

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
SPECIAL CALL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling; Secretary Denise D. Shepherd; Commissioners Patricia D. Collins, and Jeffery B. Hulsey. **Members Absent:** J. Michael Fussell. 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. with a motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 4 – 0. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Hulsey made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 4 – 0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the February 11, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes and the motion passed 4 – 0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR

- 2026 CONVENIENT VOTE CENTER LOCATIONS

AOE and AAOE presented a list of proposed sites for Convenient Vote Centers. AOE explained that per TCA [2-3-103] requirements, the maximum size for a precinct is 6,000 voters, although there is a provision that the Election Commission may approve a higher number of voters, which the SCEC has decided to do in the past. However, Sumner County continues to grow. At the current population level, Sumner County would need to add eight precincts to

meet not only the 6,000-voter requirement per precinct, but the additional requirement of 1,000 maximum voters per voting machine. AOE explained that there are not sufficient locations within the current 24 Sumner County Commission districts (changed by the CC prior to 2022) to accommodate an additional eight precincts, as many voting facilities currently utilized as precincts are churches. Churches are not required to allow voting within facilities, and noted several churches had declined or rescinded requests to use church facilities. AOE recommended implementing Convenient Vote Centers (CVC's). Commissioners reviewed the potential locations on the map that identified 24 CVC locations, as opposed to 37 precincts. SCEC has sufficient voting machines to accommodate the locations, which allows a maximum of 10,000 voters per location. Recent statistics indicate that utilizing CVCs increase voting by 10%. AOE advised that the CC removed CVC funding for the July 1, 2024 – June 31, 2025, budget cycle; however, the process to implement CVCs, if approved, must begin immediately in preparation for the 2026 Election Cycle, as petitions will be available for candidates December 22, 2025. AOE made an inquiry regarding funding. Chairman Ehmling to contact attorney Tom Lee for a recommendation in light of the ongoing legal matter with the CC regarding the permanent location of the SCEC staff operations and equipment. Motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins to implement CVCs and the motion passed 4 – 0.

- **2025 – 2026 BUDGET APPROVAL**

AOE and AAOE presented the SCEC 2025 – 2026 budget for approval to submittal to the CC. SCEC budget as amended to include funding of CVCs and the permanent staff and office operations relocation to 1019 Union School Road Gallatin, TN 37066. SCEC budget to submit was approved with a motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 4 -0. AOE will submit the approved budget to the Finance Department prior to the March 1, 2025, deadline.

- **OTHER**

None

VI. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

No report.

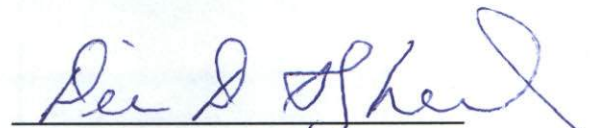
B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

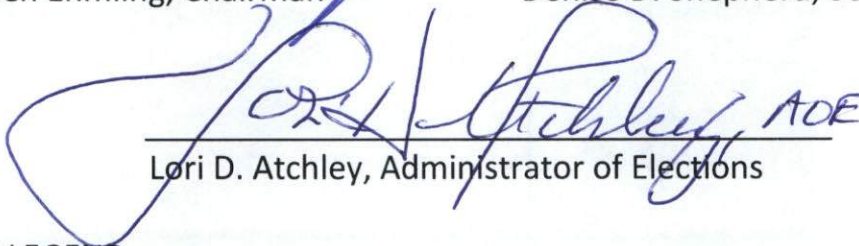
No report.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 4 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 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
CVC: Convenient Vote Centers