

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MADISON  
COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
MARCH 13, 2019**

A public meeting of the Madison County Election Commission was noticed and duly held and conducted at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 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 Julia Hodges  
District Three Commissioner Pat Truesdale  
District Four Commissioner Azzie Jackson-Adams  
District Five Commissioner Leroy Lacy

Commissioner Hodges called the meeting to order and Commissioner Lacy began the meeting with a prayer. Commissioner Jackson-Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Commission reviewed the proposed minutes of its February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Truesdale made a motion that the minutes be accepted as presented which was seconded by Commissioner Carney.

The Commission approved its minutes of its February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, voting as follows:

District One Commissioner Helen Carney-"Aye"  
District Two Commissioner Julia Hodges-"Aye"  
District Three Commissioner Pat Truesdale-"Aye"  
District Four Commissioner Azzie Jackson-Adams-"Aye"  
District Five Commissioner Leroy Lacy-"Aye"

The Commissioners submitted their individual lists of names to be purged from the voter rolls for voters who were deceased or who had moved. Commissioner Carney submitted a list of twenty-four (24) names, Commissioner Hodges submitted a list of nineteen (19) names, Commissioner Truesdale submitted a list of twenty (20) names, and Commissioner Jackson-Adams submitted a list of twenty-three (23) names and Commissioner Lacy submitted a list of seventeen (17) names. Each of these Commissioners also offered the required supporting documentation for their respective lists for the Commission's review. The Commission approved the purges upon a motion by Commissioner Lacy, a second by Commissioner Truesdale and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Commission next considered Commissioner requests to acknowledge the appropriate change of status from active status to inactive status for names on the voter rolls. Commissioner Carney submitted a list of twenty-eight (28) names, Commissioner Hodges submitted a list of twelve (12) names, Commissioner Truesdale submitted a list

of five (5) names and Commissioner Jackson-Adams submitted a list of seven (7) names. Each of these Commissioners also offered the required supporting documentation for their respective lists for the Commission's review. The Commission approved the purges upon a motion by Commissioner Truesdale, a second by Commissioner Jackson-Adams and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Commission reviewed the request to purges inactive voters who had not voted in two (2) federal elections, under the procedures of the National Voting Rights Act. Each District had the following number of names to be purged from the voter rolls: District 1 had 322 names, District 2 had 598 names, District 3 had 885 names, District 4 had 918 names and District 5 had 86 names. Commissioner Lacy asked to have time to review the names to ensure they had not voted recently. Commissioner Truesdale made the motion to request the Circuit Clerk to purge the names in one week, March 20<sup>th</sup> to allow Commissioner Lacy time to review his District's list. Commissioner Lacy seconded the motion which was adopted by a unanimous vote of the Commission. Commissioner Truesdale volunteered to convey the request to Circuit Clerk Wray.

At the beginning of Old Business, Deputy Circuit Clerk Ann Jones and Commission Attorney Spence Flatgard joined the meeting. The Commission noted that last day to inactivate voters before the next election was May 8, 2019. The Commission also discussed the need to purchase additional shelves which Commissioner Carney offered to order.

The Commission Attorney reported on his discussions with the party chairs regarding the Commission's proposal to handle this year's primary elections. The Republican Party accepted the Commission's offer. The Democratic Party Chair sent a letter on behalf of the Madison County Democratic Executive Committee rejecting the offer. James Powers, a member of the Democratic Executive Committee was in attendance and addressed the Commission stating his view that his Chairman's letter was not binding and that the Commission should strike it. The Commission Attorney responded that while Mr. Powers may have a different view than the Chairman, there had not been an acceptance of the Election Commission's offer. Chairman Hodges offered to delay further consideration of the handling of the primaries until the next Commission meeting following the Democratic party's upcoming meeting where they will have an opportunity to further discuss the Commission's offer.

Deputy Circuit Clerk Ann Jones gave her report, including providing the VR-001, Voter Movement Report which the Commission acknowledged by the Commission through a motion by Commissioner Truesdale, a second by Commissioner Jackson-Adams, and a unanimous vote of the Commission. The Report is available for public inspection in the Circuit Clerk's Office.

In New Business, the Commission:

- Changed the time of its Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Noted the need for laptop computers on election day to help process affidavit

ballots. The Commission will gather more information and discuss it further at its next meeting.

- Discussed emergency contingency plans for polling locations on election day in the event of dangerous weather conditions.
- Approved Commissioners Carney and Truesdale attendance at the 2019 Election Center Workshop in Virginia Beach, Virginia to be held April 24-28, 2019. Commissioner Lacy made the motion which was seconded by Commissioner Truesdale and approved by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Commission Attorney gave his report, including his efforts to respond to public records requests from the ACLU and NAACP. He reported that he had posted the qualifying deadline for the special election for District 1 Election Commissioner as June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and discussed it with the Chancery Clerk. He then submitted his legal bill for the Commission's review. Commissioner Lacy made a motion to approve the Commission Attorney's bill which was seconded by Commissioner Jackson-Adams and approved by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

During Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Hodges advised the Commission that they would have their election bags back soon following their use in the last election.

Commissioner Truesdale reported that she had met with the County's GIS Department and circulated an updated list of precinct names. She also circulated a draft of the partial list of responsibilities for the parties to execute in running the elections and a handout from the Secretary of State's office listing disenfranchising crimes.


Commissioners Jackson-Adams reviewed the benefit of the recent ECAM Conference in Biloxi and the need for the Commission to finalize emergency contingency plans for all polling locations.

Commissioner Lacy reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the new Fairview Church polling location for Precinct 528. He also expressed the benefits of coming to an agreement with the parties on the Commission's assistance in the upcoming primary elections.

During public comments, the Commission heard from James Powers and Lisa Williams regarding their comments and questions involving the primary elections.

The Commission concluded its consideration of its agenda items and adjourned the meeting upon a motion from Commissioner Lacy, a second by Commissioner Jackson-Adams and a unanimous vote of the Commission. The Commission's next regularly scheduled meeting is to be held on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

WITNESS OUR HANDS, this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019.

  
JULIA HODGES  
CHAIRMAN

Attest:



PAT TRUESDALE  
SECRETARY