



WASHINGTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

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Washington County Election Administrator Report April 2026

The office has been busy cranking up for Early Voting on April 15th and Election Day voting on May 5th. Over the past 15 months, our county has **5,749 new voter registrations**, WC now with **92,418 registered voters**, of which **81,863 are active voters**. During that period, we **purged over 6,000 voters**, 2,005 deceased, 2,475 moved from area and 1,874 due to inactivity for 2 November federal elections. **The Election office has handled 23,525 touches to our voter rolls the past 15 months.** These can be new registrations, purges of voters for various reasons, name changes, address changes, inactive verifications, etc.

Non-daily tasks completed by the office were

- We arranged 3 stories that appeared in the JC Press, covering our March 3rd meeting, our new high school workers and election service by Victoria Rodgers.
- Max and election officer Kim Cox to WJHL for a live interview with Anslee Daniel on April 2nd. We had a small piece of WCYB about the Save Act as well.
- Conducted multiple Early and Election Day training courses.
- Sheila and Meredith visited all the nursing homes on March 6th.
- Veronica and Machine Techs completed the programming of machines.

Other things to note

- To date 3-31-26, we have sent out 209 approved Absentee ballots, with 50 (24%) already returned.
- Developed Sample Ballot notice, to be published April 6th. TCA §2-5-211
- Per TCA §2-9-105 notifies parties and press about when and where machines will be examined, as part of April 7th Election Commissioner meeting
- Judge Stacy Street nominated to the Criminal Court of Appeals, no action necessary by election commission until 2028.
- Last day to vote was April 6th.
- Purchased 6 new MicroVote printers for elections, \$4,500 expense. Will maximize current budget to improve technology
- 2026/2027 budget was accepted by Finance Director but not finalized yet.

Feel free to call me with any questions

Best regards

Chuck Vest

Washington County Tn Administrator of Elections

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Washington County Election Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: March 3, 2026

Time: 9:30am

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 and Turney Williams
- Administrator of Elections (AOE): Chuck Vest
- Staff: Sheila Hayes, Veronica Nuckols
- Media: Johnson City Press (Emma Caskill)
- Machine Techs: Aaron Bible and Jeff Clyburn
- Others Present:
 - Victoria Rogers
 - Cheryl Richards
 - Dave Vollrath
 - Ed Wolff

Call to Order:

- Commissioner Rosenoff called the meeting to order
- Opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments:

- None

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Williams
- **Seconded by:** Commissioner Elder
- **Approved unanimously**

Administrator's Report:

- Visits to the nursing homes begin on Thursday, March 5 (*was rescheduled for March 12*)
- Sheila Hayes put all the absentee and provisional bags together
- Chuck and Veronica spoke at the Washington County Federated Republican Women's event on March 2 at the Jonesborough Visitors Center
- Chuck visited the Jonesborough Early Voting site (Old Jonesborough Middle School) to inspect the site – if the school sells, we would move to the "round school."
- Chuck is still looking for a more permanent location for a Jonesborough Early Voting site
- The proposed budget was submitted and is generally in line with the 2024 budget. A reduction of approximately \$10,000 in part-time labor was included.
- Office was notified by the State of Tennessee that a new driver's license for non-citizens, identifiable by an "X" or "Temporary Drivers License," is no longer a valid photo ID for voting. Procedures were discussed and instructions on how to handle such IDs at polling locations.
- Reviewed the training schedule (calendars with schedule were passed out to commissioners)

- Election Law Seminar is scheduled for June 29th. Board members were asked to confirm attendance.

Machine Tech Introduction:

- Aaron Bible, Democrat Machine Tech
- Jeff Clyburn, Republican Machin Tech
- Vest stated both individuals are well qualified and knowledgeable.

Voter ID and Name Change Confusion:

- Commissioner Davis address that she was receiving multiple calls from the community regarding voter ID requirements, particularly women with name changes.
- Vest emphasized Tennessee's strong voter registration and election processes, with no planned changes for the current election cycle.
- Commissioners discussed the importance of proactive voter education and outreach.
- Sheila Hayes clarified:
 - Voters with name changes must update their information but may still vote with proper photo ID.
 - Address changes and name changes are handled through the failsafe process at the precinct.
 - Eligible voters should not be turned away.
- Commissioner Davis states the new commissioners will not know what all the paperwork looks like unless they attend a training session or visit the early voting sites. This is a good educational purpose.
- Commissioner Hubbard asked if anything was posted to the website regarding this process.
- Veronica Nuckols explained that there wasn't. We do not put our training material on the website but there can be adjustments made to our training material to help voters better understand the process.
- Chuck Vest states the office will do more outreach through the website and our social media (Facebook).

Ballot Approval:

- Vest reported that a small number of candidates are under review for bona fide status, with a deadline of March 5 for final determinations.
- Additional discussion included:
 - Comparison to candidate qualification issues in neighboring counties.
 - Noted high candidate participation, including multiple contested races.
 - Commissioner Davis is excited to see the engagement
- **Motion to Approve:** Commissioner Davis, with stipulations regarding pending bona fide determinations.
- **Seconded by:** Commissioner Hubbard
- **Approved unanimously**

Appoint and Approve Poll Workers:

- Discussion included recruitment challenges and ongoing efforts:
 - Commissioner Davis stated a couple workers have not been contacted

- Max Hawkins will confirm with those workers.
- Outreach continues to recruit poll workers
- Efforts continue to maintain party balance among workers
- Six individuals confirmed for the counting board
- Efforts ongoing to recruit more student workers through local schools
 - Follow up with more schools
- Commissioners reviewed the list of poll workers
- **Motion to Approve:** Commissioner Elder
- **Seconded by:** Commissioner Hubbard
- **Approved unanimously**

Schedule Next Meeting:

- **Date:** April 7, 2026
- **Time:** 9:30 a.m.
- This meeting will occur prior to early voting and may include additional agenda items as needed.
- Voter Registration deadline is April 6, 2026.

Other Business:

- Discussion held regarding convenience voting centers
- Discussion of municipalities transitioning to partisan elections
- Machine programming and verification will take place prior to early voting.
- Training schedules may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate operational needs.

Absentee & Provisional Ballot Boxes:

- Lock and seal precinct and early voting Ballot Boxes (bags)
- **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Elder
- **Seconded by:** Commissioner Hubbard
- **Approved unanimously**

Adjournment:

- Commissioners adjourned meeting.