



**Pulaski County Election Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2019
4:30 p.m.**

Members Present:

Evelyn D. Gomez
Kristi McKinnon

Staff Present:

Bryan Poe
Betty Green

Visitors Present: Jason Kennedy, Circuit County Clerk's Office

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Gomez. A quorum was present, with two commissioners in attendance.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner McKinnon.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner McKinnon moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Chair Gomez. Motion passed by voice vote.

Business

Certification of the November 5, 2019 House District 36 Special Election

Chair Gomez stated that arrangements were made with the Circuit County Clerk's office to have the certification completed today and filed with the Secretary of State Office for Denise Ennett to be able to have her swearing in ceremony. Commissioner McKinnon moved to certify the House District 36 Special Election; seconded by Chair Gomez. Motion passed by voice vote.

Preliminary Review of Provisional Ballots for the November 5, 2019 Annual School Election

There are 14 provisional ballots, of which the Circuit County Clerk's office made the recommendation to count two, reject one and no recommendation for 11. Mr.

Kennedy stated the reason there was no recommendation for the remaining 11 is because 10 of them voted on election day for the Little Rock School District Election however voting for the Little Rock School District Election ended on November 4, 2019, the last day of early voting. The other ballot is because the ballot style is unknown, voter did not vote early or absentee. Commissioner McKinnon moved to accept two of the provisional ballots and to reject 12 of the provisional ballots; seconded by Chair Gomez. Motion passed by voice vote.

Review of Absentee Provisional Ballots for the November 5, 2019 Annual School Election

There are 76 total absentee provisional ballots. It is the recommendation of the Election Commission staff that 36 of the absentee provisional ballots be counted and 40 of the absentee provisional ballots are not counted. The ones that were counted did not submit their photo ID but did sign the optional verification of ID. The ones that were not counted were because they did not submit their photo ID, nor did they sign the optional verification of ID. Commissioner McKinnon moved to accept the 36 absentee provisional ballots and to reject the 40 absentee provisional ballots; seconded by Chair Gomez. Motion passed by voice vote.

Other Business

Special Primary Election for January 14, 2020 for House District 34

Mr. Kennedy advised the commission that due to the truncated schedule that was provided by the Governor's office for the election that there might be some conflicts with the processing of absentee ballots. Chair Gomez thanked him for his due diligence regarding this matter.

Regarding Quorum Court Agenda Meeting for November 12, 2019

Commissioner McKinnon addressed a proposed ordinance that is on the agenda for the Quorum Court Agenda Committee. Commissioner McKinnon stated that she would hope that the ordinance is not as a result of rumors that are going around regarding the attempts to dismiss any of the staff of the Election Commission. Also, it is imperative that this office remain nonpartisan despite the Commissioners being party affiliated. She feels that by moving away from the current model of operation for the Election Commission would be detrimental to the good of the office. She stated that the Commissioners fully support the staff and have the utmost confidence in the staff. Chair Gomez stated that she agreed with Commissioner McKinnon. Chair Gomez and Commissioner McKinnon plan to attend the Quorum Court Agenda Committee meeting. They have requested Director Poe to publish a notification regarding their attendance at the meeting.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

November 13, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. for review of political practice pledges for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary Election.

November 20, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. for provisional ballot hearing and certification of official results for the November 5, 2019 Annual School Election.

December 4, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. to conduct the ballot position drawing for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary Election.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.