

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 15, 2026, 4:00 p.m.**

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling (arrived at 4:04 p.m.); Secretary Denise D. Shepherd; Commissioners Patricia D. Collins and Jeffery B. Hulsey.

Members absent: Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulsey. Also present: Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections and Annette Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by acting Chairman Fussell. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and the motion passed 3 – 0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd to approve the December 09, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes and the motion passed 3 – 0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

There were four appeals. SCA, WJRB, MPS, and DHC inadvertently marked “Yes” to “Have you been convicted of a felony?” An appeal form was mailed to the voters who completed the appeal form that they had not, in fact, been convicted of a felony. After the Commissioners reviewed the documentation for each voter, a motion was made by Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Collins to accept the voter registration application of SCA and the motion passed 3 – 0 to appropriately register the voter to vote. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Collins to accept the voter registration

application of WJRB and the motion passed 3 – 0 to appropriately register the voter to vote. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Collins to accept the voter registration application of MPS and the motion passed 3 – 0 – 1 with Commissioner Ehmling abstaining due to his arrival mid-review, to appropriately register the voter to vote. A motion was made by Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Fussell to accept the voter registration application of PHC and the motion passed 4 – 0 to appropriately register the voter to vote.

B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Commissioners inspected 61 voter registration applications out of 609 new registration applications with no discrepancies noted. Commissioners present signed the report to be submitted to the State Division of Elections.

C. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR

- **FACILITY UPDATE**
- **BUDGET UPDATE**

AOE combined the Facility update and Budget updates, stating that the Budget Committee met Monday night, January 12, 2026 and voted to pass three items:

- 1) funding the moving of the two Rotomat machines to 1019 USR
- 2) funding the wiring of 1019 USR for the Rotomat machines
- 3) moving the SCEC account lines items from 1100 to 8000

Item 3 was completed earlier today; Item 2 will go before the SCC on January 26, 2026, for full County Commission approval; Item 1 will be presented for a second reading to the Budget Committee at the next budget meeting.

- **REVIEW AND APPROVE MAY 5, 2026, ELECTION POLL WORKERS**

AAOE presented the Poll Worker List for approval. Motion by Commissioner Collins to accept the Poll Workers presented with the caveat that the AOE and AAOE could make any changes as needed to properly administer the election, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Fussell, and the motion passed 4 – 0.

- **ANNUAL WORKPLACE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING**

AOE presented the Power Point presentation provided by the State Division of Elections to the Commissioners. All Commissioners present and the AOE signed the State provided form verifying completion of the Workplace and Sexual Harassment Training.

- **OTHER**

AOE stated the City of Portland passed an ordinance to place a local option for a Sales and Use Tax Referendum on the ballot. Law Director Eric Sitler emailed the AOE a copy of Resolution 2510-20 signed on October 21, 2025; whereby, the County Commission declined to pursue a county wide sales tax increase. A local Sales Tax Referendum will be placed on the City of Portland ballot for the May 05, 2026 Election.

VI. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

None.

B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Collins inquired as to dates to begin scheduling High Schools for the TCA required registration hours. AAOE advised a dates had not yet been set, but would coordinate a schedule with the appropriate school board personnel.

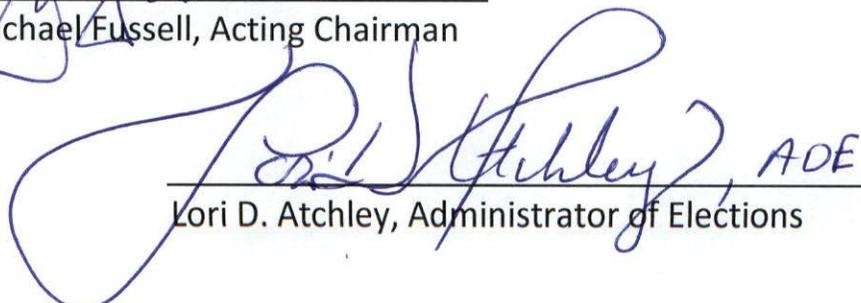
VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 4 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.


M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman


Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary


J. Michael Fussell, Acting Chairman


Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections

ABBREVIATION LEGEND:

SCEC: Sumner County Election Commission
AOE: Administrator of Elections
AAOE: Assistant Administrator of Elections
TCA: Tennessee Code Annotated
1019: 1019 Union School Rd
RPSC: Republican Party of Sumner County

SCC: Sumner County Commission
SCM: Sumner County Mayor
CVCs: Convenient Vote Centers
355: County Administration Building
TRP: Tennessee Republican Party