



**Pulaski County Election Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2020  
5:00 p.m.**

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Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Bryan Poe  
Betty Green  
Jodie Dildy

Visitors Present: Jason Kennedy, Circuit County Clerk's Office; Shelby Johnson, Arkansas GIS; Mayor Bob Johnson, Jacksonville City Mayor

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The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair Gomez. A quorum was present, with all commissioners present via Zoom. The staff and visitors were present for the meeting via Zoom. The commissioners gave Director Poe permission to use their signature stamp as necessary during the meeting.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Gomez.

*Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes*

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

**Business**

*Approval of Little Rock School District Zone Boundary Lines*

At the request of Commissioner Stahr, Mr. Shelby Johnson, Geographic Information Officer for the State of Arkansas, explained the rezoning process utilized for determining the outline of the new school zones for the Little Rock School District. Mr. Johnson informed the board that the school district would have nine school zones instead of the previous seven. Also, the design system aligns with the current election precincts. Commissioner Stahr requested clarification of the impact the new zones

compared to the previous zones to the population. Mr. Johnson the redistricting process is based upon the 2010 census and therefore when the results of the 2020 census are available, things could possibly change. Mr. Johnson also referenced an error in the GIS system regarding the current districting that dates to 1980 which has been corrected in the redistricting of the school zones.

Commissioner Price thanked Mr. Johnson for the thorough and detailed documentation provided for the commissioners to review. Commissioner Price requested clarification as to whether there are any other major departures other than what is in the report. Mr. Johnson stated that the only change will be when the 2020 census numbers have been released. It is anticipated that there will be some population growth in the Downtown Little Rock area as well as the western part of Little Rock.

Commissioner Stahr requested clarification regarding the increase in Little Rock School District if the boundary lines are not compatible with the boundary lines for the city of Little Rock. Mr. Johnson stated the affected areas are not large population.

Commissioner Price requested clarification as to whether tax assessor records will be updated with the new boundaries considering that there is a different tax for homeowners in each district. Mr. Johnson stated that the assessor's office would make the adjustments based upon the decision of the commissioners to approve the redistricting of the school district.

Chair Gomez requested clarification regarding the effects of the 2020 census on the redistricting. Mr. Johnson explained that once the 2020 census data is released then it is possible that the Little Rock School District could undergo another redistricting process.

Commissioner Stahr moved for the approval of the Little Rock School District boundary lines; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Director Poe explained that a resolution has been prepared for the commissioners to sign regarding the approval of the Little Rock School District boundary lines. Commissioner Stahr requested clarification from Adam Fogleman, County Attorney, regarding the necessity of signing a resolution. Mr. Fogleman explained that it would just serve as a documentation trail. Commissioner Price and Chair Gomez both agreed with Mr. Fogleman. Commissioner Price moved to adopt the resolution for the

approval of the Little Rock School District boundary lines; seconded by Commissioner Stahr. Motion passed by voice vote.

*Preparation for the Safety of Election Officials and Voters due to COVID-19 for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election*

Director Poe explained the procedures for that will be utilized for protecting of the voters and the election officials. One polling location will be utilized for both early voting and election day. Gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, bleach and spray bottles will be utilized during the election. There will be two separate voting rooms, one for people that are not wearing a mask and one for those that will be wearing a mask. The facility is ADA compliant. The voters will be provided with a pencil that they can use to mark their ballot on the IVotronic during early voting, voter will keep the pencil. The voters will be provided an ink pen to mark their paper ballot, voter will keep the pen. The IVotronic will be wiped down throughout the day. The election officials that will be assigned to work early voting and election day are willing to work the election. Mayor Johnson stated that the City of Jacksonville is going to provide about six gallons of hand sanitizer as well as City of Jacksonville staff will be on hand to assist with the social distancing practices that are currently in effect.

Commissioner Stahr requested Director Poe speak with the State Board of Election Commissioners regarding the capacity of 50 people in a room. Laptops will be utilized for both early voting and election day, paper books will be eliminated. Commissioner Price requested clarification as to whether absentee voting has been encouraged. Mayor Johnson has not encouraged people to absentee vote unless they are going to be out of town. Election officials will have to utilize their best judgment for identifying voters wearing a mask.

*Approval of Temporary Polling Location Orders for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election*

Director Poe explained that all locations will be temporary relocated to the Jacksonville Community Center, the Circuit County Clerk's office will send out notification to voters regarding the temporary change. Commissioner Stahr moved to approve the temporary polling location orders for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

*Amend Polling Location Orders for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election*

Commissioner Price moved to accept the emergency polling location for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election; seconded by Commissioner Stahr. Motion passed by voice vote.

*Certification of Logic and Accuracy Testing Results for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election*

Commissioner Price moved for the certification of the logic and accuracy testing results for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election; seconded by Commissioner Stahr. Motion passed by voice vote.

*Appointment of Election Officials for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election*

Commissioner Stahr moved to approve the election officials for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

*Approval of Notice of Election for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election*

Commissioner Price moved to approve the notice of election for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election; seconded by Commissioner Stahr. Motion passed by voice vote.

*Announcement of Ballot Error for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election*

Director Poe explained that the due to COVID-19, the Jacksonville Special Election absentee ballots were dated for the original date of April 14, 2020 and the decision was made to keep the ones that were already printed. After speaking with the State Board of Election Commission and the County Attorney the decision was made to keep the ones that were already printed. No motion was needed from the commissioners.

Mayor Johnson thanked everyone for their hard work.

**Other Business**

*New Voting Equipment Update*

Director Poe stated that the Secretary of State's office is going to purchase a DS-450 for Pulaski County from the COVID-19 funds. The new equipment has been received and the staff is in the process of testing it now.

*Public Comments*

Commissioner Price requested clarification regarding the Governor waiving absentee ballot restrictions. Mr. Kennedy stated that the Circuit County Clerk's office received the notification the afternoon of May 20, 2020 and have not had the opportunity to share the information with the public.

Director Poe formally thanked Jodie Dildy and Betty Green for their work with setting up Zoom for the election commission to be able to continue to conduct business.

*Schedule of Upcoming Meetings*

June 9, 2020 at 8:30 p.m. for the certification of unofficial election results for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election.

June 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for the preliminary review of provisional ballots for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election.

June 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for the provisional ballot hearing and certification of election results for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.