

Benton County Election Commission

1428 W. Walnut, Rogers, AR 72756

Russell J. Anzalone
Chairman

Wynne Gregory Day
Commissioner



Melanie B. Hoskins
Secretary

Kim Dennison
Coordinator

Office (479) 271-1049 Fax (479) 271-5749
elections@bentoncountyar.gov

MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

March 11, 2024

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

Others present: Joe Merritt, Gail Pianalto, Bob Miller, Molly Behrens, Glenn Thompson, Cynthia Thompson, Senator Clint Penzo, Justice Carrie Perrien Smith, Staff Assistant Monica Bacon, Staff Assistant Julie Hall, and Election Coordinator Kimberly Dennison

Media: Yes

Chairman Anzalone called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes:

Chairman Anzalone asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from March 5, 2024. There being none, Commissioner Hoskins moved that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Day. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

New Business:

A. Recount for Justice of the Peace, District 1 of the ballots cast in the 2024 Preferential Primary and Nonpartisan Judicial Election held on March 5, 2024

The Election Commission and other election officials reprocessed the ballots cast for the Justice of the Peace, District 1 race in the 2024 Preferential Primary and Nonpartisan Judicial Election scheduled for March 5, 2024. Election Coordinator Kim Dennison shared the process for reviewing the ballots previously cast in the race and validating the manual count. The manual count confirmed the accuracy of the previously reported preliminary and unofficial vote count:

Justice of the Peace Jeff Dunn – 791
Michael McCaskey – 712
Undervotes-226

The results for the Justice of the Peace, District 1 race will be certified on Friday, March 15th.

B. Discussion of Provisional Ballots cast for the 2024 Preferential Primary and Nonpartisan Judicial Election held on March 5, 2024

The Election Commission reviewed and processed the provisional ballot categories for the 2024 Preferential Primary and Nonpartisan Judicial Election held on March 5, 2024. The preliminary and unofficial results are as follows:

Absentee Provisional – A total of 23 absentee ballots were marked “Provisional” on March 5th, and voters were contacted to provide valid identification by the prescribed deadline. Valid identification was provided for eight (8) ballots, and they were included in the final count. Fifteen (15) voters did not provide valid identification by the prescribed deadline; and, the ballots were excluded from the final count.

Early Voting Provisional – A total of 23 ballots were issued during Early Voting; seven (7) ballots were counted. Sixteen (16) ballots were not included in the final count because the voter 1) did not provide valid identification by the prescribed deadline, 2) did not register to vote by the prescribed deadline, or 3) had previously cast a ballot for the election.

Election Day Provisional – A total of 36 ballots were issued on Election Day; four (4) ballots were counted. Thirty-two (32) ballots were not included in the final count because the voter 1) did not provide valid identification by the prescribed deadline, 2) was ineligible to vote in Benton County, 3) was not registered to vote, or 4) did not register to vote by the prescribed deadline.

Eighty-two (82) provisional ballots were processed: nineteen (19) were added to the preliminary and unofficial result count and sixty-three (63) were disregarded for the election.

Other Business:

The Arkansas Secretary of State’s office is hosting an in-person Election Security Regional Outreach series across the state. The outreach is supported by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the Arkansas State Fusion Center; and, the first session is scheduled for April 16th at the Sheriff’s Annex in Fayetteville.

Public Comments:

N/A

Announcements:

The Election Commission will meet at 1:00 pm on March 15, 2024, to certify the election results.

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie B. Hoskins
Benton County Election Commission