

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
(WCEC)**

**JUNE 15, 2023, SIGNED APPROVED MINUTES
WITH ATTACHMENTS**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wanda Bruce Graham", is written over the printed name.

**WANDA BRUCE GRAHAM
SECRETARY, WCEC**

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
MINUTES – Thursday, June 15, 2023**

The Williamson County Election Commission (WCEC) met in person on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at the Williamson County Election Commission Office located at 405 Downs Boulevard, Franklin, Tennessee. Chair Jonathan Duda called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The agenda is Attachment 1. A roll call of members was taken, and the following members were present: Chair Jonathan Duda, Commissioner Robert “Bob” Brown, Commissioner Donna Choate, and Secretary, Wanda Bruce Graham. Administrator of Elections, Chad Gray was present. Commissioner Rodney “Rod” Williamson was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Choate. Attendees at the WCEC meeting included members of The League of Women Voters of Williamson County (LWVWC).

I. PUBLIC COMMENT: Chair Duda reviewed the meeting sign-in sheet, and one attendee, Cheryl Brown signed up to make comments. The sign-in sheet is Attachment 2.

➤ Cheryl Brown thanked the WCEC for its hard work and for all we do to keep elections fair and knows a lot of work has been done. She referred to those who spoke out at the June 12, 2023, County Commission meeting in opposition to the WCEC decisions regarding voting machines. Cheryl Brown commented that many people advised her they want voting machines and she to supports voting machines.

Chair Duda commented he appreciated all of the citizens who spoke at the June 12, 2023, County Commission meeting regarding the WCEC voting machine process. The County Commission voted to approve the appropriations requests for our voting equipment. Chair Duda commented about the State law regarding reporting election results to the Coordinator of Elections on Election Day after the last voter has voted. He advised Administrator Gray a uniform system should be set up for WCEC Officer of Elections to contact the WCEC on Election Day when their last voter has voted. After closure of all locations and reports of their last voter, this will allow the WCEC to begin results tabulations.

Commissioner Brown commented regarding the criticism remarks at the June 12, 2023, County Commission meeting about the City of Franklin 2021 Early Voting tape results. He wanted to clarify that there was no tabulation of results until after 7 p.m. by the WCEC Counting Board. He recalled a statement being made that the WCEC should have known about the results discrepancy prior to the close of voting. Chair Duda remarked he will review the tapes from that election as a couple of comments were made at the same meeting. He further stated that WCEC multiple systems worked to confirm the result numbers and our systematic process worked. Commissioner Brown stated that all the evidence (including written statements from our poll officers of election) pointed to our Franklin Poll Officers as the individuals who first discovered the Franklin 2021 error of the tabulators not printing the results correctly to the tabulator paper tapes. It was not an “election poll watcher” who first found the error as has been stated by some in the community. We all should be proud of our poll officers who first discovered the printing error and immediately reported it to the WCEC.

WCEC Minutes 6-15-23 (Continued)

Commissioner Choate summarized an email she stated spoke to her heart. It was sent to the Commissioners from a regular meeting attendee thanking the WCEC for educating the public about the election commission work to keep Williamson County elections accurate and secure. She thanked Administrator Gray and his staff, especially Sandy Wray, and remarked the WCEC and Administrator Gray set an excellent example of what nonpartisan efforts can achieve.

Secretary Graham thanked her fellow WCEC members especially Chair Duda and Administrator Gray for all of the diligent work accomplished to get to the appropriations' approval by the County Commission on June 12, 2023. She apologized for not being in attendance due to a need to attend the City of Brentwood Commission meeting on the same date.

Chair Duda commented on the upcoming WCEC Feasibility Study and noted that Phase 1 will entail WCEC's preparation of a scope of work; it will follow the County's procurement process to obtain a third-party vendor to conduct the study. All aspects of using paper ballots such as costs and associated resources will be part of the scope of work. The scope of work will also look at election processes such as best practices from management standpoint. He further remarked that Phase 2 will include working with the Vendor to review a system that uses hand marked paper ballots. He remarked that Hamilton or Shelby County would be locations with elections in August for review.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

(1) Approve the Minutes from the May 30, 2023, Meeting. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2023, Meeting; the motion was seconded by Chair Duda. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Appoint the Election Day Poll Officials for the July 18, 2023, Town of Thompson's Station Municipal Annexation Referendum. Administrator Gray presented the election day poll officials list for the July 18, 2023, Town of Thompson's Station Municipal Annexation Referendum and advised Commissioners the list is at minimum staffing. Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the list of Election Day Poll Officials for the July 18, 2023, Town of Thompson's Station Municipal Annexation Referendum Election; Commissioner Choate seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

(2) Lock the Early Voting and Election Day Ballot Boxes for the Town of Thompson's Station Municipal Annexation Referendum. Chair Duda advised the Commissioners would lock these boxes at the conclusion of the meeting.

(3) Review an Election Commission Voter List Maintenance Policy for 2023. Commissioner Brown requested that we include sending the non-forwardable voter registration cards mailers every four years. Chair Duda advised we will discuss this at our next meeting. He further commented that Commissioners would discuss what actions to take to add three additional

vote centers with consideration being given to the Brentwood, College Grove/Arrington, and Franklin Highway 96/I-65 area. He commented that we will look at turnout numbers in various areas too. Administrator Gray provided Commissioners a six-month report for the period 12/1/2022 to 5/31/2023 reflecting county election records of active, inactive, new, and purged voters. This data will be discussed further at the next meeting.

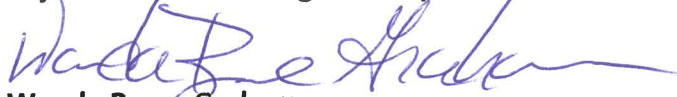
(4) Discuss the Appointment of a Republican Voting Machine Technician. Administrator Gray reported that on June 12, 2023, Republican Machine Technician, Tony Clifford, resigned as the Republican Machine Technician due to a conflict of interest. His wife is seeking election via the October 24, 2023, City of Franklin Board of Mayor, and Alderman Municipal Election. Commissioner Brown made a point of clarification that the Republican Commissioners appoint the Republican Voting Machine Technician, and the Democratic Commissioners appoint the Democratic Voting Machine Technician. Administrator Gray recommended James Schindley who has served as a Machine Technician at Legacy Middle School and has assisted the Machine Technicians with logic and testing process. Chair Duda will look at ways to seek new individuals to perform this duty with some type of advertisement or public notice. He requested Commissioner Brown work on preparing a list of duty requirements with assistance from State Election Coordinator staff and current Machine Technicians.

Chair Duda made a motion to appoint James Schindley to serve as the Republican Machine Technician for the July 18, 2023, Town of Thompson's Station Municipal Annexation Referendum Election; Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

(5) Other Business – (No Actions To Be Taken). None.

(6) IV. Adjournment. Commissioners locked the Early Voting and Election Day Ballot Boxes for the July 18, 2023, Town of Thompson's Station Municipal Annexation Referendum. Chair Duda and Administrator Gray will coordinate with Commissioners to determine the next WCEC meeting; it will likely occur on July 18, 2023, the date of the Town of Thompson's Station Municipal Annexation Referendum Election.

There being no further business of the Williamson County Election Commission, Chair Duda adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.



Wanda Bruce-Graham
Secretary, WCEC

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – 6/15/2023 WCEC Meeting Agenda
- Attachment 2 – 6/15/2023 WCEC Meeting Sign-in

WILLIAMSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING SIGN-IN

GUEST ATTENDEES

Meeting Date

6/15/2023

PLEASE PRINT NAME

Place/Room

WPEC 405 DOWNS
Blvd - Franklin

Name

**WISH TO MAKE COMMENTS
PLEASE CHECK BLOCK
BELOW**

**FIRST TIME MAKING
COMMENTS PLEASE CHECK
HERE**

Kenneth Choate

6-15-23

~~FRANK LIMPUS~~

Cheryl Brown

✓

Julie Nell

Bette + Bob Holmes

Adriane King

Susan Jamison

TERRY SWAFFER

Damon Rogers

Karen Paritee

Moonhee Bischof

Paddy Lassen

John Ambrose

Tiffie Rosen

Christine Deekens

Sharon Spigel

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Attachment 2 Nothing Follows