

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Monday, July 2, 2018**

Call to Order:

Upon notice duly given, Commissioner Braly called to order a called meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 8 a.m. on July 2, 2018 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Invocation: **Commissioner Clem**

Pledge of Allegiance: **Commissioner Meadows**

Present at Meeting:

Commissioners Braly, Clem, and Meadows were present at the meeting, as well as Election Commission staff, and members of the public and media.

Approval of Minutes:

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

**Commissioner Meadows** seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

New Business:

**Revisions to Ballot**

**Administrator Steelman** said on Monday, June 18, we received a formal notice from House District 26 Representative Gerald McCormick withdrawing his candidacy in the August 2 Republican primary. He was withdrawing pursuant to TCA § 2-5-101(g)(D) permitting withdrawal because a candidate is forced to change his residency by his employer for a job-related reason. Opening a new qualifying deadline for the District 26 Republican primary was permitted on the basis that there were no other candidates on the Republican ballot for nomination. This established a new qualifying period beginning Tuesday, June 19 with a qualifying deadline of Thursday, June 28 at noon. The qualifying deadline has passed and a candidate has qualified. As such, we are here to approve the Republican ballot with the new candidate for nomination in District 26.

**Commissioner Clem** asked the Democratic primary for District 26 already has qualified candidates?

**Administrator Steelman** said that is correct.

**Commissioner Braly** asked and House District 27?

**Administrator Steelman** said in House District 27, Danielle Johnson relocated outside of Tennessee because her fiancé received a job in Indiana. That does not meet one of the five criteria for withdrawal under TCA § 2-5-101(g); as such, she has become a disqualified

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candidate; however, she was already on the ballot. She is being removed from this ballot because there is precedent if an Election Commission has the time and opportunity to remove a disqualified candidate from the ballot, then we have an obligation to do so. Because of the requirement that we reprint ballots for District 26 due to Gerald McCormick's withdrawal, we have that opportunity. As such, we will remove Danielle Johnson from the ballot in District 27.

**Commissioner Clem** asked she requested to be removed?

**Administrator Steelman** said we received a letter from her requesting that she be removed.

**Commissioner Clem** asked if she had not sent that notice, we would not have known she was disqualified?

**Administrator Steelman** said that is correct.

**Commissioner Braly** asked that leaves a qualified candidate on the ballot for the Democratic primary in District 27?

**Administrator Steelman** said yes, Brent Morris remains as a qualified candidate in District 27. There are also two qualified Democratic candidates on the ballot for District 26, Jean-Marie Lawrence and David Jones.

**Commissioner Clem** asked when do we have to have these changes to the printer?

**Administrator Steelman** said absolutely no later than tomorrow.

**Commissioner Clem** said if we don't have them in by tomorrow, July 3, will ballots be ready for Early Voting?

**Administrator Steelman** said no.

**Commissioner Clem** said so if we do not get this approved today and get it to the printer today – or by the latest – tomorrow, Early Voting for these two districts won't have ballots.

**Administrator Steelman** said that is correct.

**Commissioner Clem** said with that understanding, I move to approve the ballots.

**Commissioner Clem** made a motion to approve the revised District 26 Republican and District 27 Democratic ballots.

**Commissioner Meadows** seconded the motion.

All approved.

**Commissioner Clem** said just for the record, have we received any complaints from candidates or potential candidates?

**Administrator Steelman** said we have not.

**Commissioner Clem** said we're taking people off the ballot who want to be taken off the ballot and none of the other candidates or potential candidates have complained?

**Administrator Steelman** said that's correct. These are the only two candidates who have contacted the Election Commission requesting to be removed from the ballot.

**Commissioner Clem** asked and none of the parties -- state or local – have called with complaints?

**Administrator Steelman** said we've had zero complaints.

**Commissioner Braly** said then these were the only two districts in question?

**Administrator Steelman** said Districts 26 and 27, yes.

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Adjournment:

Commissioner Clem made a motion to adjourn.  
Commissioner Meadows seconded the motion.  
All approved.

APPROVED:

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Michael S. Walden Chairman

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Jerry Summers Secretary

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Ruth Braly Commissioner

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Chris Clem Commissioner

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Secondra Meadows Commissioner