

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 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

January 20, 2023

Election Commission Members Present: Russell J. Anzalone, Melanie B. Hoskins, and Wynne Gregory Day

Others Present: County Clerk Betsy Harrell, Election Coordinator Kim Dennison, Elections Administrator/Voter Supervisor Dana Caler, Assistant Election Coordinator Serena Green, Staff Assistants Sharon Rose, and Julie Hall, Cora Davis, Justin Simpson, Carrie Smith, Christine Erwin Jimerez, and Rhonda Dansby

Media: Not Present

County Clerk Betsy Harrell called the organizational meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and stated that the purpose of this meeting is to elect a chair, secretary and swear-in the Benton County Election Commissions. County Clerk Harrell stated that after the Oath of Office has been administered, she would entertain a motion to elect the chairperson and secretary for the Benton County Election Commission. County Clerk Harrell administered the Oath of Office to Russell J. Anzalone, Melanie B. Hoskins, and Wynne Gregory Day.

Commissioner Day made a motion to nominate Commissioner Anzalone as Chair, with no discussion, nomination was seconded by Commissioner Hoskins. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote. Commissioner Day made a motion to nominate Commissioner Hoskins as Secretary, with no discussion, nomination was seconded by Chairman Anzalone. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Minutes:

County Clerk Harrell stated that the minutes of the December 16, 2022 were from the previous commission and asked that Commissioner Anzalone sign the minutes. There being no discussion, Commissioner Day made a motion for Chairman Anzalone to sign the minutes from December 16, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Hoskins. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

New Business:

- A. Discussion of 2023 Elections: Election Coordinator Kim Dennison stated that the first election will be the Annual School Election to be held May 9, 2023. Kim added that filing for this election will begin on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 and will end at noon on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Kim stated that early voting will begin Tuesday, May 2, 2023 and will end on Monday, May 8, 2023. She added that if there is a runoff, the runoff will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. In addition, Kim stated on the Annual School Election ballot, NWACC will be asking for a millage along with Hickory Creek and Beaver Lake Fire District. Kim indicated that the City of Springdale is possibly looking at a millage, which will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. If Bentonville School District holds an election, it will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

- B. Order Approving a date for the Ballot Draw for the Annual School Election to be held May 9, 2023: Chairman Anzalone stated that Thursday, March 2, 2023 had been discussed and asked for discussion. There being no discussion, Commissioner Hoskins made a motion to accept Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. as the Ballot Draw for the Annual School Election to be held May 9, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Day. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Other Business:

Elections Administrator/Voter Supervisor Dana Caler stated that because of the increase of population it is time to redraw precinct lines in Benton County. Chairman Anzalone explained by State law that it is the election commission that establishes precincts and by order may alter the boundaries of election precincts and establish new ones to not go over a population of 3,000 in any one precinct. Because of the growth, the commission set the precincts at 2,000. Kim added that the precincts do not affect where a voter votes, because the county votes in vote centers. Kim mentioned Jeff Hawkins with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Jeff has completed previous mapping of Benton County precincts and districts and would do a great job with this project. Kim added that this project would have to be completed within 90 days of an election. Chairman Anzalone asked what is the population of Benton County. Dana stated approximately 182,000.

Public Comments:

Cora Davis stated that it is nice to have smooth elections in Benton County.

County Clerk Harrell welcomed the new commission and stated that the staff is very knowledgeable and dependable.

Announcements:

The next meeting will be announced at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie B. Hoskins
Secretary