

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, November 6, 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 November 6, 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, Clem, and Meadows were present at the meeting, as well as Election Commission staff, and auditor Christian Bennett.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Braly made a motion to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Meadows seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

New Business:

Early Voting Report: November Mid-Term

Administrator Steelman said a total of 67,403 voters cast a ballot during Early Voting. That is 32.7% of our total registered voters. If you take a look at the comparable 2014 and 2010 elections, it is a significant increase.

Chairman Walden said that's two and a half, three times the turnout in previous elections.

Administrator Steelman said as we've seen over the years, Early Voting in an increasing percentage of the total turnout. I'm glad to see this trend continue.

Election Day Report

Administrator Steelman said today went exceptionally well. Assistant Administrator Allen and I had the opportunity to visit several polls. There was a steady flow of voters, especially early in the day. We started off with some long lines at the opening of polls, but none were excessive. As the day went on, we began to see participation wane. As such, it is difficult to speculate the total turnout. We very well could be in the neighborhood of 70,000 voters.

Commissioner Clem asked to add to the 67,000?

Administrator Steelman said that is correct.

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Commissioner Braly said I visited a couple of the East Ridge precincts. They indicated that this morning it was crowded but steady most of the day.

Administrator Steelman said even with the lines this morning, we witnessed that people were very civil with one another. There weren't any lost tempers. That was encouraging.

Commissioner Clem said when is next election?

Administrator Steelman said there are no elections in 2019. There will be three in 2020 – March, August, and November.

Scheduling:

Certification Meeting

The commission will meet Tuesday, November 20 at 9 a.m. to certify the November 6 election.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

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APPROVED:

Michael S. Walden

Chairman

Jerry Summers

Secretary

Ruth Braly

Commissioner

Chris Clem

Commissioner

Secondra Meadows

Commissioner