

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MADISON  
COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

A public meeting of the Madison County Election Commission was noticed and duly held and conducted at 9:00 a.m. on September 11, 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

Circuit Clerk Anita Wray and Attorney Spence Flatgard were also present.

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

The Commission listened to public comments ahead of its regular agenda in order to accommodate the citizens who attended the meeting.

- Regina Edwards of 639 South Deerfield Drive, Canton, requested the Commission provide an improved situation than the current polling at Fairview Church. She stated the church was not big enough for the number of voters and there is not adequate parking. Voters have had to wait over 2 hours to vote in Presidential elections and park on both sides of Old Canton Road.
- Beth Landers of 611 South Deerfield Road agreed with Ms. Edwards' observations and added that her disability makes it difficult to vote under those circumstances.
- Chip Matthews, the Republican nominee for Supervisor of District 5, felt that the Democrats running their own primary election without a contract raised several issues that dissatisfied him.
- Reverend Johnson of 1232 Highway 16 West, Canton, was a candidate for Supervisor in the Democratic primary election and thought it was a fair election. He asked about an issue with a thumb drive which he was told about by poll workers at Anderson Lodge. Clerk Wray informed him that the poll workers at the location were looking for it in the wrong place.

The Commission reviewed the proposed minutes of its July 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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”

Clerk Wray gave her report noting that she had closed out the primary election in SEMS and sent the recapitulation report to the Mississippi Secretary of State's office. She announced that absentee voting in her office would begin on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

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 – 83, District 2 – 60, District 3 - 93, District 4 – 71 and District 5 – 68. The names to be purged on the VR-007 Reports were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Payne, a second by Commissioner Dickinson 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 – 115, District 2 – 169, District 3 - 107, District 4 – 412 and District 5 – 4. The Commission approved the changes and report upon a motion by Commissioner Payne, a second by Commissioner Dickinson and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

#### In New Business:

- The Commission added Marian Alexander, Sylva N. Keyes, Billy E. Crenshaw and Mary M. Edwards to the permanent absentee ballot list upon a motion by Commissioner Carney, a second by Commissioner Lacy and a unanimous vote of the Commission.
- The Commission added Gerald Vincent Bruno to the permanent absentee ballot list upon a motion by Commissioner Payne, a second by Commissioner Lacy and a unanimous vote of the Commission.
- The Commission added Elba Jean Sullivan 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 Charles A. Roell to the permanent absentee ballot list upon a motion by Commissioner Dickinson, a second by Commissioner Payne and a unanimous vote of the Commission.
- Commissioner Truesdale referred the Commission to handouts with the status of its current year's budget and for next year's budget which was approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The Commission Attorney then gave his report and asked Duane Thompson, the County's IT supervisor, to explain the change to YouTube in streaming the Commission meetings. He then submitted his legal bill for the Commission's consideration. The Commission reviewed his bill

and approved it upon a motion from Commissioner Lacy, a second by Commissioner Payne and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

During Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Payne highlighted the progress the Commission has made in cleaning up the voter rolls in diligently processing citizen's returned mail to the County. She also remembered the lives lost on the anniversary of 9/11.

Commissioner Truesdale noted that the Commission could continue changing voters' status to inactive this year as the fall election was not a federal election.

Commissioner Lacy offered a resolution for the Butler family honoring the life of Jim Butler, a former Election Commissioner who served Madison County with distinction. The resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Dickinson commented that the primary elections were successful. He observed the Democratic Party's new poll workers were overstaffed and undertrained. Other seasoned workers did a great job as usual. He offered the solution of both parties accepting the Commission's offer to conduct the primary elections and exploring legislation to require that.

Commissioner Lacy reported that through his service in EAC he went to Washington to discuss improving elections and other states were impressed with Mississippi, including our compensation of poll workers.

The Commission concluded its consideration of its agenda items and adjourned the meeting, upon a motion from Commissioner Dickinson, a second from Commissioner Payne and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

WITNESS OUR HANDS, this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.



PAT TRUESDALE  
CHAIRMAN

Attest:



HELEN CARNEY  
SECRETARY