

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling, Secretary Denise D. Shepherd, Commissioner J. Michael Fussell and Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulse. **Member Absent:** 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 Chairman Ehmling. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Hulse to approve the July 10, 2025, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Fussell and the motion passed 3 - 0 - 1 with Chairman Ehmling abstaining.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

There was one (1) appeal. MKM 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 for the voter, a motion was made by Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Fussell to accept the voter registration application of MKM to appropriately register the voter to vote and the motion passed 4 – 0.

B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Commissioners inspected 77 voter registration applications out of 767 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 a court hearing was held in Chancery Court on August 11, 2025; whereby, Chancery Court Judge Oliver denied the CC motion to require the SCEC to relocate to the Archive Building Warehouse area, citing the CC's failure to comply with the original order of the court. The order directed that the CC meet with the SCEC and County Mayor to attempt to arrive at a solution regarding the permanent location of the SCEC. CC attorney R. Pepper stated that although the CC was willing to meet with the SCEC to answer questions regarding the plan to relocate the SCEC to the archives warehouse area, the CC would not consider any modifications to the CC plan submitted. The Judge specifically inquired of CC attorney Pepper how the initial CC plan submitted December 17, 2024 that failed to pass by a vote of 11 – 9 was resubmitted with changes and subsequently passed by the CC on January 13, 2025 with a vote of 15 – 6 with modifications; however, no meeting of the CC ad hoc committee between those dates was noticed and there was no evidence such meeting occurred which defied the court's instruction that all meetings be held in such a manner as to include the public. Pepper had no response/explanation other than to make an inquiry to the CC. Additionally, the Judge cited failure of the CC plan to include accommodations to relocate the current contents of the archives warehouse area that houses approximately 15 additional county departments' documents as well as court documents and files; the CC plan included no plan or monetary provisions for remodeling of the archives warehouse area for use by the SCEC; the CC plan provided no timeline for the SCEC relocation; and the CC plan did not include funding for the physical move of the SCEC, which the SCEC had included in the 2025 – 2026 budget but was removed by the CC. The Judge directed SCEC attorney Tom Lee to prepare the order to the court for approval and signature.

- **BUDGET UPDATE**

AOE advised that the SCEC approved budget was not approved by the CC, and SCEC attorney Tom Lee would be considering options to ensure that the statutorily required duties and responsibilities of the SCEC were properly funded, as required by TCA.

- **OTHER**

AOE announced that an alternate Early Voting location at Community Church had been secured for Hendersonville, as the Church of Christ facility was no longer available; however, Community Church had evening obligations for the facility that would require voting hours to be 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. to accommodate both Early Voting and the facility obligations. Motion by Commissioner Fussell to approve the Community Church Hendersonville Early Voting location, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey and the motion passed 4 – 0. Motion by Commissioner Fussell to approve the voting hours of 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. at the Community Church location, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey. Discussion ensued. Motion by Commissioner Fussell to call the question on the motion, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey and the motion passed 4 - 0. The Chairman called for a vote on the motion by Commissioner Fussell to approve the voting hours of 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. at the Community Church location, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey and the motion passed 3 – 1 - 0 with Commissioner Shepherd voting nay. Commissioners agreed, as has been previously voted upon and was a matter of record, to continue with the implementation of CVCs.

VI. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

No report.

B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

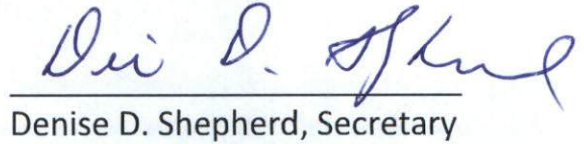
Commissioner Shepherd announced that August 11, 2025, was National Poll Worker Recruitment Day hosted by the League of Women Voters, which could increase poll worker inquiries with the SCEC office about becoming a poll worker. She posted a link on the LOWV website to direct potential Sumner County poll workers to the SCEC website.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Fussell to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 4 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 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
TCA: Tennessee Code Annotated

SCC: Sumner County Commission
SCM: Sumner County Mayor
CVCs: Convenient Vote Centers