

## Washington County Administrator of Elections Report Jan / Feb 2025

We have continued to be productive in our office serving our state of Tennessee and citizens of Washington County. Since petition pick up began on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> for the May primary and Jan 9<sup>th</sup> for the August primary, we have had steady foot traffic from candidates and voters. As of Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, we had 55 potential candidates for the County May primary, 29 have filed the necessary petition with signatures. The last day to file and qualify for the May primary will be by noon Feb 19 and August primary/General is by noon Mar 10<sup>th</sup>

Sheila Hayes and I met with Johnson City Schools Superintendent Erin Slater as suggested on January 7<sup>th</sup>. She expressed her support for the election process and availability of facilities. We provided her with a list of needs in each precinct which she will provide to each location's contact person. She did follow up with an email confirming her communication with school principals.

I accepted an invitation to be interviewed by WC Republican chair Danielle Goodrich on their Tusker video channel. It went well and touched on a variety of election subjects. Our office was asked to be quest speaker at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Washington County Federated Republican Women's meeting in Jonesborough. We will use the PowerPoint presentation used for the County 101 program with minor edits. Sheila Hayes and Veronica Nuckols will join me in the presentation. I also emailed the Washington County Democratic Party chair Sylvain Bruni and offered to present to a group meeting for their party as well.

We have secured commitments from four individuals to act as Machine Techs for the May Primary. Aaron Bible and Logan Livingston will represent the Democratic Party, and Jeff Clyburn and Nancy Henson will represent the Republicans. We will be requesting your approval at our February meeting.

Our January 20<sup>th</sup> Poll Worker Appreciation event at the Jackson Theatre was a big success, with over 110 attendees. It was great to see the comradery between the poll workers and their enthusiasm to work again this year. We will make this an annual event after each election year. We showed an abbreviated version of our 101 PowerPoint and took several questions, showed a movie about the Jackson Theatre and Max Hawkins our Logistics Deputy provided some nice entertainment.

We developed a tentative schedule for the May election, depending on when the state approves our ballot. (we estimate first week of March) Tentatively, Veronica will be programming voting machines March 12-13, and the Machine Techs will start checking each machine on March 16<sup>th</sup>, finishing by March 20<sup>th</sup>. We have scheduled our election worker training for the May election. Early Voting worker training will be March 18 & 19<sup>th</sup> by team and Election day workers training will be March 31-April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and April 7, 8 and 9<sup>th</sup> with 2 or 3 sessions each day. Any adjustments will be minor.

Feel free to call me with any questions

Chuck Vest

Washington County Tn Administrator of Elections

423-753-1688

[Chuck@wcecoffice.com](mailto:Chuck@wcecoffice.com)



## Washington County Election Commission Meeting Minutes

**Date:** December 9, 2025

**Time:** 10:30am

**Location:** Election Office, 2516 East Oakland Ave, Johnson City, TN 37601

**Chairperson:** Lori Rosenoff

**Minute Taker:** Veronica Nuckols

### Attendance

- **Commissioners Present:** Lori Rosenoff, Margaret Davis, Mike Elder, Mike Hubbard
- **Commissioner Absent:** Turney Williams
- **Administrator of Elections:** Chuck Vest
- **Staff:** Sheila Hayes, Veronica Nuckols
- **Others Present:**
  - Johnson City Press – Brandon Paykamian
  - Dave Vollrath, League of Women Voters
  - Cheryl Richards, East Tennessee Freedom
  - Washington County residents

### Call to Order

- **Opening:** Chair Lori Rosenoff called the meeting to order
- Opening prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

### Public Comments

- None

### Communication from Chairperson/Remarks

- Chair Rosenoff states no new communication
- Opened floor to commissioners
- No remarks

### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Commissioner Davis requested Commissioners be addressed by last name in the minutes report
- **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Davis
- **Second by:** Commissioner Hubbard
- **Approved unanimously** (Commissioner Williams absent)

### Administrator's Report – Chuck Vest

- Traveled to Nashville to take Administrator exam
  - Passed exam
- Met with US Digital Response (with Sheila Hayes)
  - Discussed poll worker payroll software
  - Would help automate future election payroll
  - Cost has been lowered

- Option to consider in the future
- Continued communication with election workers
- Six-month report
  - Veronica Nuckols assisting
  - Due December 15
- Petition pick-up upcoming
  - Local parties asked to provide a letter for candidates to bring at pick-up
- Election worker recruitment discussion
  - Discussed planning a meet-and-greet event
  - Purpose is to thank past election workers and recruit new workers
  - Proposed location: Jackson Theatre, Jonesborough
  - Event is in early planning stages

### **Commissioner Discussion:**

- **Commissioner Hubbard:**
  - Asked what is included in the six-month report
    - Nuckols explained it was a report of all the voters (purges, new, inactive, active) in Washington County
  - Requested a copy be sent to all Commissioners when completed
- **Commissioner Davis:**
  - Asked if the office is still a Chamber of Commerce member
    - Mr. Vest confirmed yes
  - Asked about upcoming Chamber events
  - Encouraged Mr. Vest to attend events for visibility and poll worker recruitment
  - Suggested asking Chamber members if they are interested in working elections
  - Requested a meeting with County and City School Superintendents
    - Purpose: discuss future elections for 2026
    - Noted Johnson City Schools has a new Superintendent
- Discussion held regarding Towne Acres building a new school
  - Need to review election day parking and entrance logistics
- **Chair Rosenoff:**
  - Asked if Old Jonesborough Middle School is suitable for early voting
    - Mr. Vest confirmed yes
- Chair Rosenoff opened discussion on acceptance of the call for the May primary elections
- Prior to the Primary Election Discussion, Commissioner Davis asked if any Commissioners wished to discuss the ETACEO conference

### **ETACEO Discussion:**

- **Commissioner Elder:**
  - First time attending the full conference
  - Some useful topics (GIS mapping)
  - Limited new information

- Afternoon sessions were disorganized
- **Commissioner Davis:**
  - Stated afternoon session was not productive
  - Asked if feedback should be provided to ETACEO
- **Chair Rosenoff:**
  - Asked if ETACEO will continue since the organization has dissolved
- **Commissioner Davis:**
  - ETACEO sessions planned to continue in 2026
  - Unclear whether the State will continue a three-day conference
  - State will continue a one-day election law seminar

### **Acceptance of Call of Primary Elections**

- Both parties called for a primary election
- **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Elder
- **Second by:** Commissioner Hubbard
- **Approved unanimously**
- Election confirmed for **May 5, 2026**
- Mr. Vest noted many candidates are expected for May election petition pick-up

### **Next Meeting**

- **Date:** February 10, 2026
- **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

### **Additional Business**

- No cards to check
- Mr. Vest distributed new election law books provided by the State

### **Adjournment**

- **Motion to adjourn:** Commissioner Elder
- **Second:** Commissioner Hubbard
- Meeting adjourned