

Minutes
State Election Commission Meeting
June 12, 2020

The State Election Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Barrett, at 11:03 a.m. Central Time, June 12, 2020. The following members and staff were telephonically connected: Commissioners Barrett, Blackburn, Duckett, McDonald, Wallace, Wheeler and Younce; Mark Goins, Coordinator of Elections, and Kathy Summers, Elections Specialist. Others participating telephonically were Kerry Steelman, Administrator of Elections for Hamilton County, Scott Allen, Assistant Administrator for Hamilton County and Jeff Roberts, Administrator of Elections for Davidson County.

Pursuant to TCA § 8-44-108(a)(3), the determination of necessity for conducting the State Election Commission meeting by phone was to make county election commission appointments, and to discuss any other business that may come before the commission.

Commissioner Blackburn made a motion pursuant to TCA §§ 2-12-101 and 2-12-106, seconded by Commissioner Wallace to accept and approve the nomination(s) for county election commission appointments as submitted, and to leave the nomination process open until 4:30 p.m. Central Time, Friday, June 12, 2020. (Aye votes: Barrett, Blackburn, Duckett, McDonald, Wallace, Wheeler and Younce; No votes: None; Abstention: None.) **(See attached list of appointments made.)**

Coordinator Goins discussed the recent court ruling expanding who can vote absentee by mail and anticipated increase in by mail voting. Counties are requesting more absentee ballot boxes and the Division of Elections has exhausted the supply that we had purchased from TRICOR. TRICOR is no longer making the ballot boxes. Two other ballot boxes have been certified by the SEC and COE. However, one of those companies no longer makes the ballot box. The other company can only supply us with 200 in time for the August election. We do not have enough absentee ballot boxes to meet county requests. Davidson and Hamilton election officials have retrofitted some of their current voting machine ballot boxes to accommodate their extra ballots. Coordinator Goins requested the commission to approve the retrofits to alleviate some of the issue.

Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the retrofitted ballot boxes designed by Davidson County and Hamilton County, seconded by Commissioner Duckett. The motion to approve the retrofitted boxes was unanimously approved.

(Aye votes: Barrett, Blackburn, Duckett, McDonald, Wallace, Wheeler and Younce; No votes: None; Abstention: None.) (See attached ballot box design/information from Davidson County and Hamilton County.)

Commissioner Duckett discussed the recent court case and he has concerns about putting people in harm's way by mandating voting in person. Commissioner Duckett encouraged the expansion of absentee voting and expressed his desire for the state to accept the ruling and not to appeal the recent court case.

Coordinator Goins advised during the recent General Assembly session both the Senate and House looked at expanding absentee voting but rejected expanding the reasons for absentee voting. The state is appealing the Chancellor's ruling.

Both Commissioner Wheeler and Commissioner McDonald requested the record reflect their being against the appeal.

Chairman Barrett asked the record to reflect no vote was taken by the State Election Commission on the court case or appeal and the positions of each commission member are personal views.

Commissioner Wheeler made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McDonald, there being no further business to come before the commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 p.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike McDonald, Secretary
State Election Commission

State of Tennessee



State Election Commission
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 7th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102

Vacant Status

June 12, 2020

Bradley R Judy Blackburn / D Tom Wheeler

R

Campbell R Kent Younce / D Tom Wheeler

D

Carter R Judy Blackburn / D Tom Wheeler

R

Polk R Judy Blackburn / D Tom Wheeler

D

Total Vacancies: 4

State of Tennessee



State Election Commission
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 7th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102

New Appointment Status

June 12, 2020

		Appointment
Bradley	R Judy Blackburn / D Tom Wheeler R Arthur (Art) D. Rhodes	6/12/2020
Campbell	R Kent Younce / D Tom Wheeler D Joanne Watts	6/12/2020
Carter	R Judy Blackburn / D Tom Wheeler R Tommy Whitehead	6/12/2020
Polk	R Judy Blackburn / D Tom Wheeler D Eulain Bramlett	6/12/2020
	Total New Commissioners: 4	

Tennessee Secretary of State

COPY

Tre Hargett



Elections Division
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 7th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1102

Mark Goins
Coordinator of Elections

615-741-7956
Mark.Goins@tn.gov

June 12, 2020

Mr. Robert Greene, Director
Office of the Secretary of State – Publications Division
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
Nashville, TN 37274

Dear Mr. Greene,

The State Election Commission met by teleconference at 11:04 a.m., CST on Friday, June 12, 2020, in the Election Division of the William R. Snodgrass - Tennessee Tower. The notice requirements of TCA § 8-44-108 (b) were fully complied with. A quorum of the Board was not physically present at the location from which the teleconference originated, although a quorum did participate electronically.

In accordance with TCA § 8-44-108 this constitutes the Board's notice of the occurrence of this meeting and the Statement of Necessity.

A telephonic meeting of the Board was required to make county election commission appointments, and to conduct any other business that may come before the commission at that time.

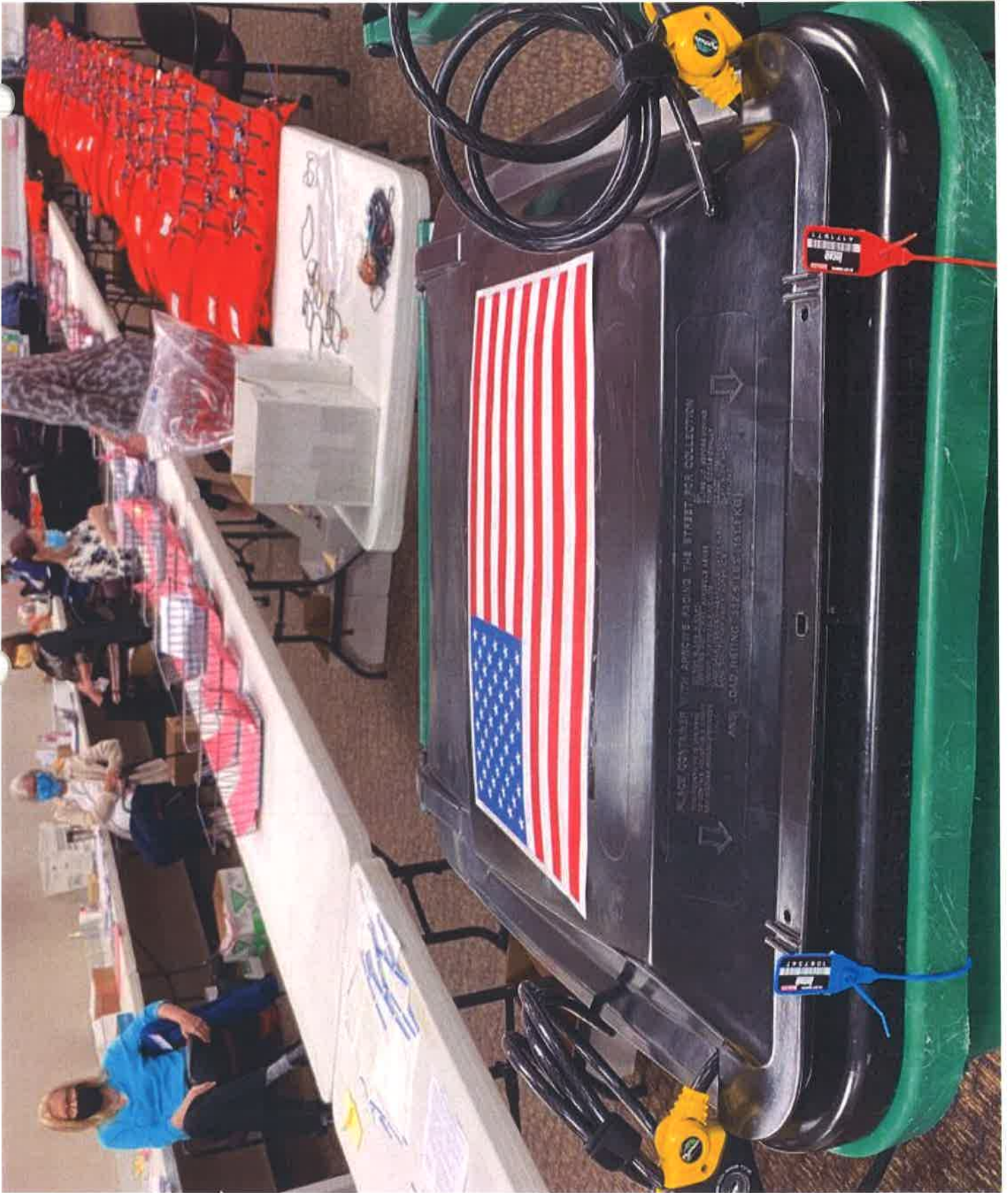
A Statement of Necessity to that effect was formally adopted by the Board at the beginning of the teleconference, and the Statement of Necessity was included in the Board's minutes.

Sincerely,

Mark Goins
Coordinator of Elections

RECEIVED
2020 JUN 12 PM 12: 08
SECRETARY OF STATE
PUBLICATIONS

Enclosure(s): Meeting Notice and Call Instructions



Davidson County Ballot Box Info



Davidson County Ballot Box Info

Kathy Summers

From: Steelman, Kerry <KerryS@HamiltonTN.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Kathy Summers
Cc: Allen, Scott
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Absentee Ballot Boxes
Attachments: Baffle 2.jpg; Baffle 3.jpg; Ballot Access Door 2 Locks(D)(R).jpg; Ballot Deposit Slot.jpg; Box Interior.jpg; Cover Lock 1(R).jpg; Cover Lock 2(D).jpg; Absentee Ballot Box Conversion.docx

Importance: High

***** This is an EXTERNAL email. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security. *****

Kathy,

As we discussed this afternoon regarding our proposal for absentee ballot boxes. As you will see, we designed and added a laser-cut plexiglass baffle/chute under the locked cover facilitating the deposit of the absentee envelope. Both the cover and ballot access door are secured with dual locks. At a minimum, the capacity of this box is the equivalent of 16 metal boxes.

Kind Regards,

Kerry B. Steelman / *Administrator of Elections*

Hamilton County Election Commission

700 River Terminal Road / Chattanooga, TN 37406 / P: 423.493.5100 / F: 423.493.5101

www.HamiltonElections.com

**Hamilton County
Ballot Box Info**

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

ABSENTEE BALLOT BOXES OPTICAL SCAN BOX CONVERSION

ISSUE: On average, the total number of absentee ballots processed by the Hamilton County Election Commission (HCEC) during an August Primary and November General Election is 1,800 and 4,500 respectively. As of June 2, 2020 the total requests for Application for Absentee Ballot has surpassed the total absentee by-mail ballots cast in the August 2016 primary.

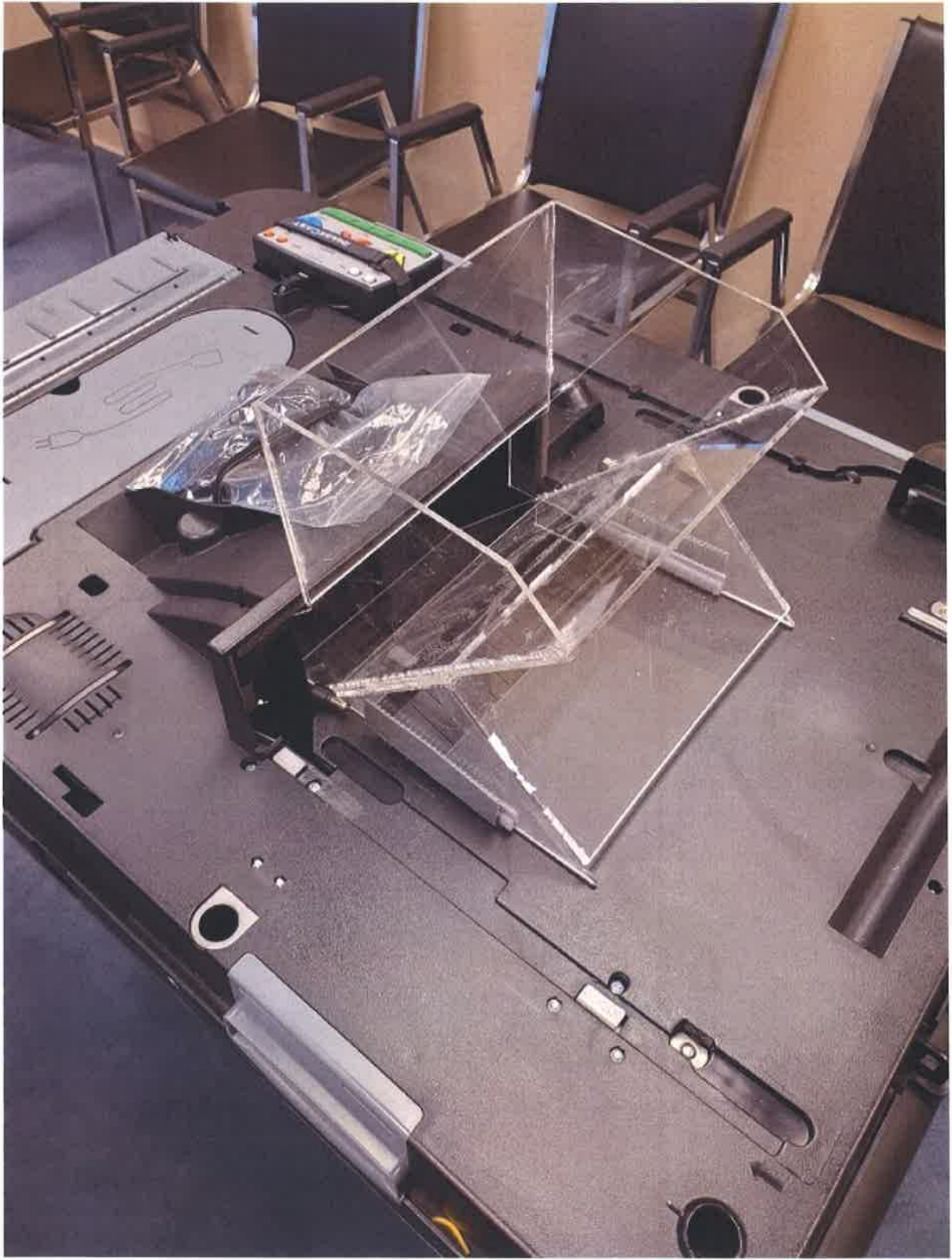
The COVID-19 pandemic has placed special emphasis on the eligibility of Tennessee voters that are sixty (60) years of age or older to vote absentee by-mail. Hamilton County has approximately 90,000 voters qualified to vote by-mail solely based on age 60 or older. While age is one of fourteen qualified reasons to vote absentee, it is important to note that there may be others as well, substantially increasing the total volume of absentee by-mail ballots.

CONCERN: Traditional metal absentee ballot boxes widely used in the state of Tennessee have an average capacity of 250 absentee ballots per box. To be prepared for a 100% absentee participation rate for voters age 60 or older the HCEC will require a minimum total of 360 metal boxes and 720 locks (*320 new boxes and 640 new locks*). Currently, neither the state nor equipment vendors are able to supply the excess quantity required by the HCEC. Even if obtained, the HCEC does not have on-premises storage capacity for that number of boxes.

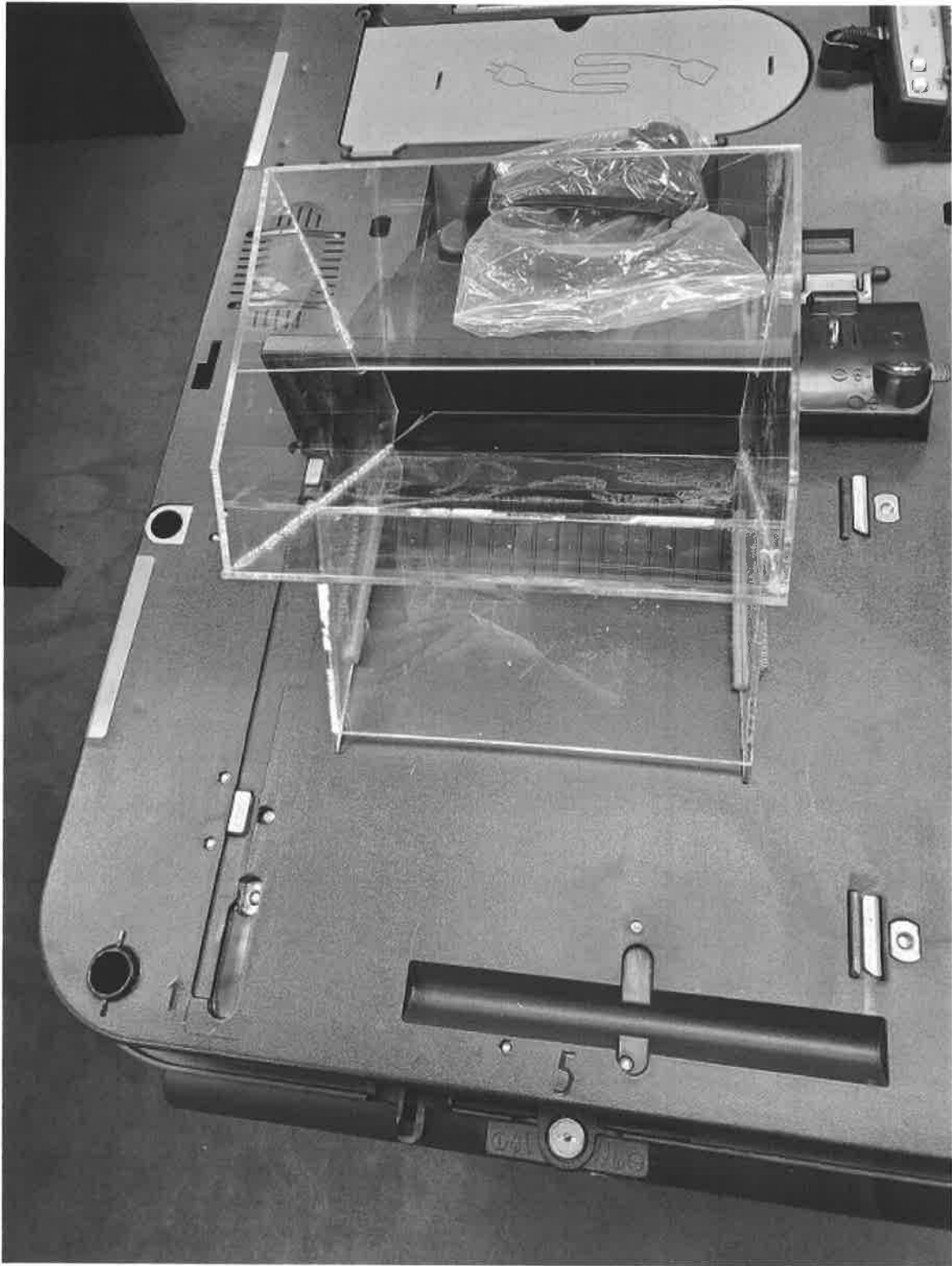
PROPOSAL: The HCEC is proposing to convert an existing Dominion Voting Systems Optical Scan Ballot Box into a dedicated absentee ballot box. These boxes have an estimated minimum capacity of 4,000 absentee ballots. By converting these existing boxes to be in compliance with TCA 2-6-311 and 2-5-214 we can mitigate the necessity of securing off-site storage while consolidating ballots in substantially fewer boxes with fewer total locks.

The DVS ballot boxes have been retrofitted with four (4) hasps for locks. Two (2) locks securing the lid and baffle so that ballots cannot be removed, and two (2) additional locks securing the ballot access door so that ballots cannot be removed.

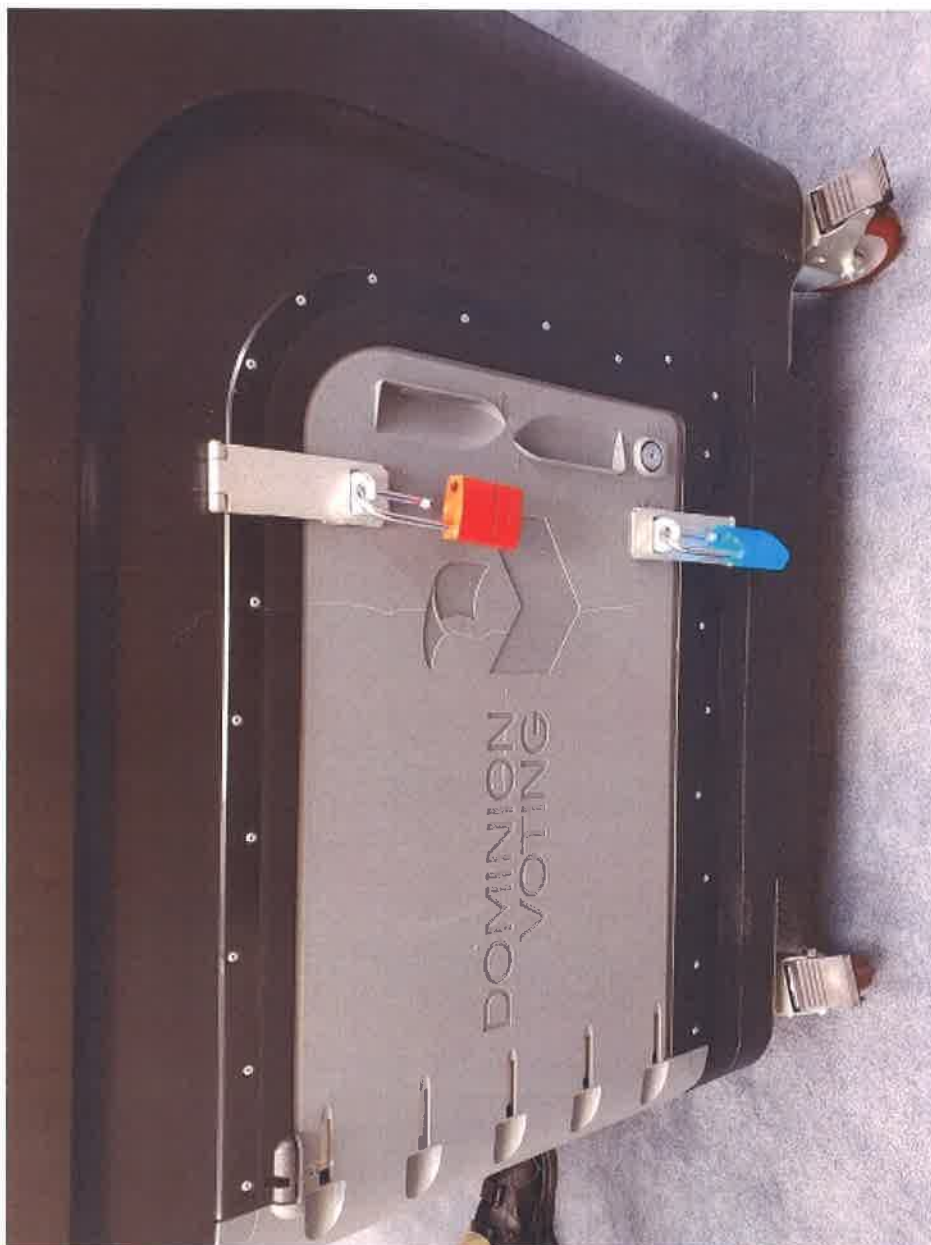
PHOTOS ATTACHED



Hamilton County Ballot Box Info



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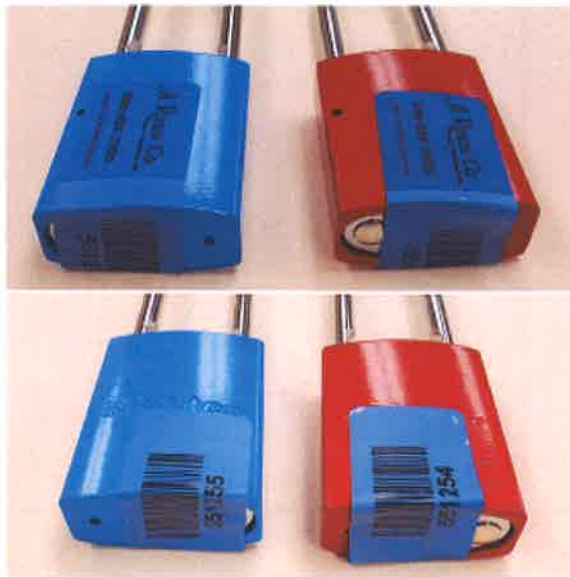
**Hamilton County
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