

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

October 20, 2020

The regular meeting of the Shelby County Election Commission was held electronically on October 20, 2020.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Chairman Stamson at 4:02pm

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioners Tate, Uhlhorn, Taylor and Smith

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Phillips, AOE
Joe Young, DAOE
John Ryder, attorney
Pablo Varela, attorney
Monice Hagler, attorney
Carol Collinsworth, staff
Stacey Scott, staff

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 MINUTES

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes as amended to include a question by Commissioner Smith

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Tate

ROLL CALL VOTE: Taylor – yes, Uhlhorn – no, Tate – yes, Smith – yes, Stamson - yes

OUTCOME OF MOTION: passed

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Held until Executive Session

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- 19,681 had early voted by 4pm yesterday
- 17,793 early voted today by 4pm
- 2,119 absentee ballots received today
- 26,000 absentee requests received so far and all ballots have been mailed
- Registered just under 20,000 voters between October 1 and 5
- Collierville will likely have a runoff election on December 8. Early Voting will start 2 days after the November election is certified

Commissioner Taylor acknowledged the staff has done a phenomenal job during this election. Chairman Stamson agreed. Receiving positive comments from the public.

Commissioner Taylor stated that he tried to explain the new voting equipment contract to the County Commission. The difference between the base bid and the ultimate ask for the contract seemed to be the sticking point so they didn't approve the contract. Taylor made a motion to again accept the recommendation of the Election Administrator for ESS as the vendor with a \$3.9 million dollar contract which would match the bid. We can always ask for more equipment as we need it. We need to move forward because the current equipment is beyond life expectancy and we cannot get parts anymore. This is not the way to run a fair, honest, open election that people have confidence in. Taylor recommended sending the \$3.9 million dollar contract back to the County Commission.

Commissioner Smith disagreed. Stated the base bid changes were quantity changes.

AOE Phillips stated she made adjustments to the bids so they were all apples to apples. Hand marked paper ballot option did not take into account that preprinted paper ballots was not rational, thus requiring on demand printers. All bids needed stands, voting booths, color printers, etc. We must comply with requirements of state law. These alterations to the bids are allowed by Purchasing.

Commissioner Smith stated that AOE can't make changes to bids, only Purchasing can do that. AOE stated that she followed the direction Purchasing gave her.

Commissioner Uhlhorn stated that in May the commissioners listened to the presentation for new equipment and the majority voted for the ESS voting equipment. He called for a vote on Commissioner Taylor's motion.

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Taylor made the motion to send the original \$3.9 million contract back to the County Commission for funding.

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Uhlhorn

ROLL CALL VOTE: Taylor – yes, Uhlhorn – yes, Smith – no, Tate – yes, Stamson - yes.

OUTCOME OF MOTION: Motion passed.

Commissioner Tate stated that the AOE took questions to Purchasing and was given direction on how to proceed. Purchasing was satisfied that rules were followed so they took it to the County Commission and Mayor.

