SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Members present: Acting Chairman J. Michael Fussell; Secretary Denise D. Shepherd and Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulsey. **Members absent:** Chairman M. Allen Ehmling and Commissioner Patricia D. Collins. 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 Hulsey 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 Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd to approve the June 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and the motion passed 3 – 0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

There were four appeals. Voters BML, SDL, KAM and RTU each marked "Yes" to the "Have you been convicted of a felony?" declaration question. An appeal form was mailed to each applicant, who completed the appeal form that they had not, in fact, been convicted of a felony. After the Commissioners present reviewed the documentation for applicants BML, SDL, KAM and RTU, a motion was made by Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey, to group, approve and accept the voter registration applications of BML, SDL, KAM and RTU. The motion passed 3 – 0 to properly register the applicants to vote.

B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Commissioners inspected 75 of 745 new voter registration applications with no discrepancies noted. Commissioners present signed the report to be submitted to the State Division of Elections.

C. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR

- **BUDGET UPDATE**

  The 2026 – 2027 budget was officially passed on June 29, 2026. Convenient vote centers and renovations to 1019 were omitted as previously reported.

- **BUILDING RESTROOM FACILITIES**

  AOE stated that the Legislature passed a law that allowed county Election Commissions across the state to decide if candidates and candidate workers could use restroom facilities at the polling locations and precincts. The language specifically stated "may," and the Coordinator of Elections Goins instructed AOE's to submit the matter for discussion, at an open meeting, to the Election Commission to consider and vote on the matter for the record. Motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd to keep the current SCEC policy in place prohibiting use of restroom facilities at polling locations and precincts by candidates and candidate workers, and the motion passed 3 - 0.

- **OTHER**

  AOE presented a list of acceptable spelling of names for a local write-n candidate. Motion by Commissioner Hulsey seconded by Commissioner Shepherd to adopt the "uniform list of names" as presented and modified with two additions. The motion passed 3 – 0.

  AOE stated the City of Gallatin, via Private Chapter 8 House Bill No. 1548 of the Legislature, Ordinance Number O2301-6 and Resolution Number R2305-43 removed the position of City Recorder as an elected position. AOE confirmed appropriate documentation with the State Division of Elections, and the office of City Recorder is no longer an elected position and will no longer appear on the ballot for the City of Gallatin.

AOE stated that SCM Isbell closed all county buildings at Noon on July 8, 2026 to allow employees to participate in the Sumner County 250th America birthday celebration.

VI. REPORT FROM COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

None.

B. ELECTION COMMISSION

None.

VII. CERTIFY AUGUST 6, 2026 VOTING MACHINES

Commissioners certified the precinct/polling location August 6, 2026 Voting Machines and signed the certification.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 3 - 0. The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

J. Michael Fussell, Acting Chairman

Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary

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

SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
NOTICE TO CANDIDATES/SUPPORTERS

Pursuant to TCA 2-7-103 Persons allowed to be in polling place.

(a) No person may be admitted to a polling place while the procedures required by this chapter are being carried out except election officials, voters, persons properly assisting voters, the press, poll watchers appointed under 2-7-104 and others bearing written authorization from the county election commission.

You **CAN NOT** enter the polling place to use the restroom or make any inquiry to any voting official as to number of people who have voted, wait times, etc. Taking off your voting paraphernalia is **NOT** sufficient. Unless you are at your polling site to vote, which means you are casting your vote, please get in line, sign in with the registrar, vote on the machine and leave the polling place. You are there to vote and not campaign and should not greet or otherwise engage voters. In addition, please do not call the office for numbers throughout the day as we are not live and results are best located on our website after voting has ended.

(b) Candidates may be present after the polls close.

NOTE: **Only a CANDIDATE** has a right to be present after the polls close. Someone collecting numbers for you **HAS NO RIGHT TO BE THERE!** This also does not mean you have the right to interfere with machine operators or officers in the performance of their duties. The tally tapes will be posted in an area visible when the poll workers leave - ie a window or door on the outside of the building.

100' Boundary:

TCA 2-7-111 and 2-19-119 discuss specifically that a 100' boundary exists where the display of campaign posters, signs or other campaign materials, distribution of campaign materials, and solicitation of votes for or against any person, political party, or position on a question are prohibited.

Sometimes, often times, the boundary line falls in the middle of a road, parking lot, gravel area, etc. where we cannot safely place the marker. In this situation, the Coordinator of Elections has concluded that we **CAN EXTEND THE BOUNDARY** to the closest possible area where we can place the marker.

Your cooperation in these matters is greatly appreciated.

Lori D. Atchley

Lori D. Atchley
Administrator of Elections

Rev 6/2026

SENATE BILL 232
By Akbari

HOUSE BILL 659

By Chism

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 7, relative to polling places.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-7-111, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(e) A county election commission may designate restroom facilities in a building in which the election is to be held that are for the use of workers or volunteers working for a campaign. Workers and volunteers of a campaign working outside of a polling place may use restroom facilities in the building in which the election is held that have been designated for use by workers or volunteers working for a campaign, but shall not enter the polling place. A worker or volunteer of a campaign shall cover or remove clothing or accoutrements bearing campaign material before entering the boundary designated under subsection (a). A worker or volunteer of a campaign who enters the boundary without covering or removing campaign material, or who attempts to solicit votes within the boundary, may be subject to punishment under § 2-19-119.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it.