

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MADISON  
COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 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, November 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 participated *via* telephone  
District Four Commissioner Azzie Jackson-Adams  
District Five Commissioner Leroy Lacy

Circuit Clerk Anita Wray, IT Director Duane Thompson, Bill Lowe with ES&S and Commission Attorney Spence Flatgard were also present.

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 October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Lacy made a motion that the minutes be accepted with the addition of inserting Commissioner Carney's name as a second to a motion which did not have a second recorded in the draft minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson-Adams and approved upon a unanimous vote.

Clerk Wray gave her report on the following items:

- Complimenting the Commission on doing a great job on the election. She received very few complaints other than a few calls asking for more privacy in small, crowded voting locations. Commissioner Carney is taking steps to address those concerns.
- Complimenting the voters for a strong turnout of 54%. She noted that she received 1,741 absentee ballots.
- Providing the VR-001 Voter Movement Report including the movement of 305 voters. The reports were acknowledged by the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Circuit Clerk's Office.
- Forwarding to the Commission the SoS's vendor for security audits. The Commission took the information under advisement and Commissioner Truesdale made a motion to also solicit a second quote for the service. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carney and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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 sixteen (16) names for District 1, Commissioner Hodges submitted a list of twenty-four (24) names for District 2, Commissioner Truesdale submitted a list of twenty-eight (28) names and Commissioner

Lacy previously submitted a list of eleven (11) 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 Jackson-Adams and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

In Old Business, Commissioner Hodges showed the Commission several options of sturdy ballot bags. Bill Lowe offered to provide pricing options as well. Commissioner Lacy made a motion for the Commission to ascertain the number of large green and red ballot bags it needed to order and to advise Commissioner Carney of that number by November 19<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Truesdale and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Under New Business, Bill Lowe presented the Commission with a contract for ES&S to provide election support for 2020. The proposed agreement was an amendment to the exhibit to current contract, inserting 2020 elections and a small increase in pricing. Commissioner Truesdale made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to enter into the amended contract which was seconded by Commissioner Lacy and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Commissioners engaged in a helpful discussion to critique the November election and identify areas which could be improved, including:

- Additional training of poll managers close to the election. Items to cover include preventable mistakes such as pulling the memory stick from the voting machines too soon.
- Poll workers training covers twelve (12) months, not calendar year.
- Addressing voter privacy in small voting locations with a high number of voters through positioning of tables and additional privacy screens.
- Doublechecking ballots delivered to the Courthouse on election night are in the correct bags.
- A second BOD (ballot on demand) should be purchased with our HAVA funds. Commissioner Hodges agreed to contact Kim Turner at the Secretary of State office for approval.

The Commission Attorney gave his report and submitted his legal bill for the Commission's review. Commissioner Jackson-Adams made a motion to approve the Commission Attorney's bill which was seconded by Commissioner Lacy and approved by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

During Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Carney reported that CNN came to one of her polling locations on election day and she allowed access to record 15 seconds of footage but not of voters voting. The Commission noted that the deadline to stop inactivating voters under the Voter Removal Program is December 10<sup>th</sup>, 90 days before the next federal election.

Commissioner Truesdale noted that the Democrat Party Chair advised the Commission at its August meeting that he would provide his party's list of poll workers and did not provide it despite repeated requests. For that reason and others, she is not interested in attempting to enter into another agreement to assist the party in the March primary election, which is March 20, 2020.

Commissioner Jackson-Adams expressed her view that the poll workers received an "A" for their excellent performance conducting the election.

Commissioner Lacy shared his preference that both parties run their own primary elections with the Commission providing poll worker training and technical support. He reported that the Canton Special elections went well and the County would be reimbursed. He announced that he would be travelling with his wife during the next Commission meeting and would call in to join the meeting.

The Commission concluded its consideration of its agenda items and adjourned the meeting with its next meeting to be held on December 11. The motion adjournment was made by Commissioner Lacy, seconded by Commissioner Carney and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

WITNESS OUR HANDS, this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

  
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JULIA HODGES  
CHAIRMAN

Attest:

  
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PAT TRUESDALE  
SECRETARY