

# Davidson County Election Commission

**May 1, 2020 10:00 a.m. (Via teleconference)**

The Davidson County Election Commission (DCEC) met at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference. All five (5) Commissioners: Chairman Emily Reynolds, Commissioner Jim DeLanis (joined meeting at 10:15 a.m.), Commissioner Jesse Neil, Commissioner AJ Starling and Commissioner Tricia Herzfeld were present (attendance noted via roll call by Kelley Harrison). DCEC staff members present (attendance noted verbally): Administrator of Elections (AOE) Jeff Roberts, Joan Nixon, Bobby Medley, Courtney Mott, Lisa Pierce, Jeremy Greene and Kelley Harrison. Also, present (attendance noted verbally) was Nicki Eke of the Metropolitan Department of Law.

Chairman Reynolds convened the meeting.

Chairman Reynolds stated that as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 16, authorizing a commission to meet and conduct their essential business by electronic means if the commission determined that meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the outbreak. Chairman Reynolds called for a motion to conduct the meeting electronically.

**Motion stated:** Commissioner Herzfeld made a motion that the business of the Commission, identified on its agenda for the meeting, satisfied the criteria necessary for the Commission to conduct essential business via conference call, pursuant to Executive Order No. 16.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Neil

**Outcome of motion:** Passed (Votes taken via roll call)

Chairman Reynolds - Yes

Commissioner Neil – Yes

Commissioner Starling – Yes

Commissioner DeLanis – Not present at time of voting

Commissioner Herzfeld – Yes

## **Approve minutes from April 17, 2020 meeting (Via teleconference)**

**Motion stated:** Commissioner Starling made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2020 teleconference meeting as presented.

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Neil

**Outcome of motion:** Passed (Votes taken via roll call)

Chairman Reynolds - Yes

Commissioner Neil – Yes

Commissioner Starling – Yes

Commissioner DeLanis – Not present at time of voting

Commissioner Herzfeld – Yes

## **AOE Report**

- Draft for “Tips for voting”- to be mailed out next week
- Press release– next week
- Green Hills Conference Room set up for processing Absentee ballot requests

- 114K voters age 60 or older qualify to vote Absentee
- 3 poll officials coming to DCEC office on Monday, May 4, 2020 to be trained in Absentee Department
- Federal CARES Act – reimbursing election commissions for COVID-19 related expenses
- Metro Finance is requesting Council to include an additional \$50,000 per election in the budget
- Keeping with “Stay at Home” orders by the Mayor, DCEC is being staffed as needed; several employees still working from home
- Online Poll Official training – beginning 1<sup>st</sup> of June

### **Public Comment**

Debby Gould of the League of Women Voters expressed her organization’s willingness to communicate to the voters of Davidson County their options for voting during this pandemic. She also touched upon a statewide survey, stating over 41% surveyed weren’t aware of absentee eligibility reasons and procedures, and questions from the public regarding a fraudulent Absentee ballot counting process. AOE Roberts addressed the expressed issues.

Kenya McGruder of the Urban League asked the Commission to ramp up communication via social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter). She also asked about clarifying the solicitation of Absentee ballot requests by a non-Election Commission official.

Joan Nixon addressed Ms. McGruder’s question stating state law prohibits all solicitation of Absentee ballot requests by a non-Election Commission official and anyone interested in voting by absentee should be directed to the Davidson County Election Commission website or contact our office.

### **Set date and time for next meeting**

May 15, 2020 10:00 a.m. (via teleconference)

### **Adjourn**

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

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Neil

**Outcome of motion:** Passed unanimously (Votes taken via roll call)

- Chairman Reynolds - Yes
- Commissioner Neil – Yes
- Commissioner Starling – Yes
- Commissioner DeLanis – Yes
- Commissioner Herzfeld – Yes

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Tricia Herzfeld (Secretary)