

Minutes
State Election Commission Meeting
October 9, 2023

The State Election Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Jimmy Eldridge at 12:11 p.m., Central Daylight Time, October 9, 2023.

The following members and staff were present: Commissioners Blackburn, Eldridge, McDonald, Meadows, Smith and Younce; Commissioner Barrett participated by phone; Assistant Coordinator of Elections Beth Henry-Robertson and Kathy Summers, Elections Specialist.

Public Comment – No one signed up for Public Comment.

Commissioner McDonald made a motion to adopt the July 10, 2023, minutes, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn. (Aye votes: Blackburn, Eldridge, McDonald, Meadows, Smith and Younce; No votes: None; Abstention: None.)

Commissioner Blackburn made a motion to adopt the July 31, 2023, telephonic minutes, seconded by Commissioner Meadows. (Aye votes: Blackburn, Eldridge, McDonald, Meadows, Smith and Younce; No votes: None; Abstention: None.)

Commissioner Younce made a motion to adopt the August 18, 2023, telephonic minutes, seconded by Commissioner Smith. (Aye votes: Blackburn, Eldridge, McDonald, Meadows, Smith and Younce; No votes: None; Abstention: None.)

Commissioner McDonald made a motion pursuant to TCA. § § 2-12-101 and 2-12-106 to approve any nomination(s) for county election commission appointments submitted, and to leave the nomination process open until 4:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time, Monday, October 9, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Smith. (Aye votes: Blackburn, Eldridge, McDonald, Meadows, Smith and Younce; No votes: None; Abstention: None.) **(See attached county election commission appointments made.)**

Old Business

Commissioner Smith discussed cast vote records and whether they are considered public records. Commissioner Smith would like to see a statewide policy for counties to use when cast voter records are requested. Commissioner Smith would like proper guidance for providing the records and measures to not disclose Safe at Home voters or records of voters who voted in smaller precincts.

Assistant Coordinator of Elections Beth Henry Robertson requested this conversation to be reserved for when Coordinator Goins is present. Assistant Coordinator Henry – Robertson discussed requests are filed on the local level and each county should follow the advice of the State's Open Records Counsel, their Public Records Coordinator and County Attorney.

New Business

- **State Election Commission Travel**

State Election Commission members discussed travel and allowable expenses for reimbursement. **(See attached TCA code related to travel.)**

Commissioners discussed the code regarding travel reimbursement and agreed reimbursement for travel expenses are for statutorily required duties, which include attending State Election Commission meetings, travel for certifying voting systems and travel to attend state election law seminars.

- **Review Voting System Reference Questionnaire Process**

State Election Commission (SEC) members discussed the current process and recommended the questionnaire process change. Commissioner Barrett stated she was the member who brought the concern up at the last meeting. Commissioner Barrett stated it serves no benefit for the vendors to see recommendation letters first. Commissioner Barrett would like to have a process where there is not a potential for the information to be tainted before the SEC receives the information. Commissioner Barrett suggested the process would be better for the Elections Division to obtain a list of users from the vendor and for the Division of Elections staff to send the questionnaire to users, and to require the users to return the completed questionnaire back to the Division of Elections. Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Smith discussed his concern that the process be returned to the state and for the State Election Commission to select an assortment of users of various sizes to respond to the questionnaire.

Commissioner Smith made a motion for the State Election Commission to adopt the policy regarding questionnaires, where the State Election Commission obtains a list of customers from the vendor and the commission independently selects the number of customers, sends the questionnaire to the customer with the customer returning the questionnaire to the Division of Elections, the list of customers selected will not be provided to the vendor until after the State Election Commissions reviews the responses.

Assistance Coordinator Henry-Robertson stated she would like for Coordinator Goins to review the policy and agree to taking on the responsibility.

Commissioner Younce made a motion to table Commissioner Smith's motion to give Coordinator Goins time to review the suggested change and to make any necessary recommendation to the process for obtaining questionnaires from users from a list provided from the voting vendor, seconded by Commissioner McDonald. (Aye votes: Blackburn, Eldridge, McDonald, Meadows, Smith and Younce; No votes: None; Abstention: None.)

- **Hart InterCivic – Voting Demonstration of Verity 2.7 – Canceled at the request of vendor.**

Hart InterCivic requested their voting machine demonstration to be moved to the December 5, 2023, meeting.

Coordinator Update

- None given.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. Central Time.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for December 5, 2023, at 12:00 Noon, Central Standard Time in the Nashville Room of the William R, Snodgrass – TN Tower Conference Center.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike McDonald - Secretary
State Election Commission

State of Tennessee



State Election Commission
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 7th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102

Vacant Status

October 9, 2023

Moore

R Donna Barrett / D Mike McDonald

D

Williamson

R Donna Barrett / D Mike McDonald

R

Total Vacancies: 2

State of Tennessee



State Election Commission
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 7th Floor
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Holdover Status

October 9, 2023

Appointment

Reappointment

#Type!

Total Holdovers: 0

State of Tennessee



State Election Commission
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New Appointment Status

October 9, 2023

		Appointment
Moore	R Donna Barrett / D Mike McDonald	
	D William Austin Shavers	10/9/2023
	Total New Commissioners: 1	

- **Tennessee Code Annotated**
- **Title 2 Elections**
- **Chapter 11 State Election Commission**
- **Part 1 General Provisions**

2-11-108. Expenses.

(a) The state election commission shall be allowed the necessary sum per annum, payable out of the state treasury, for stationery, postage, and expenses incidental to the conduct of the business of the commission, which shall be payable upon vouchers signed by the secretary and countersigned by the chair of the commission.

(b) The members shall be entitled to reimbursement for travel expense incurred in the performance of their official duties in conformity with comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

History

Acts 1972, ch. 740, § 1; 1976, ch. 806, § 1 (24); 1978, ch. 754, § 6; T.C.A., § 2-1108.

TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED

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