

Davidson County Election Commission

May 2, 2024 6:00 p.m.

The Davidson County Election Commission (DCEC) met at 6:00 p.m. in the Sonny West Conference Center at the Howard Office Building. Commissioners Jim DeLanis, Tricia Herzfeld, Will Burns, Dan Davis, and A. J. Starling were present.

DCEC staff members present included Administrator of Elections (AOE) Jeff Roberts, Lisa Pierce, Ruby Kinkel, Staci Howard, and Kelley Harrison.

Nicki Eke and Courtney Mohan of the Metropolitan Legal Department were present as were State Coordinator of Elections, Mark Goins and Assistant State Coordinator of Elections, Beth Henry-Robertson.

Chairman DeLanis convened the meeting.

Public Comments

Demytris Savage-Short

James B. Garrett

Jorita Justice

Approve minutes from April 22, 2024 meeting

Motion stated: Commissioner Herzfeld made a motion to approve the minutes from April 22, 2024 as presented.

Seconded by: Commissioner Davis

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Review, discussion, and vote on petition signature challenges filed with Election Commission (Laura Nelson vs. Justin Jones)

Ms. Nelson filed a challenge of three (3) signatures on Representative Jones' nominating petition. Both Ms. Nelson and Representative Jones were given five (5) minutes for opening remarks, thirty (30) minutes for presentation of evidence, and five (5) minutes for closing remarks. Discussion ensued.

(A court reporter was present to record a full transcript)

Motion stated: Commissioner Starling made a motion to accept the evidence submitted by Representative Jones on April 26, 2024

Seconded by: Commissioner Davis

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Motion stated: Commissioner Starling made a motion to amend the Rules of Order and accept Facetime testimony from sworn witnesses.

Seconded by: Commissioner Herzfeld

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Motion stated: Commissioner Starling made a motion to accept the twenty-five (25) signatures validated by DCEC staff on Representative Jones' nominating petition.

Seconded by: Commissioner Herzfeld

Outcome of motion: Passed 3 - 1 with 1 abstention

Yay – Commissioners DeLanis, Herzfeld, Starling

Nay – Commissioner Burns

Abstained – Commissioner Davis

Review, discussion, and vote on petition signature challenges filed with Election Commission (Bo Mitchell vs. Jennifer Frensley Webb)

Representative Mitchell challenged five (5) signatures on Council Member Webb’s nominating petition. Council Member Webb challenged the exclusion of three (3) signatures on her nominating petition. Both Representative Mitchell and Council Member Webb were given five (5) minutes for opening remarks, thirty (30) minutes for presentation of evidence, and five (5) minutes for closing remarks. Discussion ensued.

(A court reporter was present to record a full transcript)

Motion stated: Commissioner Herzfeld made a motion to exclude Michelle Armistead’s signature from Council Member Webb’s nominating petition.

Seconded by: Commissioner Burns

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Motion stated: Commissioner Herzfeld made a motion to exclude Ian McWilliams’ signature from Council Member Webb’s petition.

Seconded by: Commissioner Burns

Outcome of motion: Passed 3 - 2

Yay - Commissioners Burns, Herzfeld, Starling

Nay - Commissioners DeLanis, Davis

Motion stated: Commissioner Burns made a motion to accept the signature of Jeffrey Webb on Council Member Webb’s nominating petition.

Seconded by: Commissioner Starling

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Motion stated: Commissioner Burns made a motion to accept the signature of George Sipe on Council Member Webb’s nominating petition.

Seconded by: Commissioner Davis

Outcome of motion: Passed 3 – 2

Yay – Commissioners DeLanis, Burns, Davis

Nay – Commissioners Herzfeld, Starling

Motion stated: Commissioner Burns made a motion to accept the signature of Will Sipe on Council Member Webb’s nominating petition.

Seconded by: Commissioner Davis

Outcome of motion: Passed 4 - 1

Yay – Commissioners DeLanis, Herzfeld, Burns, Davis

Nay – Commissioner Starling

Next meeting: Friday, May 3, 2024 at 3:00pm; Sonny West Conference Center

Date and time set at a previous Commission meeting.

Adjourn

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

Seconded by: Commissioner Davis

Outcome of motion: Passed unanimously

Tricia Herzfeld, Secretary