

**SHELBY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**June 16, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Shelby County Election Commission was held electronically on June 16, 2020.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** By Chairman Stamson at 4:01pm

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Tate, Uhlhorn, Taylor and Smith

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Linda Phillips, AOE  
Joe Young, DAOE  
Attorney Ryder  
Attorney Hagler  
Carol Collinsworth, staff  
Stacy Scott, staff

**APPROVAL OF MAY 7, 2020 MINUTES**

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Uhlhorn made a motion to approve the minutes  
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Tate  
OUTCOME OF MOTION: passed unanimously

**APPROVAL OF MAY 26, 2020 MINUTES**

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes  
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Uhlhorn  
OUTCOME OF MOTION: passed unanimously

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Attorney Ryder stated there are three litigations.

- Latroy Alexander Williams, Jr. to be heard next week
- Shelby Advocates for Valid Elections was dismissed
- Voting by mail using Covid-19 as an excuse case in Nashville is on appeal

Commissioner Smith questioned changes made to the absentee application. These changes were made per the Tennessee Coordinator of Elections.

Commissioner Smith wanted to know how many absentee requests that have been received. Currently, over 4000 applications have been received.

**POLLING PLACE CHANGES RESOLUTION:**

Several election day polling locations are not available and need to be moved.

26-00 Union Valley Baptist Church will be moved to Memphis Rox  
31-02 Rozelle Elementary School will be moved to Glenview Community Center  
70-02 Ed Rice Community Center will be moved to The Pursuit of God Church  
Bar-04 Ellendale UMC will be moved to Singleton Community Center  
COR-03 Memphis Jewish Home will be moved to Faith Anglican Church  
GER-08 Dogwood Elementary School will be moved to Faith Presbyterian Church

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor moved to accept the polling place changes.

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Uhlhorn

OUTCOME OF MOTION: passed unanimously on a roll call vote

Affected voters will be notified by mail, legal ads will run in the newspaper and notifications will be on our website and on social media.

**EARLY VOTING CHANGE:**

The early voting location we have been using at Bellevue Baptist Church does not allow for social distancing so it was proposed that we move to Briarwood Church at 1900 N. Germantown Parkway.

**EARLY VOTING RESOLUTION:**

Early Voting will be July 17 – August 1 at 26 locations across Shelby County. The downtown location will be open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday, all other locations will be open 11am-7pm. Every site will be open Saturday, July 18 & 25 from 10am-4pm and Saturday, August 1 from 8am-4pm.

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the early voting schedule of dates, times and locations.

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Smith

OUTCOME OF MOTION: passed unanimously on a roll call vote

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Attached.

**OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Commissioner Taylor stated there were two recommendations from that meeting. First, was a discussion of zones. Second, was reverting back to the committee’s original name. Taylor requested resolutions for both.

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:**

Old Business - Commissioner Smith requested a copy of the budget, lifecycle cost analysis for paper ballots and how error rate was determined in study. Discussion of RFP nondisclosure forms.

New Business – Commissioner Smith made a motion that the AOE provide the audit logs, GEMS database, the voting machine techs that will work the August election, seal verification, etc.

Seconded by: Commissioner Taylor, with the note that whatever can’t be provided contractually or legally will be discussed later.


Outcome: Passed, with Commissioner Uhlhorn voting no

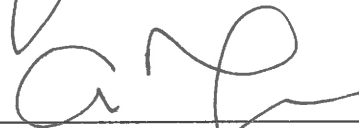
**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were three public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 5:47pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Stamson, Chairman                      8/24/2020                      Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Tate, Secretary                      Date

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4222000813485271304>

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2694148042830821889>



# Shelby County Election Commission

## Administrator of Elections Monthly Report June, 2020

### Voter and Candidate Services

- We currently have 522 UOCAVA ballot requests.
- We have, as of last night, received 3,407 non-UOCAVA absentee requests. Typically, we would have 800 requests in an equivalent August election.
- Under TCA §2-6-202 (c) (6), all information concerning requests for absentee ballots is confidential until the end of the early voting period. However, returned ballots will be listed on the participating voter's list.
- The Secretary of State will shortly be unveiling a voter absentee ballot look up feature at GoVoteTN.com. This will allow an individual voter to look up the status of their ballot – requested; mailed to them; received by us. It will be updated once per day. We haven't seen it yet but it will require some personal information from the voter to access; you won't be able to go in and see anyone else's status.

### Operations Department

- The ballot is awaiting approval from the State.
- I've put a printout of the master ballot in your folders.
- Recruitment of poll workers is going slowly; they are taking a lot more handholding than usual but most are willing to work since we are providing PPE.

### Administrator

- Assuming that Governor Lee signs HB1278/SB1009, which allows an incumbent to run as an independent; the qualifying deadline would be August 5, 2020. Petitions can be issued 60 days prior to the qualifying deadline, which has already passed. So, as soon as the Governor signs the bill, petitions could be

issued. A candidate who chooses to do so would then be on the ballot in November.

- There was no change in the requirement that no Early and ABS results can be posted until the last voter has finished voting.
- Just a reminder, once a voter requests an absentee ballot, they can no longer vote in person except by provisional ballot. And, absentee ballots must be returned by mail; they cannot be dropped off.
- It's too early to tell if the budget is still intact; at one point it was suggested that all departments be cut by 7%. I pointed out that if that happened, we would have no choice but to reduce either the days or hours of Early Voting and that the resolution would need to explicitly state that fact since I felt it was important that the County Commission be aware of this. This was not a popular idea, so from the information I can gather in electronic meetings, we are still OK.
- The Senate declined to make any additional changes in election law, so the absentee counting process will remain unchanged. This is less of a problem for August; but if there are more than about 130,000 absentee ballots in November, it is very likely that we cannot finish all counting on Election Day.
- The Executive Order that allows for electronic meetings expires June 30, 2020. We have been told that it is unlikely that it will be extended, so in our spare time, we are looking for other locations where SCEC meetings could be held with better social distancing.
- Lessons learned from the Georgia primary problems:
  - My number one takeaway is don't introduce new election equipment in the era of the Zoom meeting. Some poll workers had no problems following written materials for training. Kinesthetic learners, though, did not; they simply needed more hands on training. I understand why it wasn't possible to do more training in this environment; it's hard to do it safely. If you can only have ten people in the room and two of them are trainers, you can see why they had to shorten the classes and rely more on written instructions.
  - My next takeaway is that the system Georgia purchased is more difficult for the poll workers, so it's not surprising that they had more election morning trouble. One of the reasons most scoring team members rated our system

highest was how easy it was for poll workers to us. Virtually all of the "machine malfunctions" reported in the media were actually user error. But, and when we do finally get to introduce new equipment, everyone needs to understand that it will not be perfect. There will be some hiccups.

- Many jurisdictions did not have enough poll workers. Early on, some jurisdictions made the assumption that they would need fewer poll workers since so many people would be voting by mail. It looks to me like the propensity of some precinct to have more voters who voted early wasn't considered and I don't think they really considered that you need more poll workers with new equipment. So in precincts where there were a lot of early or mail voters, they really didn't have any lines and the voters thought the new equipment was great.
  - A lot of issues were related to the fact that many polling locations in Georgia were consolidated or moved. We are going to do everything in our power to not consolidate any polling places at the last minute but if we are forced to - say a senior center closes at the last minute - we know the next closest polling place and have backup machines ready that have every single ballot style available that could quickly be put in place. (We do that anyway as part of our disaster preparation; we are just doing more this year.)
  - Their final problem was that a huge number of their poll workers just didn't show up. That to me is the truly terrifying part of this election; we are recruiting extra poll workers who we will train and pay them to be at the Ops Center and a couple of other locations to be deployed quickly if they are needed. I can prepare and have a backup for virtually every other aspect of the election but we depend on our friends and neighbors to actually run our elections. If they don't show up, we are doomed.
- COVID-19 Planning
    - In our EA conference call last week, we had Dr. Aronoff, the Chairman of the Infectious Disease Department at Vanderbilt, explain how our knowledge about how this disease is spread has changed dramatically. He believes that in order to be infected you need to spend 10 to 15 minutes within six feet of a person who is actively shedding the virus. If you can keep the interactions brief, the risk is very low. AND, his number one piece of advice – wear a mask and wash your hands.
    - We want to stress how careful we will be to keep out polling places safe.
      - All poll workers have masks, gloves, and face shields. (We also have protective gowns in case we do send teams into nursing homes.)
      - We have over 800 gallons of hand sanitizer.

- Disposable styli
  - Individual ink pens for voters.
  - Sneeze shields for check in and signature tables.
  - We purchased 4000 additional voter access cards, so the cards can be cleaned between use.
  - Paper towels and cleaning solution will be used to frequently clean the high touch surfaces.
  - Voters are being provided plastic bags if they want to cover their hands and arms.
  - We have 5000 social distancing signs for the floors.
  - We will encourage voters to wear masks but cannot require that they do so.
  - All locations have been reviewed and there have been discussions with each officer about how they will arrange their location to social distance. Some locations had to be moved.
  - We will be using many more tables, so there will be only one person at a 6ft table.
  - Rather than daisy chain the voting machines, they will be plugged into extension cords they can be placed farther apart.
- Days to Upcoming Events:
    - Start of Early Voting – 31 Days
    - County General/State Federal Primary – 51 Days
    - Presidential Election – 140 Days