



Pulaski County Election Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2020
8:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Evelyn D. Gomez
Joshua A. Price
Kristi M. Stahr

Staff Present:

Bryan Poe
Betty Green
Jodie Dildy

Visitors Present:

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Chair Gomez. A quorum was present, with all commissioners present via Zoom. The staff was present via Zoom also. The commissioners gave Director Poe permission to use their signature stamp as necessary during the meeting.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Director Poe.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Price moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Commissioner Stahr. Motion passed by voice vote.

Business

Canvass Absentee Ballots for the July 7, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election Runoff

There are 24 absentee ballots, 15 of the ballots are going to be counted, seven were made provisional because the voter signed the optional verification of identification but failed to provide a photo I.D., one was disqualified for lack of address on the voter statement, and one was disqualified because three different addresses were provided, none of which matched. The seven that were made provisional will be counted. Commissioner Price moved to accept the absentee ballots as presented; seconded by Commissioner Stahr. Motion passed by voice vote.

Since the provisional ballots were covered in this meeting, the provisional ballot review hearing can be canceled. Director Poe will contact the clerk's office to see if there are any outstanding absentee ballots.

Certification of the Unofficial Election Results for the July 7, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election

The unofficial election results of the July 7, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election are as follows:

Jeff Elmore	369 votes	48.36%
Michael Dietz	394 votes	51.64%

Commissioner Stahr moved for the certification of the unofficial election results for the July 7, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Other Business

Discussion of COVID-19 Mitigation Procedures for In-Person Voting

Director Poe reviewed the process for COVID-19 Mitigation to be used for election official training and the election process. The commissioners provided various suggestions regarding the COVID-19 mitigation procedures. After much discussion, there will be changes implemented to the document and another draft will be provided to the commissioner's for review at the next meeting. The draft of these documents will also be placed on the website for the public to view them, with a disclaimer that it is a draft and a draft watermark, and in a pdf format. Due to county buildings being closed to the public, Director Poe will need to request an exception to allow voters to enter the building, whether they are wearing a mask or not. Voters will be given the option of wearing a mask when they come to the polling locations. Director Poe will also contact the Comptroller, County Judge and County Clerk regarding access to the buildings for poll watchers. At the request of the commissioners, Director Poe will draft a plan regarding security procedures for absentee, early voting and securing procedures in the building. He will also contact the election coordinator regarding additional personal protection equipment.

Discussion of the General Election Absentee Ballot Canvassing Plan

Director Poe reviewed the process for canvassing of absentee ballots during the General Election. After much discussion, there will be changes implemented to the document and another draft will be provided to the commissioner's for review at the next meeting. The draft of this document will be placed on the website for the public to view them, with a disclaimer that it is a draft on each page and the draft

watermark, and in a pdf format. There were also changes to the various forms for absentee canvassing that was discussed. At the request of the commissioners, Director Poe will contact the clerk's office regarding any changes that will be made on the forms that they provide. He will also, make suggested changes to the forms that are provided by the election commission. The commissioners would like to have a tutorial and checklist developed. The tutorial and checklist would need to be posted to the website as well as social media to reduce the number of ballots that are rejected. Director Poe notified the commissioners that a request has been submitted to the Governor to increase the amount of time for canvassing absentee ballots and adding additional time for announcing the unofficial election results.

Discussion of Recruitment of Election Officials

A survey will be mailed to the current election officials regarding their willingness to work the General Election. There is currently a reserve of approximately 200 applicants to be election officials. There will also be a reserve of election officials in case an election official comes down with COVID-19 before or during the election. Director Poe will also investigate obtaining the services of a cleaning company to help with the sanitation of the polling locations.

Discussion of the Prosecuting Attorney Memo

Director Poe presented a memo that provides the facts of what happened on February 11, 2020 at a polling location during the House District 34 Special Primary Runoff Election. He stated that he has reached out to the prosecuting attorney's office regarding what documentation the election commission needs to provide but has not received a response at the time of the meeting. This will be discussed further during the next meeting.

Public Comment

On behalf of a member of the public, Commissioner Price requested clarification on the tabulation rate for the absentee ballots. Director Poe stated that with the DS450, the ballots can be processed at approximately 3,000 ballots per hour.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

July 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. for preliminary review of provisional ballots for the July 7, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election Runoff. This meeting was cancelled.

July 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. for the certification of election results for the July 7, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election Runoff.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.