

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING REGARDING  
THE CHALLENGE TO THE CANDIDATE PETITION OF LASHONDA JONES**

Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.  
Sumner County Auxiliary Building  
1019 Union School Road  
Gallatin, Tennessee 37066

**I. Call to order**

Chairman Ehmling called the Quasi-Judicial hearing to order at 4:00 p.m. Commissioners present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling; Secretary Denise D. Shepherd; Commissioner J. Michael Fussell; Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulsey. Also present Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections; Annette Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections; Tennessee Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins present via Zoom. Also present: Court Reporter, Dawn Scruggs.

**Purpose of Meeting**

Conduct a Quasi-Judicial hearing (hearing) on the residency challenge of the nominating petition of Ms. Lashonda Jones to be a candidate for City of Gallatin Alderman, At-Large on the November 5, 2024, City of Gallatin Municipal Election ballot.

Election Commissioners identified themselves by stating their name for the record.

**Oath Administered**

Chairman Ehmling administered the oath to the AOE, Ms. Jones, Mr. Overton and to the witnesses.

**II. Opening Statement by Challenger James (Jimmy) Overton**

Mr. Overton stated that he was a former City of Gallatin Councilman, and he did not believe that Ms. Jones met the two-year residency requirement for Alderman, At-Large for the City of Gallatin.

**III. Opening Statement by Candidate Lashonda Jones**

None

**IV. Presentation of Facts by Administrator of Elections Lori D. Atchley (AOE)**

AOE presented a 19-page summary of information, and the signed Application for Ballot for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Preference Primary, in which Ms. Jones affirmed that she lived at a Hendersonville address. Documents in the summary of information presented are attached

**Questions from the Election Commission Members**

None.

**V. Presentation of Facts by Candidate, Lashonda Jones.**

Ms. Jones presented documents that were entered into evidence as exhibits to the court reporter.

Ms. Jones stated that she had been a resident of Gallatin at 498 Peach Valley Rd, Gallatin, TN for approximately two years. Ms. Jones maintained that the property at 1097 Mt. Olivet Road, Hendersonville was her mailing address.

Three witnesses testified on behalf of Ms. Jones:

Vickie Hendricks  
560 Peach Valley Road  
Gallatin, TN 37066

Pascal Jouvence  
1335 Long Hollow Pike  
Gallatin, TN 37066

Artez Crutcher  
1019 Grider Dr

Gallatin, TN 37066

**VI. Questions from Election Commission Members**

Various questions regarding documents presented and statements made by Ms. Jones in regard to Ms. Jones residency by the Sumner County Election Commission Members. Various questions by Coordinator Goins regarding Ms. Jones residency.

**VII. Closing statement by Challenger James (Jimmy) Overton**

None

**VIII. Closing Statement by Candidate Lashondra Jones**

Ms. Jones reiterated earlier comments regarding residency and requested the SCEC place her name on the ballot for the City of Gallatin Alderman, At-Large.

**IX. Discussion by Commission Members**

General discussion about the information regarding Ms. Jones residency presented during the hearing.

**X. Determination and Conclusion**

Motion by Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Hulseley that Lashonda Jones did not meet the City of Gallatin charter residency requirements to run for City of Gallatin Alderman, At-Large, and that her name shall not be placed on the ballot. The motion passed unanimously 4 – 0.

**XI. Adjournment**


Commissioner Fussell made a motion to adjourn the hearing, seconded by Commissioner Hulseley and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

**NOTE: The contact information for the court report is included in the attached documentation. A full transcript of the hearing is available for purchase.**

SIGNATURES OF SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY AND SUMNER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF ELECTIONS.

  
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M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman

  
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Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary

  
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Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections

**Dawn Scruggs, Court Reporter  
for Aug 28, 2024 @ 4pm  
Quasi-Judicial Hearing**

Dawn S. Scruggs, LCR, CCR

615-655-3007  
depodawn@nctc.com  
3890 Scottsville Road  
Lafayette, Tennessee 37083