

**Minutes**  
**State Election Commission Meeting**  
**November 9, 2023**

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The State Election Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Eldridge, at 11:00 a.m. Central Time, November 9, 2023. The following members and staff were telephonically connected: Commissioners Barrett, Blackburn, Eldridge, McDonald, Meadows, Smith and Younce; Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins and Kathy Summers, Elections Specialist.

Chairman Eldridge asked if anyone signed up for public comment.

- o No one signed up for public comment.

Pursuant to TCA § 8-44-108(a)(3), the determination of necessity for conducting the State Election Commission meeting by phone was to make county election commission appointments, certify the list of counties in attendance at the annual seminar training given on October 30, 2023, and excuse any county for good cause for not attending and to conduct any business that may come before the commission.

Commissioner Barrett made a motion to adopt the statement of necessity, seconded by Commissioner McDonald. (Roll call vote: Aye votes: Barrett, Blackburn, Eldridge, McDonald, Meadows, Smith and Younce; No votes: None; Abstention: None.)

Commissioner Blackburn made a motion pursuant to TCA § § 2-12-102(b), to accept and approve the nomination(s) for appointment as submitted and to leave the nomination process open until the close of business 4:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time, seconded by Commissioner Meadows. (Roll call vote: Aye votes: Barrett, Blackburn, Eldridge, McDonald, Meadows, Smith and Younce; No votes: None; Abstention: None.)  
**(See attached list of county election commission appointments made.)**

Coordinator Goins presented attendance records for those Administrator of Elections who were in attendance for the annual seminar training given on October 30, 2023, to the commission members. **(See attached summary of attendance.)**

Commissioner McDonald made a motion to accept the attendance records for the annual seminar, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. (Roll call vote: Aye votes: Barrett, Blackburn, Eldridge, McDonald, Meadows, Smith and Younce; No votes: None; Abstention: None.)

Commissioner Blackburn made a motion to excuse Jefferson County from the annual seminar for good cause, seconded by Commissioner Younce.

(Roll call vote: Aye votes: Barrett, Blackburn, Eldridge, McDonald, Meadows, Smith and Younce; No votes: None; Abstention: None.)

Coordinator Goins made commission members aware of reports from the news and law enforcement officials, that letters were known to have been sent to county election-related offices in Washington State, Oregon, California, and Fulton County in Georgia. One letter in Washington State, field tested positive for fentanyl. There are no indication of any letters coming to Tennessee and county election commission offices have been made aware of this issue. The only known letter sent closest to Tennessee was sent to Georgia. Coordinator Goins wanted to make sure commission members were on notice and should they receive a similar envelope, do not open it, limit handling, call 911, and contact law enforcement and the Division of Elections.

Commissioner Barrett advised commission members she attended the annual seminar training. Commissioner Barrett wanted to thank Coordinator Goins and his staff, Comptroller's office and the Bureau of Ethics and Registry of Election Finance, and to commend them on their professional knowledge provided to the election officials and the involvement and enthusiasm and rapport they have among our Administrators is top notch and it showed during this training.

Commissioner McDonald made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m. Central Time.

Respectfully submitted,



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

*November 9, 2023*

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### Jackson

R Kent Younce / D Mike McDonald

R

### Marion

R Donna Barrett / D Mike McDonald

D

### Sequatchie

R Donna Barrett / D Mike McDonald

D

### Warren

R Kent Younce / D Mike McDonald

R

### Williamson

R Donna Barrett / D Mike McDonald

R

**Total Vacancies: 5**

# State of Tennessee



**State Election Commission**  
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## New Appointment Status

*November 9, 2023*

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		Appointment
<b>Marion</b>	R Donna Barrett / D Mike McDonald	
	D Shannon Dallas Sloan Duggar	11/9/2023
<b>Sequatchie</b>	R Donna Barrett / D Mike McDonald	
	D Ginger Nipper Maxwell	11/9/2023
<b>Williamson</b>	R Donna Barrett / D Mike McDonald	
	R Edward Douglas (Doug) Grindstaff, Sr.	11/9/2023
<b>Total New Commissioners: 3</b>		

**2023 - Annual Election Seminar  
Attendance Records  
October 30, 2023**

**Number of Administrators of Elections (AOE) in  
Attendance  
92 – Counties**

**Counties Requesting Excuse  
1 - (Jefferson County)**

**Counties Represented by Chair or Chair's Designee  
1 - (Maury County – AOE Resigned)**

**Counties without AOE – Chair or Chair's Designee  
1 - (Hardin County – AOE Retiring 11/1/2023)**

**Former AOE Attending  
1 - (Wilson County - Phillip Warren)**

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Secretary of State  
Division of Publications

Tennessee Secretary of State  
Tre Hargett



Elections Division  
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102

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Mark Goins  
Coordinator of Elections

615-741-7956  
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November 9, 2023

Mr. Robert Greene, Director  
Office of the Secretary of State – Publications Division  
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37274

Dear Mr. Greene,

The State Election Commission met by teleconference at 11:00 a.m., Central Time on Thursday, November 9, 2023, in the Elections Division, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, William R. Snodgrass - Tennessee Tower. The notice requirements of TCA § 8-44-108 (b) were fully complied with. A quorum of the Board was not physically present at the location from which the teleconference originated, although a quorum did participate electronically.

In accordance with TCA § 8-44-108 this constitutes the Board's notice of the occurrence of this meeting and the Statement of Necessity.

A telephonic meeting of the Board was required to make county election commission appointments.

A Statement of Necessity to that effect was formally adopted by the Board at the beginning of the teleconference, and the Statement of Necessity was included in the Board's minutes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Goins".

Mark Goins  
State Coordinator of Elections

Enclosure(s): Meeting Notice and Call Instructions