



**Pulaski County Election Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2020
5:30 p.m.**

Members Present:

Evelyn D. Gomez
Joshua A. Price
Kristi McKinnon-Stahr

Staff Present:

Bryan Poe
Betty Green

Visitors Present: Charles Bolden; Doug House; Jason Kennedy, Circuit County Clerk's Office; Cheryle Gauthier; Martha Hill; Keith Brooks, Candidate for House District 31; Various other members of the public

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Gomez. A quorum was present, with Commissioner Price present via telephone. Commissioner Price gave Director Poe permission to use his signature stamp as necessary during the meeting.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Director Poe.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting recessed at 5:04 p.m. for Director Poe to retrieve the materials for House District 34 Special General Election.

Meeting resumed at 5:08 p.m.

Business

Provisional Ballot Hearing for the March 3, 2020 House District 34 Special General Election

Director Poe presented four provisional ballots for House District 34 Special General Election that were packaged as Preferential Primary/Nonpartisan General Election.

The recommendation of the Circuit County Clerk's office is for the ballots to be counted because all criteria was met. Commissioner McKinnon-Stahr moved to approve the four provisional ballots for the House District 34 Special General Election; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Meeting recessed at 5:11 p.m. for Director Poe to retrieve the materials for Preferential Primary/Nonpartisan General Election.

Meeting resumed at 5:25 p.m.

Provisional Ballot Hearing for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary/Nonpartisan General Election

The Circuit County Clerk's office amended the provisional ballot list to allow four ballots to be counted. Director Poe reviewed the voters that were recommended to be counted. Mr. Kennedy notified the commissioners of another voter whose vote will be allowed to count. This discussion resumed after the certification of the March 3, 2020 House District 34 Special General Election.

Meeting recessed at 5:38 p.m. for Director Poe to assist with contacting the Secretary of State's office.

Meeting resumed at 5:58 p.m.

Certification of the Provisional Ballots and Election Results for the March 3, 2020 House District 34 Special General Election

The election results for the March 3, 2020 House District 34 Special General Election are as follows:

Roderick Greer Talley	719 votes
Joy C. Springer	2,531 votes

Commissioner McKinnon-Stahr moved for the certification of the provisional ballots for the March 3, 2020 House District 34 Special General Election; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Commissioner Price moved for the certification of the election results for the March 3, 2020 House District 34 Special General Election; seconded by Commissioner McKinnon-Stahr. Motion passed by voice vote.

Provisional Ballot Hearing for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary/Nonpartisan General Election

There were three voters present for the hearing that received notification that their ballots would not be counted. One of the voters was previously amended by the Circuit County Clerk's office to have the vote count. The other two votes could not be counted due to voting at the incorrect precinct or due to the voter being registered in a different county. Mr. Kennedy assisted the voter that was registered in a different county with transferring her registration to Pulaski County. Colonel House tried to assist the voter that was registered in different county by trying to locate a law that would allow her vote to count.

Certification of Provisional Ballots for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary/Nonpartisan General Election

There are 195 provisional ballots that are authorized to be counted and 293 provisional ballots are not authorized to be counted. There are 12 provisional ballots for House District 31 to be counted and five are not authorized to be counted for House District 31. The provisional ballots House District 31 were not incorporated into the numbers until after the recount for the district was completed. Commissioner McKinnon-Stahr moved to certify the provisional ballots for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary/Nonpartisan General Election; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Discussion Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The commissioners expressed their concerns regarding closing of county buildings for public meetings. The recount for House District 31 and the meeting were live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. Commissioner McKinnon-Stahr moved for Director Poe to obtain clarification from County Attorney and Prosecuting Attorney regarding closing county buildings for public meetings; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

The commissioners requested clarification as to whether all three of them would be allowed to meet via Skype, Facetime or teleconference should the need arise. Chair Gomez requested press release addressing the concerns of the commissioners regarding health and safety.

The commissioners expressed their concerns regarding the upcoming Jacksonville Special Election to be held on April 14, 2020 and the election officials. Commissioner McKinnon-Stahr moved for Director Poe to reach out to Jacksonville postpone the special election; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote. Director Poe will seek clarification of options regarding future elections from the

State Board of Election Commissioners also. The commissioners also requested that any information regarding public screenings for Coronavirus be pushed out on social media and Twitter.

Chair Gomez shared that the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette requested an interview regarding how the election commission will handle the Coronavirus. Commissioner Price agreed to speak with the reporter after the meeting.

Meeting recessed at 6:47 p.m. to wait for the numbers from the House District 31 recount.

Meeting resumed at 6:58 p.m.

Certification of the Recount for the March 3, 2020 House District 31

Chair Gomez expressed her appreciation to the staff and the election officials during the recount for a job well done. The results of the recount are as follows:

Keith Brooks	940 votes
R.J. Hawk	866 votes

Commissioner McKinnon-Stahr moved to certify the recount results for the March 3, 2020 House District 31; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Meeting recessed at 7:03 p.m. to wait for the election results for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary/Nonpartisan General Election.

Meeting resumed at 7:05 p.m. to discuss scheduling the next meeting.

Meeting recessed at 7:11 p.m. to wait for election results for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary/Nonpartisan General Election.

Meeting resumed at 7:15 p.m.

Certification of Election Results for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary/Nonpartisan General Election

Commissioner McKinnon-Stahr moved to certify the abstract of ballots for the March 3, Preferential Primary/Nonpartisan General Election; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Chair Gomez requested clarification of the final numbers for House District 31 for the interested parties present. Director Poe stated the votes as follows:

Keith Brooks	942 votes
Councilman R.J. Hawk	868 votes

Other Business

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

March 25, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. tentatively scheduled. This meeting will depend upon the decision of Jacksonville regarding the upcoming special election.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.