



Anderson County Election Commission

Agenda

**Wednesday, October 21, 2026
4:00 pm ET, Courthouse Room 118A**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- III. Consideration of approval of the minutes of the September 16th meeting**
- IV. Administrator's Report**
- V. Public Comment** (Previously approved motion limits each speaker to 3 minutes)
- VI. Lock Election Day Provisional Ballot Boxes**
- VII. Set Next Meeting**
- VIII. Adjourn**

Anderson County Election Commission Minutes

**Wednesday, September 16, 2026
4:00 p.m. ET, Room 118A, Courthouse**

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m. by Chair Jane Miller. In addition, to Miller, Commissioners David Bradshaw, Marion Stanford and Bear Stephenson were present with Commissioner Bill Gallaher attending by phone. Administrator Stephens, Chief Deputy Eby, Deputy Shawn Rogers, Deputy Rivers Rogers were also present along with members of the public.

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

Commissioner Bradshaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Stephenson seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

Administrator Stephens distributed the proposed poll worker appointments for the November 3 Election. Commissioner Stanford made a motion to approve the list with a second from Commissioner Bradshaw. All voted in favor.

The next order of business was to set the early voting hours for the November 3 Election. Early voting dates will be October 14-October 29. Commissioner Bradshaw made a motion to keep the hours 10 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday and 9 am to 12 noon on Saturday. Commissioner Stephenson seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bradshaw to use the Anderson County Fair Association Building in Clinton, the Midtown Community Center in Oak Ridge, and the North Anderson County government office for October 14-29 early voting for the November 3 Election. A second was made by Commissioner Stephenson with all voting in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bradshaw to keep the November 3 Election Day hours from 9 am to 8 pm. A second was made by Commissioner Stanford with all voting in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bradshaw to approve the November 3 Election Day Precinct locations, which will be the same as were used in the prior election. Commissioner Stephenson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Administrator Stephens distributed a copy of the November 3 Sample Ballot along with a November 3 candidate list.

Administrator Stephens informed the Commission that additional voting machines would be placed at Early Voting locations to help reduce lines expected from higher voter turnout.

Commissioner Bradshaw asked how voters would learn about the proposed constitutional amendments. Administrator Stephens said that the Tennessee Secretary of State's office would have information on their website. In addition, the Anderson County Election Commission would place an ad in the newspaper and put information on the Anderson County Election Commission website.

Administrator Stephens distributed an email from Anderson County Law Director James W. Brooks, Jr. concerning the Open Meetings Act (Attachment A). Stephens said that in the email, Law Director Brooks said that the Commission had acted appropriately with regard in how we have been dealing with Public Comments during Election Commission meetings.

There were public comments made by Jeff Pack, Robert Walker, and Louann Cristy.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Stephenson with a second by Commissioner Bradshaw. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Email from Anderson County Law Director James W. Brooks, Jr.

D. Jane Miller, Chair

William “Bear” Stephenson, Secretary

David Bradshaw, Commissioner

William T. Gallaher, Commissioner

Marion Stanford, Commissioner

Public Comment

From James Brooks <jbrooks@andersoncountyttn.gov>

Date Wed 9/16/2026 2:10 PM

To Mark Stephens <mstephens@andersoncountyttn.gov>

 2 attachments (63 KB)

Tenn. Code Ann. _ 8-44-112.pdf; Tenn. Code Ann. _ 2-1-113.pdf;

Mark,

I have attached Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-1-113 which states that the Tennessee Open Meetings Act (TOMA) applies to a local Election Commission see Tenn. Code Ann. 2-1-113 (a)(2). Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-112 (a)(1) of TOMA requires the reservation of a period for public comment for matters on the agenda. Your office has been following the law based on the Agenda you sent to me. It provides for a period of time for public comment.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-112 (a)(2), which expands the subject of comments to include matters not on the agenda is limited to "local governing bodies" which is more defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-112 (2) (B) is not the same as the definition "governing body" in Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-102(b) (1) (A). In my opinion, Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-112 (a) (2) (A) does not apply to your office based on my research.

You should continue to provide a period of public comment, but it does not need to extend to matters not on the agenda.

James W. Brooks, Jr.
Anderson County Law Director
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865.457.6290