

Davidson County Election Commission

March 29, 2021 10:00 a.m.

The Davidson County Election Commission (DCEC) met at 10:00 a.m. in the Antioch Conference Room at Metro Southeast. Commissioners Emily Reynolds, Jesse Neil, Tricia Herzfeld, Jim DeLanis and A. J. Starling were present.

DCEC staff members present included Administrator of Elections (AOE) Jeff Roberts, Joan Nixon, Lisa Pierce, Courtney Mott, Jeremy Greene, Rick Brown, Bobby Medley, and Kelley Harrison. Also present were Lora Fox of the Metropolitan Department of Law, Devon MacPherson, and Attorney Jason Holleman.

Chairman Reynolds convened the meeting.

Approve minutes from November 19, 2020 meeting

Motion started: Commissioner Starling made a motion to approve the minutes from November 19, 2020 meeting as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner DeLanis

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Approve minutes from November 23, 2020 teleconference meeting

Motion stated: Commissioner Starling made a motion to approve the minutes from November 23, 2020 teleconference meeting as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner DeLanis

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Discussion of Devon MacPherson residency

Lora Fox informed the Commission that the Metropolitan Department of Law brought suit against Devon MacPherson in violation of The Short-Term Rental Act. Mr. MacPherson won the trial, but the Metro Codes Department brought up an issue with Mr. MacPherson's residency due to an election "change of address" documentation.

It was deemed to bring the residency matter to the Commission for review and to determine if any action is appropriate for the DCEC to take.

Discussion ensued.

Motion stated: Based on the presentation, Commissioner DeLanis made a motion **not** to refer this matter to the District Attorney's office for prosecution.

Seconded by: Commissioner Herzfeld

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

FY21-22 Budget discussion

AOE Roberts presented the Commission with the proposed FY21-22 DCEC budget. There was an additional \$104,300 included to engage ES & S for ongoing equipment maintenance.

Discussion ensued.

Motion stated: Commissioner Herzfeld made a motion to present the proposed DCEC budget as drafted to the Metro Council for approval.

Seconded by: Commissioner Neil

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

AOE performance evaluation

AOE Roberts described 2020 as a year like no other with tornadoes, COVID, a derecho, and a record-setting number of absentee ballots, starting with the August election.

He commended the DCEC staff for their commitment and creativity in thinking through processes during a pandemic to deliver as safe an environment as possible for the voters.

All five (5) Commissioners made individual statements to AOE Roberts and the staff expressing their gratitude for the work done in 2020.

The commissioners' comments included the following observations:

A suggestion for continued voter education efforts, perhaps in the form of a video or group of videos that might be used at public events and posted on social media.

Thanks for fielding all elections competently and effectively in what was a "breathtaking year."

Having a culture of customer service and always looking for continuous improvements.

Cultivating and managing media relations.

Commendation for being unflappable, calm, and working together in "a year of crisis."

Thanks to the AOE and the staff for their teamwork, leadership, and dedication.

Putting forth an extraordinary effort and results, and protecting the poll workers, our employees and the voters in a pandemic, giving the public confidence in the process.

Building trust with the public and the media.

High marks to the AOE and the staff, an "amazing performance."

AOE Report

- DCEC staff has been working on a list of active and inactive voters making certain each voter has a voter registration application on file
- Petition verification is underway for a potential referendum election, and the staff is currently verifying 14K signatures, a top priority to complete, hopefully this week. The staff watched a video provided by the State on the proper way to review signatures, in order to take extra care in their review. Metro Legal has been asked to provide comment on which election will be their recommendation to consider on the number of signatures required.

Set date and time for next meeting

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Public Comments

None stated

Review Cards

Commissioners reviewed voter registration cards for accuracy in accordance with state law requirements.

Adjourn

With no further election business to discuss, Commissioner Herzfeld made a motion to adjourn.

Seconded by: Commissioner DeLanis

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Tricia Herzfeld, Secretary