

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling, Secretary Denise D. Shepherd, Commissioner Patricia D. Collins, Commissioner J. Michael Fussell and Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulse. 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 Chairman Ehmling with a motion by Commissioner Hulse, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 5 – 0. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Hulse made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 5 – 0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Fussell to approve the May 13, 2025 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 5 – 0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

There was one appeal. STC marked “Yes” to the “Have you been convicted of a felony?” declaration question. An appeal form was mailed to the voter who clarified with signature that there had been no felony conviction. After the Commissioners reviewed the documentation, a motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd to accept the voter

registration application of STC to appropriately register the voter to vote and the motion passed 5 – 0.

B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Commissioners inspected 45 voter registration applications out of 444 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

AOE stated that the situation remains unchanged. SCEC Attorney Tom Lee submitted the request for a status hearing with the Chancery Court. No response was received as of the meeting.

- BUDGET UPDATE

Budget hearings are ongoing. AOE received an email notification from the Finance Department that the budget committee rejected the original/initial SCEC approved and submitted budget and made amendments, and that a revised SCEC budget could be resubmitted within ten (10) days. AOE, within the 10-day time frame, resubmitted the approved SCEC budget with no changes. According to the Finance Department email, a second budget hearing will be scheduled for the SCEC to address the SCEC budget. No notification of the hearing date or time has yet been received. AOE and AAOE are continuing to implement CVC's as instructed by the SCEC. The Finance Department notified all departments that the budget would "probably" not be approved by the SCC on June 30, 2025, as initially released as the targeted date. AOE stated that a long-term equipment staff member has permanently retired, and another full-time permanent staff member is needed; however, without the budget finalization, the position could not be filled without funding approval. AOE had spoken to Attorney Tom Lee, who agreed/advised to fill the position with part time personnel until the matter was resolved.

- **EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS**

AOE requested that Commissioners consider extending Early Voting satellite location dates to increase voter participation. Suggestions would be to potentially include Goodlettsville, White House, Portland and Westmoreland for the full length of the Early Voting period citing that other counties' voter participation had increased when those counties increased the number of Early Voting locations and Election Day traffic was reduced. Commissioners requested more information regarding costs and growth statistics to consider the matter further.

- **OTHER**

None.

REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

Reported/confirmed a conversation with Attorney Tom Lee and in agreement regarding hiring an additional part-time [currently] equipment staff member required to perform statutorily required election processes and procedures.

B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

No reports.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.


M. Allen Ehmling, 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

SCC: Sumner County Commission

SCM: Sumner County Mayor