only election where Early Voting covers three Saturdays. This creates slightly more overtime for our workers than a Tuesday election. We are staying consistent with our locations and hours.

Chairman Walden said after the November election we will revisit the schedule in regards to the hours when voter turnout is lower.

Poll Official Report

Administrator Steelman said the list of poll officials remains consistent with the May election. There has been some turnover, but nothing substantial. There are 876 total poll workers, including 77 officers and 80 Voter Assistance Clerks. Every polling location is represented by both parties.

Chairman Walden said to move to the topic of poll watchers, one thing Administrator Steelman and I discussed last election was we really don't have any approval rights over poll watchers for the candidates. There were a few incidents last time – over the years I've seen it on both sides where candidates sometimes have overzealous poll watchers who don't understand what they can and can't do.

Administrator Steelman said Beth Henry Robinson, the Assistant Coordinator of Elections in the Tennessee State Department, did say that if a poll watcher consistently violates the law, we can pull their credentials. Candidates or a political organization must provide the names of their poll watchers to us by noon on the third day prior to the election. We then provide the list to the precincts. Poll watchers are required to sign in at the polling locations.

Commissioner Braly asked do we train the poll watchers?

Administrator Steelman said that is up to the candidates and parties. We do provide a list of "Dos and Don'ts" when they pick up their credentials so they cannot say they do not know. Additionally, to be proactive, I have reached out to the Executive Director of UnifiEd because they will have a lot of poll watchers in August. His administrative staff will come into our office in June for a class so his workers will know what the poll watchers can do.

Hamilton County Election Commission – Minutes of Meeting May 29, 2018

Other business:

Scheduling

The commission will meet on Election night, Thursday, August 2 at 7:30 pm.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Braly made a motion to adjourn.

Secretary Summers seconded the motion.

All approved.

APPROVED:

Michael S. Walden

Chairman

Jerry Summers

Secretary

Ruth Braly

Commissioner

Chris Clem

Commissioner

Secondra Meadows

Commissioner