

DAVIDSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

JUNE 11, 2015

The Davidson County Election Commission (DCEC) met on June 11, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. in the Green Hills Conference Room at Metro Southeast. Commissioners Ron Buchanan, Jim DeLanis, Jennifer Lawson, Tricia Herzfeld and AJ Starling were present. DCEC staff members present included Administrator of Elections (AOE) Kent Wall, Joan Nixon, John Hite, Reid Lovell, Meredith McKay, Carlatina Hampton, Jeremy Greene, Nancy DeKalb, Bobby Medley and Kelley Harrison. Nicki Eke of the Metropolitan Department of Law was also in attendance.

Chairman Buchanan convened the meeting.

Mr. Buchanan addressed the considerable number of concerned citizens in attendance on the issue of early voting sites that was the subject of the Commission's June 3, 2015 resolution and the public comments on that resolution by various government officials and in the media. Mr. Buchanan explained that the Commission's budget request included a full slate of early election sites. The budget cuts planned by the Mayor and the City Council Budget and Finance Committee, however, would cut over 38% of the Commission's staff. Such cuts, if allowed to stand, would make it difficult, if not impossible, to discharge the Commission's duties to administer elections and its other duties in the coming year. Those cuts would make the issue of early elections sites a moot point since the entire election process would be jeopardized. Mr. Chairman expressed his appreciation for the attendance of so many concerned citizens and assured them that the Commission wanted to have a full slate of early election sites – as established by the Commission's budget requests- if the Mayor and the Council would adequately fund the Commission and its operations as a whole.

Mr. Starling then spoke to that same issue. He agreed that funding was the issue and that the Commission, on a nonpartisan basis, wished to hold a full slate of early election sites. As Mr. Starling stated, this was not a partisan political issue, but a funding question.

Approve Minutes From April 20, 2015 Meeting

Motion stated: Commissioner Lawson made a motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2015 meeting as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner Starling

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Approve Minutes From May 14, 2015 Special Called Meeting

Motion stated: Commissioner Starling made a motion to approve the minutes from May 14, 2015 special called meeting as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner Lawson

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Approve All Poll Officials (Early Voting and Election Day)

Motion stated: Commissioner Herzfeld made a motion to approve all poll officials for Early Voting and Election Day as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner DeLanis

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Approve Candidates, August Election

Motion stated: Commissioner Herzfeld made a motion to approve the list of candidates for the August Election as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner Lawson

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Approve Amendments, August Election

Joan Nixon reported that three (3) referendum petitions were filed with the Metro Clerk's office and those petitions were transferred to the DCEC. Those petitions that met the threshold number of 6,845 signatures were: "Council Next" and "Local Hire". "Ban the Box" did not meet the threshold. This petition had only 5,902 valid signatures.

The August ballot will have a total of three (3) charter amendments: Charter Amendment #1, a Resolution by the Metro Council which did not require a petition; Charter Amendment #2, "Council Next"; and Charter Amendment #3, "Local Hire".

Motion stated: Commissioner Starling made a motion to approve Charter Amendment #1, Amendment #2 and Amendment #3.

Seconded by: Commissioner DeLanis

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Commissioner DeLanis suggested the board take some action with regard to Charter Amendment #4 "Ban the Box".

Motion stated: Commissioner DeLanis made a motion, based on staff's recommendation, that Charter Amendment #4, "Ban the Box", not be placed on the ballot due to an insufficient number of required signatures.

Seconded by: Commissioner Starling

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Approve Ballot, August Election

Motion stated: Commissioner Herzfeld made a motion to approve the paper ballot as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner Lawson

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Administrator's Report

AOE Wall reported that the High School Supplemental Registration effort resulted in 1,553, 17 and 18 year- old students, being registered to vote, a DCEC record. The 2015 drive was led by Carlatina Hampton.

Lock Early Voting Ballot Boxes

Chairman Buchanan and Commissioner Starling locked the Early Voting ballot boxes.

Lock Election Day Orange Ballot Bags

Chairman Buchanan and Commissioner Starling locked the Election Day orange ballot bags.

Set Date and Time For Next Meeting

Chairman Buchanan set a date for a “special called” meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Review Voter Registration Cards (or Set Date For Special Called Meeting to Review Voter Registration Cards)

Agenda item deferred to the above set “special called” meeting.

Adjourn

Motion stated: With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Herzfeld made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: Commissioner DeLanis

Outcome of motion: Passed Unanimously

Tricia Herzfeld, Secretary