Minutes of the Davidson County Election Commission

March 21, 2012

The Davidson County Election Commission (DCEC) met at 2:00 p.m. in the Metro Office Building. Commissioners Lynn Greer, Eddie Bryan, Patricia Heim, A J Starling and Steve Abernathy were present. DCEC staff members present included Administrator of Elections (AOE) Albert Tieche, Joan Nixon, Lionel Barrett, Tom Cunningham, Bill Hyden, Courtney Mott, Bobby Medley, and Kelley Harrison. Also present was Nicki Eke of the Metropolitan Department of Law.

Chairman Lynn Greer convened the meeting.

<u>Approve February 2, 2012 meeting minutes</u>: Commissioner Heim made a motion to approve minutes of the February 2, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Starling and passed unanimously.

<u>Approve February 8, 2012 Special Called meeting minutes</u>: Commissioner Heim made a motion to approve minutes of the February 8, 2012 Special Called meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Starling and passed unanimously.

<u>Certification of March 6, 2012 election returns</u>: Commissioner Heim made a motion to certify returns of the Republican Presidential Preference Primary election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abernathy and passed unanimously. Commissioner Bryan made a motion to certify returns of the Davidson County Democratic Primary election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Starling and passed unanimously. Commissioner Heim made a motion to certify returns of the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Starling and passed unanimously. Commissioner Heim made a motion to certify returns of the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Starling and passed unanimously. Commissioner Starling made a motion to certify returns of the City of Berry Hill election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Heim and passed unanimously.

<u>Call City of Belle Meade Election-November 6, 2012</u>: Commissioner Heim made a motion to call City of Belle Meade Election for two (2) city commissioners on November 6, 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Starling and passed unanimously.

<u>Call City of Forest Hills Election- November 6, 2012</u>: Commissioner Bryan made a motion to call City of Forest Hills Election for one (1) city commissioner on November 6, 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Starling and passed unanimously.

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<u>Call City of Goodlettsville Election-November 6, 2012</u>: Commissioner Heim made a motion to call City of Goodlettsville Election for three (3) city commissioners on November 6, 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Starling and passed unanimously.

Debrief of positives and negatives of PPP election: AOE Tieche touched upon both positive and negative aspects of the election. The positive points are as follows: *remarkably few problems with voters and new photo ID law; only seventeen (17) no photo ID provisional ballots cast; training officers to handle disruptive voters paid off.* The negative points are as followed: *low voter turnout; election supply distribution; an organization submitted approximately 400 voter registration applications before the election and roughly 50% were faulty due to various reasons.*

Discuss putting campaign finance documents online: Tom Cunningham informed the board that the DCEC has capability with ITS Department to accept scanned PDF attachment of financial disclosures and have them deemed filed timely. The top sheet of disclosure which contains original signature will need to be mailed to DCEC to have on file.

Proposed changes to printing and mailing voter registration cards: Tom Cunningham proposed a way to mail out voter registration cards without an envelope. The voter ID number would be converted to a bar code visible on the outside of the mailer. If the card is returned as undeliverable, the barcode could be scanned and the voter status would be changed to inactive generating the mailing of a confirmation notice. The savings potential for the county-wide mailing required by redistricting is approximately \$10,000. Commissioner Bryan made a motion to approve proposed mailing voter registration card format and eliminating the envelope. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abernathy and passed unanimously. Tom was asked to include the special USPS endorsement for election-related mail and enlarge the Metro logo to highlight the importance of the mail piece.

Update on electronic poll book project: Bill Hyden informed the board that the Finance Department is 100% behind this project. AOE Tieche signed and submitted the 4% reserve fund to authorize purchase of electronic poll books. The cost projection is \$815,000.

<u>Update-Mayor's Budget Hearing:</u> The budget hearing for Elections is March 30, 2012 at 3:15 p.m.

<u>Update-Meeting with City of Belle Meade Officials</u>: On March 12, 2012 AOE Tieche, Bobby Medley, and Chairman Greer met with officials of City of Belle Meade. It appears that Belle Meade City Hall will be made available to DCEC for future elections. Davidson County Election Commission Minutes March 21, 2012

<u>Any old/new business</u>: Commissioners were provided a copy of correspondence from the District Attorney General's office indicating that no further action will be taken by the office relating to those voters referred to the office with questionable residential addresses as supplied in the August 2011 General Election. One case will receive further action, but no name was disclosed due to the ongoing investigation.

Commissioner Starling requested that a briefing from the Commissioners' attorney be scheduled for a future meeting to discuss the Jeanette Gates litigation. Chairman Greer agreed to schedule an executive session for a briefing at the next Commission meeting.

Set date for next meeting: Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 2:00 PM

<u>**Review registration cards:**</u> Commissioners reviewed 200 randomly selected voter registration applications submitted since the last time applications were reviewed

Adjourn: There being no further business, the Commission adjourned the meeting.

Lynn Greer, Chairman

A J Starling, Secretary

Patricia Heim, Member

Eddie Bryan, Member

Steve Abernathy, Member