

SHELBY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2018

APPROVED

Regular Meeting of the Shelby County Election Commission was held on April 17, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. at the Election Operations Center, 980 Nixon Drive.

CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman Meyers **Time:** 4:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioner Stamson and Commissioner Tate, Commissioner Lester, Commissioner Nollner.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 20, 2018 MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE: Commissioner Nollner **SECONDED BY** Commissioner Stamson

APPROVED: Unanimously

CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR AUGUST 2, 2018 ELECTION

Deferred for the next meeting

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (SEE ATTACHMENT):

Given by: Linda Phillips

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

The declaratory judgment action has been delayed. The 60 days period expired on March 12, 2018. Since the Coordinator of Elections, Mark Goins did not respond, Attorney Ryder called Mr. Goins to verify that his non-response was his response. Mr. Goins informed Attorney Ryder that the petition was defective. An amended petition was filed last week. The Coordinator of Elections has received the amended petition. Once Mr. Goins has reviewed the petition, Mr. Goins and Attorney Ryder will verify the petition next week. June 8, 2018, is the new response due date. June 9, 2018, Attorney Ryder will report the Coordinator's response to the Commissioners. Also, Attorney Ryder will wait for the referendum results of the August election before taking further action unless otherwise directed by the board.

Senate Bill #2271 failed in the Senate State Local Government Committee.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Nollner presented an idea for hiring Election Day workers.

Commissioner Nollner inquired about Machine Tech skill level for new equipment.

Commissioner Lester inquired about the poll worker pay increase.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Regular Commission Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

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OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Phillips, Administrator
Joe Young, Deputy Administrator
Carla Lytle, Operations Manager
Genine Taylor, VCS Manager
Deborah Upchurch, Staff
Leonard Hopkins, ITS


Attorney Varela
Attorney Ryder
Attorney Bibbs
Attorney Hagler
Dei Gill
Suzanne Thompson- Cozza




Robert Meyers, Chairman



Date



Norma Lester, Secretary



Date



Shelby County Election Commission

Administrator of Elections Monthly Report April 2018

Voter and Candidate Services

- Campaign Finance – First Quarter 2018 reports were due April 10th. 21 reports were not filed timely; letters have gone out.. A list of late filers is included in your folder. The Pre-Primary report is due April 24th; letters have been mailed.
- 96 petitioners for the August and November elections were filed. A list of those filed locally and the state list are in your folders.
- We are also working on petitions for the Libertarian party. In the first six batches, we have validated 1,782 signatures. We have several hundred more pages to verify. They are seeking to obtain status as a recognized minor party under TCA §2-13-107. This requires obtaining signatures of 2.5% of the votes cast for governor in the last election, or 33,844 valid signatures.
- Absentee Voting – 52 Nursing Homes have been visited and 528 residents voted. 39 UOCAVA ballots have been sent; five have been returned. We have processed 71 regular applications.
- There were 5,366 new registrations since the March meeting. Contrast that with 948 in January.
- We have four more high schools to visit. 2,579 applications have been received and processed from school visits.
- The Voter Participation Center mailed roughly 33,000 letters to Shelby County voters who appeared to have moved within Shelby County. 2,697 of the letters they mailed have been completed by voters and sent to us for address changes.
- Approximately 9% of the polling place change letters were returned as undeliverable. Those voters have had their status changed to inactive and the

second required mailing has been sent. That work will be completed well before the deadline. If those voters respond to the mailing, then they will be returned to active status. If they do not respond and do not vote in November, 2018 or November, 2020 they will be removed in 2021.

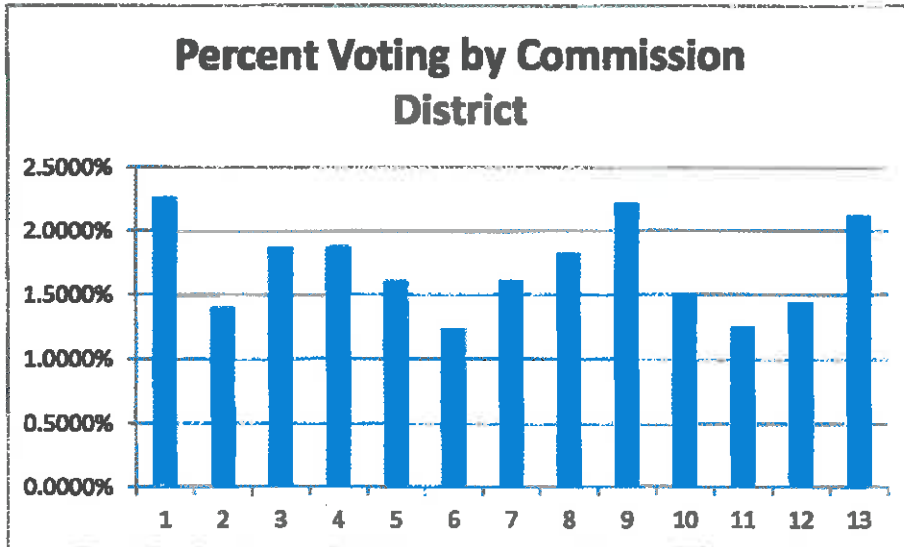
- The Memphis Police Association reported that their signature project is meeting their deadlines; in the same conversation they inquired what the cost of a special election would be.

Operations Department

- The public inspection of voting machines is scheduled for Monday, April 23rd at 9:00am. The auditors will be here. Candidates and news media have been invited.
- The voting machines are being prepped and tested.
- All Election Workers have been hired. Training classes continue.
- Joe has continued to dog the problem of the malfunctioning scanners. After working with Shelby County IT and ES&S, two of them are functioning. On Election Day, ES&S is sending their scanner/network expert, so we should be covered.
- 9,588 Voters have voted early through yesterday; there have been four provisional ballots. This breaks out to:

Type	Democratic	Republican	Total
Early	5,019	3,963	8,982
Nursing Home	289	239	528
Absentee	39	39	78

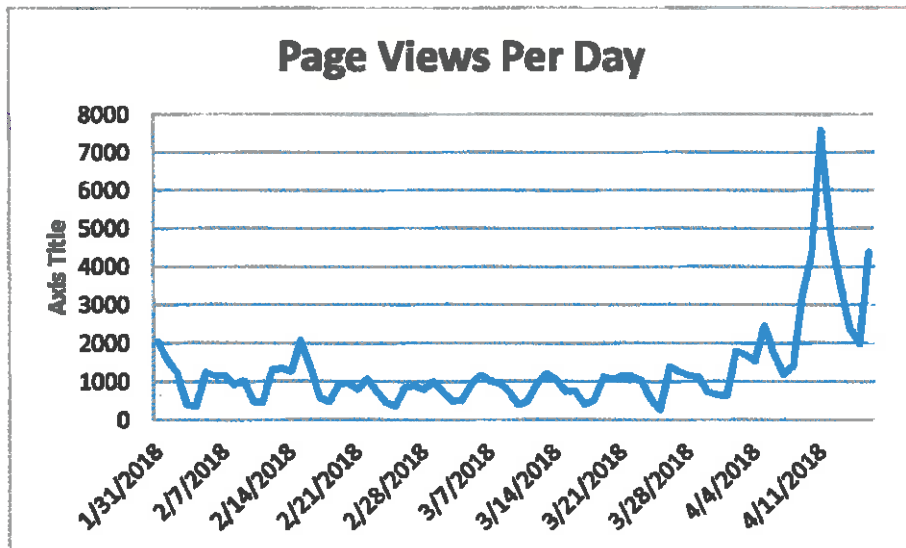
- The percent of registered voters who have voted so far, by Commission District, can be seen in the chart below.



Administrator

- A quick reminder in case you get questions. Candidates and their supporters have to remain behind the 100 foot boundary; no campaign activity can happen within that area. We have instructed officers to call law enforcement if candidates continue to violate the law. Candidates are not permitted in the polling place except to cast their own ballot. And, no, candidates may not escort disabled voters into the polls.
- Another reminder – The only people allowed in the polls are people employed by the Election Commission, news media, voters, and poll watchers with credentials. Current elected officials, party operatives, people gathering signatures, pollsters, and others who want to talk to voters must do so outside the 100 foot line.
- The recent media reports about people having trouble with the voting machines seem to us to greatly exaggerate the issue. As always, if you hear of any issues, we need to talk directly to the voter. Remind people – take their time, use the stylus, review the summary page, ask for help if they need it. These machines are aging; they aren't as quick to respond as modern capacitive touch screens on tablets and smart phone.
- We do have a request to replace the machines in the 2019 Capital Improvement Plan; you might ask Commissioners that you know to support the project. If approved, we would have sufficient funding in FY19 to put out an RFP, select a system and get some of the equipment in the first quarter of 2019. The rest

would be purchased in FY20 and partially in FY21 (The November 2020 election is in FY21.)



- Sometime today we will hit the milestone of 100,000 page views of our new website. (We were at 98,953 last night at midnight.) The chart above shows the page views per day since the debut on January 31st. While the fact that we are having an election is part of the increase in traffic, I would like to think that the actually being able to find things on it is also helping.
- Our photographer will be here on Election Day taking photographs – one of the ways to keep our website fresh is to change out the pictures. So, please be aware that you may be in some candid's and/or action shots.
- And in the "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery" department, we were amused by the tweet in your folders from St. Louis County Election Board. The photo they used is of poll workers in Shelby County from the 2017 Arlington Election.
- We continue to gain followers on Facebook and Twitter and are starting to do some Facebook live videos. As another FYI, employees of the Election Commission are permitted to take photographs inside a polling place; this falls under the education provision.
- The Tennessee Democratic Party disqualified a candidate. A copy of their letter is in your folder.

- We have turned over two pieces of campaign literature that appear to violate Tennessee law to the District Attorney General and the Bureau of Ethics.
- And as another reminder, we are not the sign police. Candidate signs must comply with the local ordinances; just because they have always had big signs doesn't mean they can still have them.
- We have started work on the 2nd Quarter newsletter. If you have any story ideas, please let me know. We are tentatively planning stories on the municipal elections and nursing home voting.
- Joe is continuing to focus on security. We have the opportunity to have the Center for Internet Security monitor the traffic on our network at no charge to us; we are exploring whether this adds benefit or if it duplicates what Shelby County IT is already doing. We are starting the process to request adding a generator to this building; it might be more cost effective to rent one during election periods but we would still need this building wired, so it could switch over. In the meantime, we are installing a standard landline and fax machine so results could be disseminated even in the event of a network failure.
- Outreach events have been somewhat reduced since voter registration closed but Carol has done a program on Restoration of Rights at the Day Reporting Center, a program at the Center for Independent Living tomorrow and a community event at Overton High School on April 26th. Our deputy registrars are continuing to do some events.
- We are finalizing the design for the new voter registration card; we've looked at samples from across the United States; the one from Seminole County Florida is one of the best – there is a sample in your folder. The card will likely be a four color pre-printed 8.5 x 11 self mailer and will have either an integrated card or a perforation where the voter can tear the card out. Integrated cards generally hold up better but they are more expensive. Both integrated and perforated cards can cause printing problems, so the jury is still out on that decision. IT is working with the printer vendor to find the best combination.
- Days to Upcoming Events:
 - 2018 County Primary Election – 14 Days
 - 2018 Primary and County General Election – 107 Days
 - 2018 General Election – 203 Days