

# Benton County Election Commission

2109 W. Walnut, Rogers, AR 72756

Russell J. Anzalone  
Chairman

Wynne Gregory Day  
Commissioner



Melanie B. Hoskins  
Secretary

Kim Dennison  
Coordinator

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## MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

April 14, 2023

Election Commission members present: Russell J. Anzalone and Wynne Gregory Day  
Absent: Melanie B. Hoskins

Others present: Election Commission Coordinator Kim Dennison, County Clerk Betsy Harrell, Assistant Coordinator Serena Green, Staff Assistant Julie Hall, Staff Assistant Sharon Rose, Christine Erwin-Jimerez, and Carrie Smith

Media: Tracy Neal, Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Chairman Anzalone called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **Minutes:**

Chairman Anzalone asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from March 17, 2023. There being none, Commissioner Day made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Chairman Anzalone. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **New Business:**

- A. Approving the Certification of L&A Testing for the 2023 May Annual School & Special Election to be held May 9, 2023: Chairman Anzalone reviewed the Logic and Accuracy Testing for the 2023 May Annual School Election. He asked Commissioner Day for discussion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Anzalone approved and signed the L&A Testing for the 2023 May Annual School Election to be held May 9, 2023.
- B. Order to Appoint Early Voting and Election Day Officials for the 2023 May Annual School Election to be held May 9, 2023: Commissioners Anzalone and Day reviewed the list of early and election day officials. Chairman Anzalone asked for discussion. There being none, Commissioner Day made a motion to accept the list of election officials for the 2023 May Annual School Election, seconded by Chairman Anzalone. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- C. Order to Appoint Election Commissioners Russell J. Anzalone and Wynne Gregory Day, and Sharon Rose to Process, Count, and Canvass Absentee Ballots for the 2023 May Annual School Election to be held May 9, 2023: Commissioner Day made a motion to appoint Russell J. Anzalone, Wynne Gregory Day, and Sharon Rose to Process, Count, and Canvass Absentee Ballots for the 2023 May Annual School Election to be held May 9, 2023, seconded by Chairman Anzalone. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- D. Discussion of Early Vote Locations and Times for 2024 Elections: Election Coordinator Kim Dennison stated that the prior commission had discussed moving early voting for the Primary Election to only one (1) week in the rural areas. Kim added that the number of early voters in a Primary Election is low in these areas. Kim continued by stating that early voting for the Primary Election would begin in February and the weather is a large concern. She added that the polling locations would have to be opened regardless of the weather. She continued by saying poll workers may have a difficult time getting to the location. Chairman Anzalone asked Kim when she would need a decision. Kim stated that she needed to begin sending out letters to the polling locations to reserve the space for 2024. Chairman Anzalone stated that not opening the polling sites in question would add confusion to the voters. Commissioner Day stated to approve tentatively to keeping the rural polling locations opened for the two (2) weeks of early voting, and to possibly change at a later date. Chairman Anzalone also agreed to reserve the locations for the two (2) weeks of early voting and to possibly change the dates.

Kim stated that there is a location in Pea Ridge that is interested in becoming a new voting location and she would contact them and report back at another meeting.

Kim advised that there are forty-one (41) new bills that go into effect in 2024 election year.

**Other Business:**

None

**Public Comments:**

None

**Announcements:**

Chairman Anzalone stated the next meeting would be Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to begin process absentee ballots.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie B. Hoskins  
Prepared by Sharon Rose  
Benton County Election Commission