

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

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MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

November 14, 2023

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

Others present: Kevin Faught, Benton County Clerk Betsy Harrell, Election Staff Assistant Julie Hall, Assistant Election Coordinator Serena Green, and Election Coordinator Kim Dennison

Media: N/A

Chairman Anzalone called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Minutes:

Chairman Anzalone asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from November 10, 2023. There being none, Commissioner Day moved that the minutes be approved as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Hoskins. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

New Business:

A. Discussion of New Precinct Boundaries

The Election Commission reviewed the revised precinct map from DataScout. The total precinct count is 566, including 423 precincts with voter assignments, 144 precincts with no voter assignments, and 75 precincts with 20 voters or less (down from 164 precincts in the previous draft).

Commissioner Hoskins moved the revised precinct map as presented, seconded by Commissioner Day. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

B. Processing of Absentee Ballots for the Bentonville Annual School and Special Elections held November 14, 2023

The Election Commission and staff processed absentee ballots. The total count for absentee ballots received was 19, 2 absentee ballots were converted to provisional ballots due to missing identification.

C. Signing of the Preliminary and Unofficial Results of the Bentonville Annual School and Special Elections held November 14, 2023

The Election Commission reviewed the preliminary and unofficial results. They noted that, as of Tuesday, November 14, 2023, five overseas ballots were outstanding for the Bentonville election; there were no overseas ballots for Gravette. There was one provisional ballot and two absentee provisional ballots (as noted above).

Commissioner Day moved to accept the preliminary election results, seconded by Commissioner Hoskins. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Other Business:

- A. Election Coordinator Kim Dennison presented an order to approve Monica Bacon for Train the Trainer. Commissioner Hoskins moved to approve the order, seconded by Commissioner Day. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- B. Benton County Clerk Betsy Harrell expressed concerns about the potential loss of anonymity for voters assigned to precincts with 20 voters or less. The Election Commission agreed to explore viable options and to develop a strategy to protect the identities of these voters.
- C. Benton County Clerk Betsy Harrell shared that there was a vacancy on the State Board of Election Commissioners following Daniel Schultz's retirement and provided insights about possible successors.
- D. The Election Commission reviewed future meeting dates.

Public Comments:

None

Announcements:

None

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie B. Hoskins
Benton County Election Commission