

# Madison County Board of Elections

## Meeting Minutes – Monthly Meeting

September 17, 2025

The Madison County Board of Elections held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at Suite E, Room 16, 5707 US 25-70 Hwy, Marshall, 28753. In attendance: Dyatt Smathers, Chair; Brian Ball, Secretary; Ray Lewis, Member; Debbie Ponder, Member; Robert Briggs, Member; Jacob Ray, Director; Kathy Ray, Election Specialist; Print*Elect* Ballot on Demand / Electronic Poll Book Coordinator, Jennifer Sparks; Print*Elect* Regional Account Manager, Tony Barnfield; Democratic Party Chair, Paula Dempsey; Grapevine Precinct Republican Judge, Dennis McMahan; and Poll Worker Assistant, Cheryl Williams.

### Call to Order:

- Chair Smathers called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

### Meeting Agenda:

- **Motion (RB, RL) to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**
- **Motion (BB, DP) to approve the August 19, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

### Print*Elect* ExpressVote Printer Presentation

Print*Elect* representatives demonstrated the use of the ExpressVote Printer and fielded questions regarding its potential to speed up the check-in process, improve accuracy, ensure voters receive the correct ballot style, and eliminate the need for a poll worker to activate the voting equipment for each voter. They informed the group that the thermal, universal, plug-and-play printer is paired with the OVRD/SOSA software and laptop computers and can be used during both Early Voting and Election Day. There is no wireless connectivity or file storage. Once a file is created and run for a particular voter, it is deleted from its memory, just as any other plug-and-play printer. Files for Logic & Accuracy Testing and ballot reconciliation are stored in the software, not the printer. They ended the presentation by clarifying that the ExpressLink Software is a one-time purchase for any number of laptops and requires an Annual Post Warranty License and Maintenance and Support Fees. Print *Elect* is responsible for software installation and staff training.

The Chair provided all present at the meeting with the opportunity to comment on or ask questions regarding the use of the printer.

### Members' Reports:

- All members expressed appreciation for the technology updates and improvements that are needed.
- Chair Smathers reported that all issues with the Spring Creek Precinct Official appointments have been satisfactorily resolved. He also recommended the book Suggested Procedural Rules for Local Appointed Boards and will report on a couple of beneficial items at the next meeting.

**Director's Report:**

- The Director provided the monthly budget expenditure report and clarified that the Capital Expenses Line Item contains funds for purchasing the ExpressVote Printers.
- The Director confirmed that 12:00 noon on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, is the deadline for Unaffiliated Candidate Petition submissions.

**New Business:**

Discussion ensued regarding upcoming Municipal Election poll worker appointments.

- **Motion (BB, RL) to approve the list as presented and amended. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

Discussion ensued regarding the proposal and purchase of the ExpressVote Printers.

- **Motion (BB, RL) to approve the proposal outlined by ES&S and PrintElect for not more than \$9,030. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

**Other Matters:**

Secretary Ball asked for thoughts on the distribution of the ExpressVote Printers to the polling site(s).

Member Ponder expressed the need for more printers in the future to provide a uniform system for all voters.

The Director commented that the printers will be especially useful during primary elections, municipal elections, and early voting due to the increased number of ballot styles and precinct splits.

**Party Chair Comment:**

- Party Chair Paula Dempsey conveyed voter privacy concerns that had been brought to her with the positioning of the voting equipment and voter assistance procedures.

**Public Comment:**

- Cheryl Smith commented that the presentation was great, and the information was useful to save time, to save money, and make the process easier for voters.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion (DP, BB) to adjourn at 3:37 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

Chair



Secretary

