

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MADISON  
COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
MARCH 8, 2017**

A public meeting of the Madison County Election Commission was noticed and duly held and conducted at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, in the Board of 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 website. The following Commissioners were present at the beginning of the meeting:

District One Commissioner Timothy Jenkins  
District Two Commissioner Julia Hodges  
District Three Commissioner Pat Truesdale  
District Five Commissioner Leroy Lacy

Also present were Commission Attorney Spence Flatgard, Madison County IT Director Duane Thompson and Lisa Williams.

Commissioner Jenkins called the meeting to order and Commissioner Truesdale began the meeting with a prayer. Commissioner Hodges led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Commission reviewed the proposed minutes of its February meeting. Commissioner Truesdale made a motion that the minutes be accepted with that correction which was seconded by Commissioner Hodges.

The Commission voted as follows:

District One Commissioner Timothy Jenkins-“Aye”  
District Two Commissioner Julia Hodges-“Aye”  
District Three Commissioner Pat Truesdale-“Aye”  
District Five Commissioner Leroy Lacy-“Aye”

The Commission considered routine items in New Business, as Commissioner Jackson-Adams who was on her way to the meeting. The Commission acknowledged the Voter Movement Report which is available for public inspection in the Circuit Clerk’s Office.

The Commission discussed rearranging the office for new fiber. IT Director Duane Thompson explained the County would install the same software, hardware and anti-virus measures used by other County offices to allow his team to service the Commission’s office.

District Four Commissioner Azzie Jackson-Adams joined the meeting and the Commissioners and Commission Attorney expressed their condolences for her loss of her husband and sister. Circuit Clerk Anita Wray joined the meeting.

The Commissioners next submitted their individual lists of names to be purged from the voter rolls. The list included 4,989 names resulting from the Commission's voter roll maintenance plan required under federal law and cleared by the Department of Justice. Under federal law, if the Commission received returned mail from a name on the voter roll, such as a jury summons, the Commission then sent a voter confirmation card and placed the voter on inactive status. Should the inactive voter not vote in the next two federal elections, they are to be purged from the voter rolls. Following the 2016 federal election, a large number of inactive voters were to be purged.

From the voter roll maintenance plan described above, Commissioner Jenkins submitted a list of three thousand one hundred thirty-four (3,134) names, Commissioner Hodges submitted a list of nine hundred twenty-six (926) names and Commissioner Truesdale submitted a list of nine hundred twenty-nine (929) 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 Commissioners next submitted their individual lists of names to be purged from the voter rolls for voters who were deceased or who had moved. Commissioner Jenkins submitted a list of forty-six (46) names, Commissioner Hodges submitted a list of sixteen (16) names, Commissioner Truesdale submitted a list of fifty-seven (57) names, Commissioner Jackson-Adams submitted a list of fourteen (14) names and Commissioner Lacey submitted a list of twenty-five (25) 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 Jackson-Adams, a second by Commissioner Lacey and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Commission next considered Commissioner Hodges request to acknowledge the appropriate change of status from active status to inactive status for names on the voter rolls. Commissioner Hodges submitted a list of two hundred and thirty three (233) names with supporting documentation.

The Commissioners are in the process of purging names from last month's determination of voters who had committed disenfranchising crimes. Some of the voter's names require the collection of additional information to determine that the right name is purged from the rolls. The Commissioners will report back next month following their due diligence prior to purging.

Circuit Clerk Anita Wray inquired as to the status of a bill from ES&S. Commissioner Jenkins explained that it was a bill for licensing fees for election equipment, maintenance and licensing fees totaling \$21,582 once credits were applied. Following questions and discussion, Commissioner Truesdale made a motion to recommend payment to the Board of Supervisors which was seconded by Commissioner Hodges and adopted by a unanimous vote.

Clerk Wray updated the Commission that work was almost done in synchronizing the maps of wards and polling locations with the voter rolls in SEMS for the municipal elections for the cities of Madison, Ridgeland and Canton. Upon completion, she will be able to give “walking lists” to candidates who request them. The Board of Supervisors approved the agreements with each municipality and allowed for payment to Connie Cochran for synchronizing the voter lists. Mrs. Cochran’s agreement allowed for up to sixteen (16) hours of time for the Cities of Ridgeland and Madison (each) and up to forty (40) hours for the City of Canton.

Other items under New Business included a discussion and approval of continuing the practice of allowing municipal election managers to borrow “Vote Here” signs from the County. The Commission also discussed the moving of fourteen (14) old boxes of records of inactive and purged voter files from the Commission’s office to Barry Parker, the County Records Custodian.

Commissioner Jenkins had to leave the meeting due to a work matter and Leroy Lacey presided as Chairman. Commissioner Lacy presented a written request from the City of Canton for assistance with their municipal elections. Following discussion, the Commission decided to lead poll worker training sessions for municipalities and political parties who requested it and to allow them access to supplies and a time for them to fill their supply bags for their respective elections. Commissioner Truesdale made a motion to adopt this plan of action as its policy and procedure for assisting in municipal elections for 2017. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson-Adams and adopted by a unanimous vote of the Commission. The Commission directed its attorney to draft agreements with the municipalities and municipal political parties limited to those two items.

The Commission will offer Canton municipal election officials March 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for training at a location of the City’s choosing. The Commission will offer April 6<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup> to the City of Madison at a location of the City’s choosing. The cities of Ridgeland and Flora have not requested assistance.

The Commission declared the following items as surplus equipment and requested the Board of Supervisors to do the same: 5313 – Brother Fax Machine 2820, MP Laser Jet P5014A, Scanner Canon DR 5010C and Scanner Canon 3030 C11.

During comments from Commissioners, Commissioner Jackson-Adams expressed her concern about having the Commission’s leaking roof fixed. Commissioner Hodges submitted information on four voters, including affidavits, which showed those active

voters no longer lived at their address on the voter rolls. She submitted the files to the Commission's Attorney who will refer it to the District Attorney under the Commission's practice.

Commissioner Lacy questioned what appeared to be jury summons being sent to voters whom the Commission had purged. Clerk Wray offered to look into the matter and noted that the jury wheel is set by law in January which may have been set before a purge took place and technical reasons why a purging may not have been reflected in an updated voter's file.

The Commission Attorney reported that the Commission would run the special election in November for a Board member from the added territory outside the municipality in the Canton Public School District, triggering additional days that the Commission would be allowed a per diem in 2017. He reported back to Commissioner Hodges that the Commission could continue its voter removal program prior to the municipal elections as the federal law to suspend its program prior to an election only applied to federal elections. Commissioner Lacy inquired as to counsel's findings on two disenfranchising crime questions from the last meeting. He reported that "attempting" and "conspiring" to commit a disenfranchising crime is not a disenfranchising crime *per se*. And "uttering forgery" is not a disenfranchising crime. The Commission reviewed his bill and approved it by a motion offered by Commissioner Jackson-Adams, a second by Commissioner Hodges and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Commission recessed its meeting at approximately 10:00 a.m. to reconvene in the Commission's office where the Commission would have access to its records and the SEMS system for a meeting with the Mississippi Secretary of State's Elections Division.

The Commission reconvened at 10:20 a.m. in its office with the Mississippi Secretary of State's Elections Division, including Madeline Lennep and Assistant Secretary of State for Elections Kim Turner. The group discussed the problem with the County having more voters on the rolls than voting age citizens under the last census, amounting to 106% of its voting age population on the voter rolls. The Secretary of State's office discussed several tools to assist in voter maintenance including interstate cross check, the national change of address (NCOA) database, SEMS tools (identifying duplicate voter records) and the Bureau of Vital Statistics database (for death certificates). Assistant Secretary of State Turner told the Commissioners that voter roll maintenance was a county-wide responsibility for the Commission and was not limited to each Commissioner doing voter roll maintenance in their own district.

The Commission concluded its consideration of the agenda items and adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent.

**WITNESS OUR HANDS**, this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

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TIMOTHY JENKINS  
CHAIRMAN

Attest:

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JULIA HODGES  
SECRETARY