

Davidson County Election Commission Meeting of 3/10/2016

It's been a busy month at the **Davidson County Election Commission**. The March 1 election went off without a hitch. The election results are scheduled to be certified at the March 21 DCEC meeting.

The Election Commission is currently undergoing two major personnel changes. The Administrator of Elections, **Kent Wall**, has announced his retirement, effective March 31, 2016. A search for his replacement is underway. On March 10, 126 applications had been received and March 22 is the deadline for submissions. The range of salary for the position is approximately 80K-102K/year. At the DCEC meeting on March 10, **Joan Nixon** and **Kent Wall** were both deemed possible candidates for an interim AOE since the hiring process will not be complete by Mr. Wall's retirement date.

The other major change revolves around the sudden resignation of Chair **Ron Buchanan**. As per protocol, the Davidson County Republican delegation appointed a replacement commission member, **Jesse Neil**. The five sitting commissioners then elected Commissioner **Jim DeLanis** as the new Commission Chair.

Commissioner Jennifer Lawson has drafted a procedure for commission staff to submit anonymous complaints against each other when suspicious activity has occurred. The draft policy is in response to a recent episode in which **Mr. Wall** and **Chairman Buchanan** were accused of inappropriate spending totaling about \$200. A Metro investigation is underway. In addition, Channel 4 News reported the problematic charges. **Chairman Buchanan's** unprofessional reaction to their report, which occurred on camera, was the reason for his resignation. **Lawson's** draft policy has not yet been voted upon.

The voter registration rolls have been purged in accordance with voter inactivity, in compliance with TN election law. This is a standard process used across the country and is the primary way that deceased voters are purged from the rolls on a periodic basis.

Submitted by Voter Service Director Hazel Thornton