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**ALABAMA ELECTONIC OVERSEES VOTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
DECEMBER 2, 2015  
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**

Members present were Secretary of State John H. Merrill; Brad Cain; Brenda Smith, Attorney General's Office; and Circuit Clerk Mary Moore, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

All other Committee members were absent.

Also present for the Secretary of State's Office were Ed Packard, Director of Elections; Clay Helms, Assistant Director of Elections and Supervisor of Voter Registration; and David Brewer, Chief of Staff. Circuit Clerk Dwayne Amos, 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, was also in attendance.

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Secretary Merrill called the Committee members to order at 10:05 a.m. and with no quorum present, the Committee could not conduct an official meeting; however, they discussed the following business to-wit:

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NOTIFICATION OF MEETING/ROLL CALL &  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF QUORUM/REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 30,  
2015 COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mr. Helms informed the Committee that the meeting notice was published online at the meetings calendar on the Alabama Secretary of State website and, therefore, was properly noticed per the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Helms informed the Committee that since a quorum was not present today that the April 30, 2015, meeting minutes will be considered at the next Committee meeting for approval.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Helms said he knew of no old business to discuss.

**UPDATE OF CITY OF MONTGOMERY PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE AUGUST 25,  
2015, MUNICIPAL ELECTION/DISCUSSION**

Mr. Packard updated the Committee on the City of Montgomery Pilot Program by informing the members present that there was not a high level of participation. During the August municipal election only one voter requested a ballot but the voter did not vote. During the October municipal runoff election two voters voted. Mr. Packard said he expected a higher level of

participation in a non-municipal and federal election. Mr. Packard said the electronic ballot delivery and return system was secure and he expected good participation for the March, 2016, Primary Election. Everyone Counts, Inc. accomplished the pilot program and was awarded the contract for the March and April, 2016 election cycle.

Secretary Merrill stated that the Secretary of State's Office will introduce the ballot return system (not just the ballot delivery system) to all counties and expects all the counties to be included and ask the Secretary of State's Office to be excluded.

Ms. Moore stated that asking counties to opt out might be the best method to encourage participation; however, the Absentee Election Manager's main concerns were privacy and confidentiality issues regarding the balloting system.

Mr. Cain asked if Everyone Counts, Inc. provides the Absentee Election Managers with training and Mr. Packard responded "yes."

Ms. Moore asked that during the training if the Absentee Election Managers can see what counties have Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) votes cast to see a county-by-county snapshot.

Mr. Amos mentioned the affidavit issues with the absentee ballots.

Ms. Smith spoke on ballot security briefly.

Mr. Packard spoke about the new Alabama Administrative Rules to be effected regarding the electronic return of absentee ballots.

Ms. Moore asked what the City of Montgomery Absentee Election Manager asked about during the City of Montgomery Pilot Program and Mr. Packard responded that the City Clerk was pleased with the system.

Ms. Smith asked how many counties have non-Circuit Clerk Absentee Election Managers and Mr. Packard responded that there are a number due to the upcoming elections with come Circuit Clerks on their respective jurisdiction's ballot.

Mr. Amos stated that about 12 Absentee Election Managers may not be Circuit Clerks.

### **PROPOSAL OF NEXT MEETING**

Secretary Merrill said the next meeting would be in April, 2016, most likely during the week of the 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>; however, that will be determined at a later date.

Ms. Smith said that today's meeting was her last as she was soon to retire. The members of the Committee present wished Ms. Smith well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business before the body, the members of the Committee attending disbanded at 11:00 a.m.