

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 26, 2026, 1:00 p.m.**

**Members present:** Chairman M. Allen Ehmling; Secretary Denise D. Shepherd; Commissioners Patricia D. Collins, J. Michael Fussell and Jeffery B. Hulsey. Also present: Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections; Annette Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections; and SCEC Attorney Tom Lee.

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Ehmling. A quorum was present.

Chairman Fussell made a motion to go into Executive Session with Attorney Tom Lee regarding the pending litigation with the County Commission, seconded by Patricia Collins and the motion passed 5 – 0. The SCEC went into Executive Session at 1:03 p.m.

Chairman Fussell made a motion to conclude the Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Collins, and the motion passed 5 – 0. The Executive Session concluded at 1:43 p.m.

**II. APPROVE AGENDA**

Commissioner Fussell 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, seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the January 15, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes and the motion passed 4 – 0 – 1 with Commissioner Hulsey abstaining.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

## **A. APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS**

There were no appeals.

## **B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS**

Commissioners inspected 81 voter registration applications out of 802 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**

### **- FACILITY UPDATE**

The County Commission denied two appropriation requests by the SCEC - one to appropriate the funds to wire the election office for the installation of the Rotomat machines, and the second to appropriate funds to move the Rotomat machines. The Rotomat machines will remain at 355 Belvedere Drive, and the SCEC will continue to store the permanent voter registration cards on temporary shelves at the election office.

### **- BUDGET UPDATE**

The County Commission denied both appropriation requests submitted for the items above. The 2025 – 2026 budget balance should be sufficient to fund the SCEC budget for the remainder of the fiscal year.

### **- APPROVE 2026 BUDGET TO BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 1.**

AOE presented the 2026 – 2027 budget for approval by the SCEC to submit to the Finance Department before the March 1, 2026, due date. Motion by Commissioner Fussell to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, and the motion passed 5 – 0. AOE stated that budget hearings were March 25 and 26; however, no time had been set for the SCEC hearing.

### **- APPROVE MAY 5, 2026 CANDIDATES**

AOE stated that incumbent Robert “Bob” Brown, County Commissioner District 17 had properly withdrawn earlier in the day, triggering the Anti-Skulduggery Act of 1991 [TCA 2- 5-101 (h)]; thereby, extending the Qualifying Deadline for

Republican and Democratic Candidates for that office for 7 days, or until March 5, 2026 at NOON, and extend the Withdrawal Deadline for that office to March 9, 2026 at NOON. AOE recommended scheduling two Special Call Meeting dates to formalize the May 5, 2026, candidate list. 1) March 5, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. [predicated on no other candidates qualifying for that office] and 2) March 9, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. [assuming there are additional candidates who qualify for that office.]

- **BOOK SCEC TIMES FOR COUNTING BOARD**

05/05/2026 2:00 p.m. Hulsey/Collins 7:00 p.m. Fussell/Shepherd  
Ehmling may attend either or both.

- **APPROVE THE 2026 MACHINE TECHNICIANS**

AOE presented three voting machine technicians for approval: KW/GSH/LM. Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey to approve the machine technicians as presented and the motion passed 5 – 0.

- **OTHER**

AOE advised that a new Federal mandate requires government websites to be ADA compliant by April 24, 2026. AAOE submitted an appropriation request to the Finance Department for \$5,185 to update the SCEC website to meet the requirements.

**VI. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS**

**A. CHAIRMAN**

None.

**B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Shepherd reported that she was in contact with a student who wanted to assist in voter registration drives at the high schools. AAOE to assist in coordinating events with the high schools to meet the TCA requirements.

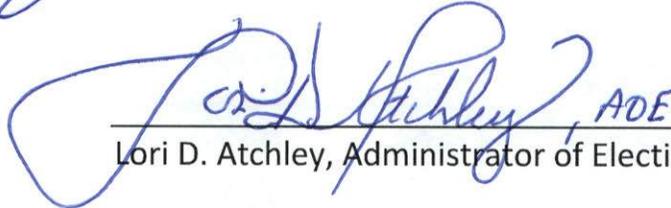
**VII. LOCK & SEAL MAY 5, 2026, ELECTION BALLOT BAGS**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Hulse, seconded by Commissioner Collins to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 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  
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

Our office has **moved** to 1019 Union School Rd  
click [Here](#) for map

## Tuesday, May 5, 2026 Election: State and Sumner County Primary



### Candidate Information

#### LEGAL NOTICE

##### Extension of Qualifying Deadline for Sumner County Commission District 17 For Republican and Democratic Primary Candidates

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 2-5-101(h), the qualifying deadline for Republican and Democratic primary candidates for the office of County Commission District 17 has been extended due to the withdrawal of an incumbent candidate. Accordingly, qualifying for Republican and Democratic primary candidates for County Commission District 17 shall remain open **until 12:00 noon (CST) on Thursday, March 5, 2026.**

This extension applies only to primary candidates for the office of County Commission District 17, as authorized under T.C.A. § 2-5-101(h)(3)(A). No other offices are affected by this extension. Independent candidates are not eligible to qualify during this extended period.

The deadline for withdrawal by any additional qualifying primary candidates under this extension shall be **12:00 noon (CST) on Monday, March 9, 2026.**

This notice serves as official public notice of the revised qualifying and withdrawal deadlines. All other qualifying deadlines, requirements, and procedures not expressly stated herein remain unchanged.

Issued this day February 26, 2026.

#### Sumner County Election Commission

M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman, Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary  
Patricia D. Collins, Member, J. Michael Fussell, Member, Jeffery B. Hulsey, Member  
Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections

**MAY 5, 2026 CANDIDATE PETITION REPORT**