

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MADISON
COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
DECEMBER 13, 2023**

A public meeting of the Madison County Election Commission was noticed and duly held and conducted at 9:00 a.m. on December 13, 2023, in the Board Room of the Madison County Chancery and Administrative Building in the City of Canton, Mississippi. The meeting was webcast live to the public through the County's website. The following Commissioners were present at the beginning of the meeting:

District One Commissioner Helen Carney
District Two Commissioner Lauren Payne
District Three Commissioner Pat Truesdale
District Four Commissioner Dan Dickinson
District Five Commissioner Leroy Lacy

Chairman Truesdale called the meeting to order and Commissioner Dickinson began the meeting with a prayer. Commissioner Carney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Commission reviewed the proposed minutes of its October 11th meeting, noting that it did not have an August meeting due to the primary elections. Commissioner Payne made a motion that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dickinson.

The Commission approved its minutes of its meeting, voting as follows:

District One Commissioner Helen Carney-"Aye"
District Two Commissioner Lauren Payne-"Aye"
District Three Commissioner Pat Truesdale-"Aye"
District Four Commissioner Dan Dickinson-"Aye"
District Five Commissioner Leroy Lacy-"Aye"

The Commission reviewed the proposed minutes of its November 15th meeting. Commissioner Payne made a motion that the minutes be accepted with the correction of including all Commissioners as present. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carney.

The Commission approved its minutes of its meeting, voting as follows:

District One Commissioner Helen Carney-"Aye"
District Two Commissioner Lauren Payne-"Aye"
District Three Commissioner Pat Truesdale-"Aye"
District Four Commissioner Dan Dickinson-"Aye"
District Five Commissioner Leroy Lacy-"Aye"

Commissioner Lacy made a motion to move Circuit Clerk Remarks down the agenda to after New Business. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carney and adopted by a unanimous vote. Commission Attorney Spence Flatgard joined the meeting.

The Commissioners next submitted their lists of names to be purged from voter rolls by District on a SEMS VR-007 Report showing voters who were deceased or who had moved. The Reports included the following totals of voters in each District: District 1 – 34, District 2 – 29, District 3 - 36, District 4 – 43 and District 5 – 13. The names to be purged on the VR-007 Reports were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Payne, a second by Commissioner Lacy and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Commission next considered the appropriate change of status from active status to inactive status for names on the voter rolls and on a SEMS VR-007 Report. The Reports included the following totals of voters in each District: District 1 – 64, District 2 – 5, District 3 - 59, District 4 – 31 and District 5 – 49. The Commission approved the changes and report upon a motion by Commissioner Payne, a second by Commissioner Lacy and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

In New Business:

- The Commission added Carla Holt and Anna Stine in District 1 to the permanent absentee ballot list upon a motion by Commissioner Carney, a second by Commissioner Dickinson and a unanimous vote of the Commission.
- The Commission added Madisa Johnson in District 2 to the permanent absentee ballot list upon a motion by Commissioner Payne, a second by Commissioner Dickinson and a unanimous vote of the Commission.
- The Commission added Frances Simpson, Jamie Ward, Alyce F. Palmor, Michael Harris and Willie Thompson in District 3 to the permanent absentee ballot list upon a motion by Commissioner Truesdale, a second by Commissioner Carney and a unanimous vote of the Commission.
- The Commission added Mittie M. Sanders in District 5 to the permanent absentee ballot list upon a motion by Commissioner Dickinson, a second by Commissioner Payne and a unanimous vote of the Commission.
- The Commissioners discussed a donation for the Silent Auction at the ECAM Convention next month. Commissioner Lacy offered to do so with personal contributions from individual Commissioners.
- The Commission approved the attached 2024 meeting schedule upon a motion by Commissioner Dickinson, a second by Commissioner Payne and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

- Commissioner Truesdale offered a motion to remove Billy E. Crenshaw from the Permanent Absentee Ballot List which was seconded by Commissioner Payne and approved by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Deputy Clerk Teresa Speaks joined the meeting and gave the Circuit Clerk office's report detailing the recent VR-001 Voter Movement Report including the movement of six hundred and forty-five (645) voters in the County since the October Commission meeting, which the Commission acknowledged and is available for inspection in the Circuit Clerk's office.

Chair Truesdale next solicited each Commissioner to critique the general election for suggestions on making improvements for the 2024 elections:

- Commissioner Payne stated the biggest complaint from poll workers was how the electronic poll books were slow, especially when attached to routers.
- Commissioner Dickinson suggested bringing in ES&S in to do hands on technical training. He also noted that the preemptive action to address the complexities of split precincts worked well this election.
- Commissioner Lacy said the Commission should have worked together on poll worker training.
- Commissioner Truesdale appreciated each Commissioners diligence and long days during election week. She said she would be glad to work with the other Commissioners in training both parties but needs the required agreement with both parties.
- Commissioner Carney expressed her view that the Commission's work on processing affidavit ballots was excellent and went smoothly.

The Commission Attorney then gave his report, stating that the general election went as well as any he has seen during his time working for the Commission. He expressed appreciation for Commissioner Dickinson and Commissioner Payne's service and friendship. He then submitted his invoice which the Commission reviewed and approved by a unanimous vote following a motion by Commissioner Lacy and a second by Commissioner Payne.

During Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Carney stated how much she appreciated working with Commissioners Dickinson and Payne. She also welcomed Anthony Denton and Barbara Gross to the Commission.

Commissioner Payne thanked everyone for the past three years, especially the citizens of District 2 who she had the privilege of serving. She wished Barbara Gross the best and offered her assistance. She closed by thanking everyone for their friendship.

Commissioner Truesdale thanked Commissioners Dickinson and Payne for their service and dedication. She also asked them to serve as poll workers 😊.

Commissioner Dickinson thanked everyone for the experience of serving on the Election Commission noting that he learned a lot while the Commission had many accomplishments. He specifically thanked the poll workers, Madison County staff and Circuit Clerk Wray and her staff for their help and friendship. He thanked Commissioner Truesdale for her leadership, Commissioner Carney for her hard work, Commissioner Payne for her innovative, productive ideas and work that was often understated but made a difference and Commissioner Lacy for being a model Commissioner for all voters. He wished the new Commission all the best moving forward.

Commissioner Lacy thanked Commissioners Dickinson and Payne for their service and belief in unity and teamwork. He wished the new Commissioners the best in the New Year.

Duane Thompson noted before adjourning that his team would work with the new Commissioners on several IT needs.

The Commission concluded its consideration of its agenda items and adjourned the meeting to meet next on January 9, 2024, upon a motion from Commissioner Lacy, a second from Commissioner Payne and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

WITNESS OUR HANDS, this the 9 th day of JANUARY , 2024.

CHAIRMAN

Attest:

SECRETARY