

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Thursday, August 2, 2018**

Call to Order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairman Walden called to order a meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 7:30 p.m. on August 2, 2018 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Invocation: **Commissioner Braly**

Pledge of Allegiance: **Commissioner Clem**

Present at Meeting:

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

Approval of Minutes:

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

**Commissioner Braly** seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

New Business:

**Election Day Report**

**Administrator Steelman** said Election Day has been very uneventful other than just typical Election Day issues. Turnout started out very light, but it has picked up throughout the day. Overall, we're expecting a relatively moderate turnout.

**District Boundary Voter Report**

**Chairman Walden** asked if there was an update on the District Boundary Voter Report for the affected races.

**Administrator Steelman** said I have included in your packets a list of the contested races that could potentially be affected by the 43 early votes that were cast. These 43 are among the 325 voters who were identified in the state's district line dispute. Of the 13 that we know voted improperly, three voted in the Democratic primary for District 28 and 10 voted in the District 5 School Board race. The column to the right shows the number of voters who should have been allowed to vote in these districts based on the state's boundaries but were not allowed to do so. Adding that number to the number of voters who voted improperly is how we came up with the total margin of error for each contested race.

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**Chairman Walden** said so in District 28, the margin of error is four; in District 30, eight; and in County Commission District 3, three. In the school board the margins are 10 in District 5, one in District 8, and 11 in District 9. So if any of those races are within those numbers, we will have to have a new election.

**Administrator Steelman** said if that is the case, the Election Commission does not have the authority to call for a new election. The election must be contested by the candidate. They will have five days after the certification of the election to file that contest.

**Chairman Walden** said but if it is within that margin, we will contact them and tell them what they need to do even if they choose not to contest the election.

**Administrator Steelman** said yes.

### Precinct Audit Letter

**Chairman Walden** said which precincts are affected by this dispute?

**Commissioner Clem** said East Ridge, but I don't know the precincts in School Board District 5 and District 9.

**Chairman Walden** said I will select all the East Ridge Precincts.

**Auditor Christian Bennett** said I can tell you East Ridge 3 has already been selected due to a machine replacement.

**Commissioner Clem** said if you are picking the East Ridge precincts, Commissioner Braly and I can select District 9 and District 5 precincts.

**Administrator Steelman** said today we had 48 voters out of a potential of 282 cast ballots through this provisional process.

### Other Business:

### Approval of Lawyers

**Chairman Walden** said we have been notified that the state Democratic Party has appealed the dismissal of the lawsuit in Nashville. The chair will entertain a motion to retain the same law firm in Nashville we previously hired to handle this appeal.

**Commissioner Clem** made a motion to retain the Nashville firm to represent us in the appeal.

**Commissioner Braly** seconded the motion.

All approved.

### Scheduling:

### Certification Meeting

The commission will meet Wednesday, August 15 at 9 a.m. to certify the August 2 election.

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Adjournment:

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

**Commissioner Clem** 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