

Anderson County Election Commission Minutes

**Thursday, May 8, 2025
4:00 p.m. ET, Room 118A, Courthouse**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Chair Jane Miller. In addition to Miller, Commissioners David Bradshaw, Bill Gallaher, Marion Stanford, William "Bear" Stephenson were present along with Election Administrator Mark Stephens, and Deputies Tina Price and Shawn Rogers. Also attending was AC IT Director, Brian Young and AC Cyber Security Officer, Josh Acres.

Visitors:

Attending from the public were Lou Ann Cristy, Stephen Cristy, Mike Hardy, Chase Lindsey, Wendy Maness, Amy Poteet, and Robert Walker.

A motion was made by Bradshaw to approve the agenda. A second was made by Stephenson with all voting in favor.

II. Public Comment (Previously approved motion limits each speaker to 3 minutes)

Public comments were made by Lou Ann Cristy in regards to the February 13, 2025 minutes. She appreciated that there was more information in these minutes and hopes to see that continue. She also spoke about concerns of the timing of agendas and minutes being posted to the website for the public to view. There was also a question about needing to let the office know if five days in advance if they wanted to be on the Agenda.

Chair Miller addressed this by stating that anyone from the public was welcome to come to the meetings and make a three-minute public comment without needing to be on the Agenda. Stephens stated that by State law the Agendas only needed to be posted 48 hours prior to the meeting date.

Robert Walker spoke regarding the limitation of only being able to speak for three minutes. He also discussed competency based performance reviews and the need to be addressed by the Commission. In addition, he expressed his concerns about the swearing in service and the Oaths being sent to the State in a timely manner.

Chair Miller addressed this by stating that Stephens fulfilled the requirements with the State within the 20-day deadline. Each of the Commissioner's notarized Oaths were received by the State by April 28, 2025.

III. Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Bradshaw to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2025 meeting with grammatical changes submitted by Stanford. Stephenson seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

IV. Administrator's Report

- **IT Briefing**

Brian Young, Anderson County Information Technology (IT) Director, discussed the safeguards and layers of protection used to protect the Election Commission office, as well as, the entire Anderson County government. Young stated that Anderson County is setting standards with state of the art security systems. Young also introduced Josh Acres who serves as the Cyber Security Officer for Anderson County.

- **Technician Candidate**

Stephens introduced Parker Shannon, an applicant for the open Machine Technician position. Mr. Shannon has worked as a poll worker since 2022. He worked in our Oak Ridge early voting precinct and has been an Officer on election day. Mr. Shannon retired in 2013 from Toyota where he worked as the Business Service Manager. He also has experience as a tool and dye journeyman. Bradshaw made a motion to approve the hiring of Parker Shannon as a Machine Technician, seconded by Stephenson, with all voting in favor.

- **Voting Machine Discussion**

Stanford requested additional information regarding how Executive Order #14019, in accordance with the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, will affect the use of Anderson County's current voting machines.

Stephens clarified that the President's EO contains two parts; Voter ID requirements and Voting Machines. He stated that Federal Law sets standards and State Law implements procedures for compliance. While Tennessee is already compliant with the new Voter ID requirements, the State has yet to issue any new procedures for voting machines. Our county's next election will be in May 2026, and we will await direction from the State as to voting machines.

- **Legislative Update**

Stephens provided a hand out to the Commission regarding changes to the process for felony voting restorations.

Stephens said that there is an ongoing investigation into voter fraud. There has been one case identified and it will be up to the Anderson County District Attorney to decide whether to pursue filing charges.

- **Office News and Notes**

Stephens said there is one more County budget meeting to attend in June, and it is currently projected that the AC Election Office budget will have \$3,000 remaining of the FY \$576,000 budget.

Stephens informed the Commissioners of County Humans Resources open enrollment taking place next week. He provided the commissioners a benefits booklet for review containing the dates and times for in person enrollment.

V. Review of Previous Action Items

None.

VI. New Action Items

None.


VII. Set Next Meeting


The next meeting was set for July 17, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 118A of the Anderson County Courthouse. The ACEC will not have a meeting during June 2025.


Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Stephenson with a second by Gallaher. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.


D. Jane Miller, Chair


William "Bear" Stephenson, Secretary


David Bradshaw, Commissioner


William T. Gallaher, Commissioner


Marion Stanford, Commissioner