Minutes
Election Commission Meeting
Date: May 12, 2022 12:00 p.m.

In attendance via zoom:
Emma Agnew
Kimberly Dale
Rachel Herzog, Reporter, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

In attendance in person:
Jeannette Robertson
Tammy Hodges
Keith Inman, *Jonesboro Sun*Griffin Demarrais, KAIT 8
Jarrod Griffin, representative for Jake Bequette

Call to order at 12:03 p.m. – Jeannette Robertson confirms media was contacted for this meeting.

1. Jeannette Robertson read a prepared statement. Those in attendance received a copy of the statement. Statement attached to minutes.
2. Approve minutes from April 29, 2022 12:00 p.m.
	1. No corrections need to be made.
	2. Tammy Hodges moved to accept the minutes, Emma Agnew seconded, voted aye unanimously.
3. Approve Poll Worker list for the 2022 Primary election
	1. No conflicts were found by the election commission members.
		1. Emma Agnew stated that she did not know all of the workers but the ones she knew were fine.
	2. Emma Agnew moved to approve the poll worker list, Tammy Hodges seconded, voted aye unanimously.
4. Legal representation of the Election Commission with respect to the Jake Bequette lawsuit.
	1. Kimberly Dale will be representing the Commission.
	2. She had not received a copy of the lawsuit at the time of the meeting.
5. L&A Testing of the corrected media
	1. Korley Martin, Spencer Sandy and Jennifer Clack performed the L&A test on 4 ExpressVote machines and 1 DS200.
	2. All 94 Republican ballot styles were tested.
6. Jeannette Robertson adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

As Chairman of the Craighead County Election Commission I will make a brief statement prior to beginning the previously scheduled election commission meeting.

The Election Commission during the performance of their duty to review and proof the 282 ballot styles for this preferential primary failed to find a typographical error in the first name of the US Senate candidate Jake Bequette during its last review. As such, ES&S, our ballot software programming company provided us with the media we use to program our voting machines and paper ballot printing equipment for Absentee ballot that still contained this first name spelling error.

On April 28th an employee of the SOS, emailed the Craighead County Election Coordinator pointing out that the commission had missed this typographical error and provided us a citation of the statute that governs our actions in resolving this situation. A public meeting of the Election Commission was held April 29th where the mistake in proofing was discussed and the election commission took what it deemed at that time to be appropriate actions, considering that the deadline for providing Absentee ballots to the county Clerk had passed more than 3 weeks earlier and only 5 business days remained between the commission learning of the error and early vote beginning.

Late Tuesday afternoon, May 10th I was informed by the Secretary of State’s office that candidate Jake Bequette had filed a lawsuit that included the Craighead County Election Commission, among others, as a defendant. Due to the fact there was now pending litigation with respect to this situation, I as Chairman felt it inappropriate to respond to media requests about the case. I immediately contacted County Judge Marvin Day to request legal representation for the Commission. Judge Day sought counsel to represent the commission and Attorney Kimberly Dale was hired late yesterday afternoon to represent the Craighead County Election Commission. I then drafted this statement for presentation here today.

 Ms. Dale is attending this meeting via a zoom connection as she is traveling today. At this time if Ms. Dale wishes to make a statement I invite her to do so and then the commission will move on to its agenda matters.