

Benton County Election Commission

2109 W. Walnut, Rogers, AR 72756

Russell J. Anzalone
Chairman

Harlan Stee
Commissioner



Robbyn Tumey
Secretary

Kim Dennison
Coordinator

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MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

August 9, 2022

Election Commission members present: Russell J. Anzalone, Robbyn Tumey, and Harlan Stee

Others present: Election Coordinator Kim Dennison, Staff Assistant Sharon Rose, Julie Hall, and Melanie Hoskins

Media: No Media Present

Chairman Anzalone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes:

Chairman Anzalone asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from July 1, 2022. There being none, Commissioner Tumey made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Chairman Anzalone. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

New Business:

A. Review the billing for the 2022 Preferential Primary and Nonpartisan Judicial Election held on May 24, 2022 and the 2022 Republican Primary Runoff Election held on June 21, 2022: Chairman Anzalone stated that he and Commissioners Tumey and Stee reviewed the billing from the 2022 Preferential Primary and Nonpartisan Judicial Election held on May 24, 2022 and the 2022 Republican Primary Runoff Election held on June 21, 2022. Chairman Anzalone asked for discussion or comments. There being none, Commissioner Stee made a motion to accept the reimbursement billing for the two (2) elections as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- B. Discussion of Early Vote times and locations for the General Election to be held November 8, 2022: Election Coordinator Kim Dennison stated that early voting for the General Election begins October 24, 2022 and New Life Christian Church in Bella Vista advised that on Monday, October 31, 2022 the church will not be available due to a Halloween function inside the church. Kim added that the equipment will have to be removed on Friday, October 28, 2022 at the end of the day. The church will provide a secured area for the equipment and the ballots from the DS200 will be returned to the Election Commission. Kim stated that the poll supervisor will not be able to set up the equipment that night. If they are not able to start setting up before 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 1, she suggested changing the early voting hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. which will give the supervisor ample time to reset up the equipment. Chairman Anzalone suggested to be consistent and change the hours for the two (2) weeks of early voting to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Tumey stated that the voters in Bella Vista are use to voting at that location at 8:00 a.m. and was concerned about getting the information out to the voters. Commissioner Stee had concerns about the voters not reading the newspaper or seeing that the time had changed. He added you will have people on their way to work standing outside waiting to vote. Kim responded that all the locations have different times. The commissioners asked Kim to see if the supervisor could get in the building at 6:00 a.m. to set up the equipment and leave the early voting hours at 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Kim stated she would check.

Kim asked the commissioners if they have considered adding additional early voting locations only for the 2024 Primary and General Elections. Kim suggested reducing Gravette and Garfield to only the last week of early voting and also adding Pea Ridge for the last week of early voting instead of having the locations opened for two (2) weeks. She added that if the commission wanted to open additional early voting locations, she needed to start looking for those locations and workers. The commissioners tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

- C. Process Absentee Ballots for the Siloam Springs Primary Election held on August 9, 2022: Chairman Anzalone stated that there were two (2) absentee ballots and they were counted.
- D. Chairman Anzalone made a motion to recess the meeting at 6:53 p.m. until after the polling location closed, seconded by Commissioner Stee. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- E. Signing of the Preliminary and Unofficial Results for the Siloam Springs Primary Election held on August 9, 2022: Chairman Anzalone reconvened the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Chairman Anzalone stated that the number of outstanding absentee ballot of overseas is two (2) and there were no provisional ballots. Commissioner Stee made a motion to accept the Preliminary and Unofficial Results for the Siloam Springs Primary Election, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Other Business:

None

Public Comments:

None

Announcements:

Chairman Anzalone stated that the next meeting will be Friday, August 19, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. to certify the Siloam Springs 2022 Primary Election.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbyn Tumey
Prepared by Sharon Rose
Benton County Election Commission