



## GARLAND COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

Election Commission Building

649-A Ouachita Avenue

Hot Springs, AR 71901-3921

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Sundra Mallory—Executive Secretary

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November 16, 2015

Dear Candidate:

The Garland County Election Commission is dedicated to protecting each registered voter's right to participate in fair, unbiased, and transparent elections while maintaining secrecy of the ballot. When candidates are fully informed and join us in complying with the spirit and intent of election laws, unnecessary prosecutorial involvement may be reduced.

### **DRAWING FOR BALLOT PLACEMENT** [A.C.A. § 7-7-305(b)]

You, or your representative, are entitled to participate in the ballot position drawing. Drawing for ballot placement begins promptly at **12:00 noon, Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at the Garland County Election Commission Office, 649-A Ouachita Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71901**. Members of the public may volunteer to draw for candidates who do not attend and candidates who do not appoint a representative to draw for them. Drawing is by lot from common playing cards, using values from the game of Bridge to determine numerical placement on the ballot. You or your representative may inspect the deck of cards being used prior to the drawing.

### **ELECTION OFFICIALS (Poll Workers)** [A.C.A. § 7-5-202(b)(2)]

A list of election officials working at the polls will be posted at the County Clerk's office not later than February 15, 2016. You have the right to challenge any election official who is related to a candidate within the second degree of consanguinity or who served as a paid campaign worker for this election. Please notify the Election Commission immediately.

### **LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING** (A.C.A. § 7-5-515(c) (1); Act 1218 of 2015)

Logic and Accuracy testing will begin at **9:00 a.m. Saturday, February 6, 2016 at the Garland County Election Commission Office, 649-A Ouachita Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71901**. Testing of voting, scanning, and tabulating machines is open to the public.

### **CANDIDATES & CAMPAIGNERS AT POLLING SITE DURING VOTING** [AG Opinion <http://ag.arkansas.gov/opinions/docs/2011-009.html>]

During voting time, the County Board of Election Commissioners are acceded use of a specific area, one-hundred feet (100') outside of the main entrance people use to vote and a specific area within the building for voting use. The property owner retains control of the property not acceded to the election commission. The property owner retains control of remaining property and may restrict campaigners from parking and/or campaigning on the property.

## **POLL WATCHERS** [A.C.A. § 7-5-312]

Each candidate, group seeking passage or defeat of a measure on the ballot, and each political party with a candidate on the ballot has the right to appoint one Poll Watcher per voting location during voting. A Poll Watcher Authorization Form [A.C.A. § 7-5-312 / Act 224 of 2007], duly processed and filed with the Garland County Clerk, by the person or group appointing the Poll Watcher, must be presented to an Election Official upon arrival at the location. Poll Watchers may observe election officials, stand close enough to the place where voters check in to vote so as to hear the voter's name, compile lists of persons voting, challenge ballots upon notification to an Election Official **BEFORE** the voter signs the precinct voter registration list and upon completing a "Challenged Ballot Form", call to the attention of the Election Sheriff any occurrence believed to be an irregularity or violation of election law. The Poll Watcher may **NOT** discuss the occurrence unless the Election Sheriff invites the discussion. The Poll Watcher may be present at the opening, processing, and canvassing of absentee ballots for the purpose of challenging absentee votes in the manner provided by law for personal voting challenges.

A candidate in person may be a Poll Watcher **ONLY** during the counting and tabulation of ballots and **PROCESSING** absentee ballots

## **ELECTIONEERING** [A.C.A. §§7-1-103(a)(9); 7-1-104(a)(7)]

Candidates and campaigners may enter the polling site only for the purpose of casting his/her vote. Electioneering laws apply to candidates and campaigners as well as voters and the general public. Electioneering includes soliciting votes or distributing literature regarding any candidate or issue on the ballot, soliciting signatures on any petition, soliciting contributions, and attempting to win votes by wearing or displaying campaign buttons, caps, shirts, signs, or other articles of influence. Electioneering of any kind whatsoever is prohibited in the building or within one hundred feet (100') of the primary exterior entrance used by voters at a voting site on any day of which voting is taking place and can be prohibited by the property owner on private property not ceded to the election commission.

Campaign literature, signs, and other electioneering items found inside the one-hundred foot (100') area of the main entrance for voting are removed. We urge you to convey this information to all your campaign workers. Electioneering in prohibited areas is not tolerated. Violation of electioneering laws is, at the minimum, a Class A misdemeanor offense punishable by fine or confinement.

## **AFTER THE POLLS CLOSE**

Election Day polls close at 7:30 p.m. Chief Election Judges are responsible to allow only voters who are in line to vote at 7:30 p.m. to continue voting after 7:30 p.m., unless required to do so by court order.

The Garland County Election Commission welcomes the public, candidates, and campaign workers to observe closing of the poll and generation of reports. We ask that you do not talk with Election Officials as they are generating reports, putting the polling place back in order and securing voting machines and the building. Electronically recorded votes are canvassed as each Chief Election Judge presents the encrypted, secured vote information to the Garland County Election Commission. This information is automatically uploaded to the Secretary of State and projected on a wall at the commission office for all visitors to view. Printed updates of UNOFFICIAL results are distributed to the public on election night.

Absentee vote counting begins at 8:30 a.m. on Election Day. §§ 7-5-316, 7-5-413, 7-5-416, 7-5-527, and 7-5-615. A candidate in person or an authorized representative of a candidate or political party may be present where Absentee ballots are being counted to determine whether ballots are fairly and accurately counted. A Poll Watcher form duly processed from the person or group appointing the Poll Watcher must be presented to an Election Official upon arrival at the location. The vote count is open to the public. We ask that visitors remain in one assigned observation area to assure privacy of individual votes. State law requires that the voter's name is read aloud, and information is compared to voter registration records. Absentee vote counters are hired and trained specifically for the task of canvassing Absentee Ballots. Absentee vote totals and Early Votes are included in the Unofficial Results on election night.

The vote totals are Unofficial because the Commission must wait for votes to arrive from eligible military and civilian voters serving in other countries. Commissioners hold a public meeting, duly advertised, to certify election results.

If you need more information or wish to meet with the Garland County Election Commission, please contact us. We are here to serve voters and you.

Best Regards,

/s/ Gene Haley

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Commissioner Gene Haley, Chairman

/s/ Ginna Watson

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Commissioner Ginna Watson, Secretary

/s/ Dennis Bosch

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Commissioner Dennis Bosch