



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

**September 25, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Shelby County Election Commission (SCEC) was held on September 25, 2023, at the O.C. Pleasant, Jr. Election Operations Center, 980 Nixon Drive, at 4:00pm. This meeting was recorded on Facebook live.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** By Chairman Luttrell at 4:04pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:** Commissioners Luttrell, Kimbrow, Stamson, Uhlhorn, and Wharton

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Joe Young, DAOE

Ron Boozer, Staff

Sherry Hewlett, Staff

Eleanor Brooks, Staff

Ronnie Faulkner, Staff

Cherie Pyron

Sandra Oates

Carole Van Vessen

Suzanne Thompson, KQ

Leonard Hopkins, IT

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

No remarks at this time.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 21, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION STATED:** Commissioner Stamson motion to approve the minutes.

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Uhlhorn

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Motion Carried Unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2023-08: RESOLUTION TO RESCIND 157 POPLAR SIGN POLICY:**

**MOTION STATED:** Commissioner Stamson motion to approve.

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Uhlhorn

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Motion Carried Unanimously.

DAOE Young presented information on the motion.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

Visited several early voting locations and ensured hand marked paper ballot option is being offered to voters. There have been some concerns regarding signage, parking within the 100ft boundary and restroom access for campaign workers at polling places.

Good turnout at MATA event at Mississippi Boulevard and reminded people that Free Bus Day is September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Need to make sure laws regarding campaign workers are consistently enforced at all voting locations.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

No updates at this time.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

DAOE Young described KnowBe4 security training and encouraged Commissioners to participate in the training. Chairman Luttrell read AOE Phillips report into the record. Report is attached.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business brought to the floor.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Stamson, seconded by Commissioner Wharton at 5:00pm.

  
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Mark Luttrell, Jr., Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vanecia Kimbrow, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date


10/16/23

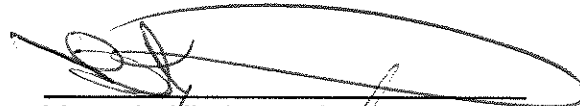
**RESOLUTION TO RECIND SHELBY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION SIGN POLICY  
FOR 157 POPLAR AVENUE**

WHEREAS, The Shelby County Election Commission established a sign policy for signs at 157 Poplar Avenue and;

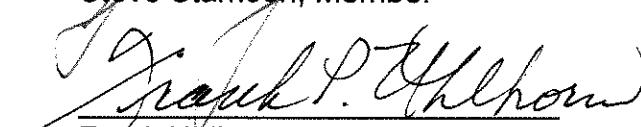
WHEREAS, the City of Memphis ordinances which regulates signage are different, and;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SHELBY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, that the Shelby County Election Commission hereby rescinds the sign policy for 157 Poplar Avenue and that all signage at 157 Poplar Avenue will comply with the City of Memphis ordinances that regulates signage and TCA §2-7-111.

  
Mark Luttrell, Jr., Chairman

  
Vanecia Kimbrow, Secretary

  
Steve Stanson, Member

  
Frank Uhlhorn, Member

  
Andre C. Wharton, Member



# Shelby County Election Commission

## Administrator of Elections Monthly Report – September 2023

- **Public Test** – was held on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Although no member of the public appeared, we did have significant media coverage. Because of the large number of candidates in the Mayor’s race, our test deck consisted of 8,680 ballots.
- **Conferences** - Operations Manager Carla Lytle and I attended the Election Center Annual Conference in Orlando. Before the hurricane made the trip a little challenging, we learned a lot and saw a great new system for duplicating absentee ballots and an excellent application for tracking public records requests that was tailored to election records. After one day’s sessions, we had movie night. I was almost too tired to attend but I am glad I did. If you have the opportunity to see the movie “No Time to Fail”, I strongly recommend it. Their website [notimetofailfilm.com](http://notimetofailfilm.com) has this to say about the movie:  
*“Election administrators were once invisible to the general public. Despite the unbelievable challenges and desperate attempts to disrupt and upend the 2020 election, they pulled off the most secure election in our history, and they did it amidst a global pandemic. Rather than receiving a hero’s welcome, they have become the focus of an ongoing coordinated campaign of disinformation.”* Yes, it sounds like a snooze fest but it was interesting, dramatic, accurate, and very well done.
- **Free Bus Day** - We are again partnering with MATA to provide free bus day on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. All MATA services will be free that day. Chairman Luttrell and Secretary Kimbrow attended the press conference where the “*Be Voter Ready*” wrapped bus first appeared on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The bus with our *Be Voter Ready* wrap will be rolling until the end of October. The primary reason we partner with MATA is for the public relations value. While a voter might not use MATA, when they see the bus, they are reminded that an election is going on. We also get good media coverage with a positive story; it’s pretty rare when a news agency does a nice story about an election commission.
- **School as Polling Places** – The recent legislation passed by the General Assembly for increasing school safety has had the consequence of making it virtually impossible to use schools as polling places. We are looking to replace the 21 schools used in November, 2022. It’s going to be a challenge in some areas. Often, in the older, more rural areas, schools are the only buildings that meet the Department of Justice standards for ADA accessibility.

- **Grizzlies Poll Party** – The Grizzlies will be holding a poll party at Mississippi Blvd Church on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 pm. They will have a DJ and will be giving out Grizzlies branded goods to all who attend.
- **Campaign Signs** – We are not the sign police. If signs are being stolen, a report needs to be made to the appropriate police agency. Memphis is enforcing their sign ordinance and many signs are being removed.
- **Campaign Workers** – The Election Commission does not mediate disputes between campaigns. If one campaign believes that the law has been violated, they need to make a sworn complaint to the District Attorney General. If a campaign believes that City or County policy has been violated by the actions of an employee, they should start with the City or County attorney.
- **Bathrooms for Campaign Workers** - We aren't trying to be mean but TN law is very clear on the fact that campaign workers may not enter the polling places. So, the campaigns that employ campaign workers need to make other arrangements.
- **Polling Places** – Some candidates have complained that some locations do not permit them to place signs or have workers on the premises. The Election Commission are guests in these facilities and the owners have the right to establish policies and who may be on their property. We use a lot of churches and some of them think the “carnival atmosphere” created by hundreds of signs and dozens of people shouting at voters is not respectful. We struggle to find polling places, so we are not going to argue with the building owners.
- **Campaign Finance** - Reminder notices are being sent to Memphis candidates. The next report due for candidates in Memphis races covers the period from July 1, 2023 through September 25, 2023. This is the pre-general report and is due on **September 28, 2023**. We will post these as quickly as we can get them up on our campaign finance public site at:  
<https://shelbycountyttn.easyvotecampaignfinance.com/home/publicfilings>

- **Days to Upcoming Events**

Event	Date	Days Until
Last Day of Early Voting - Memphis	9/30/2023	5
Memphis Municipal Election	10/5/2023	10
First Day to Issue County Office Petitions	10/16/2023	21
Memphis Municipal Election Run-Off (If required.)	11/16/2023	52
Qualifying Deadline for Delegate and County Office Petitions	12/14/2023	80