

From: frank.limpus@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 2:59 PM
To: kathy.Summers@tnsos.gov
Subject: Four questions from citizens for the Tennessee State Election Commission

Good afternoon, Kathy. As I mentioned at today's meeting of the Tennessee State Election Commission, would you please share the following with the commissioners and Mark Goins? I look forward to answers to the questions from this body. Thank you.

Tennessee State Election Commission Commissioners:

Thank you again for allowing me to share my observations and concerns with you today. I've asked the Williamson County Election Commission several of these questions previously and received no answer on two of them, an misleading answer on one and "we'll have to wait on the SEC" for the other. So, I direct them to you for answers.

On March 25, 2025, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order #14248 "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections." The order profiled a number of requirements that should be in place within 60 to 90 to 180 days throughout the nation to ensure the safety, security, accuracy and transparency of our elections.

The order states "Above all, elections must be honest and worthy of the public trust. That requires voting methods that produce a voter-verifiable paper record allowing voters to efficiently check their votes to protect against fraud or mistake. Election-integrity standards must be modified accordingly."

Thankfully, there are a variety of concerns in the EO that don't pertain to Tennessee because the state admittedly does a pretty good job with elections. However, there are four items on which citizens in Williamson County and other Tennessee counties have questions.

First, Section 4(b)(i) of the Order states that "The Election Assistance Commission shall initiate appropriate action to amend the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines 2.0 and issue other appropriate guidance establishing standards for voting systems to protect election integrity." As you know, our ES&S ballot marking devices and tabulators in Williamson County – as well as Hart machines that you're looking at today and machines throughout the rest of Tennessee, for that matter -- are only certified to VVSG 1.0 (2005).

I realize initial responsibility for addressing this lies first with the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), but since the Williamson County Election Commission and the Tennessee State Election Commission are responsible for executing all elections for Williamson County citizens and all citizens of Tennessee, what is your plan to comply with President Trump's Order regarding updating the standards and testing (by the Voting System Test Labs accreditation process) of all voting machines used throughout the state to certify that they reflect the new, higher standards?

Second, Section 4(b)(i) goes on to state that "the amended guidelines and other guidance shall provide that voting systems should not use a ballot in which a vote is contained within a barcode or quick-response [QR] code in the vote counting process." The second sentence of this section is very specific stating that our voting systems "should provide a voter-verifiable paper record to prevent fraud or mistake." As you know, we do NOT have a voter-verifiable paper ballot in the ES&S system because the voter cannot stand in the voting booth and ascertain

if his vote selections -- contained in a bar code on that activation card/"ballot" which is what is read by the tabulator -- are the exact selections he/she made... since no human can read bar code.

Therefore, what is the plan of the Williamson County Election Commission and the Tennessee State Election Commission to provide citizens alternative ballots versus the ES&S activation card/"ballots" that are currently used in our elections? And since the ES&S Ballot on Demand machines are not certified by the Election Assistance Commission, use laptops that contain iDRAC/Qualcomm wireless chips, will cost the county more than one-half million dollars and are simply another machine that would be piled on top of an already machine-heavy process, they are not a solution to the issue.

Third, Section 6(b) of President Trump's Executive Order says: "The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in coordination with the Election Assistance Commission and to the maximum extent possible, review and report on the security of all electronic systems used in the voter registration and voting process." And "...report on the risk of such systems being compromised through malicious software and unauthorized intrusions into the system."

Given that our voter rolls and voter registration systems (both during voter sign-up between elections and voter registration at the moment voters are voting in an election) are managed and secured by a small private company that specializes in basic IT services and computer repairs, Embry Consulting, that performs this service for election commissions in 90 of Tennessee's 95 counties -- including Williamson County -- what is your plan to have this company and its cyber security processes verified/certified/approved for transparency and security reasons? And even more importantly, what independent cybersecurity expert can verify for citizens:

- What, specifically, does Embry Consulting do with our voter rolls, voter registration and their software?
- How was this company identified in the first place to handle this service and what was the compelling reason to award this service to this company?
- Was it done through a competitive bid process?
- Who holds the contract with Embry for their services? The state or the counties? Or both?
- When was the contract for the state and, separately, for Williamson County awarded?
- What are its voter roll and voter registration services and management expertise that warrant them as the state's and Williamson County's vendor for these services? There is nothing of this expertise mentioned on their website.
- What sophisticated cyber measures does Embry have in place to protect the data of these counties and state against intrusion, infiltration, hacking and alteration?
- How often is this entity re-certified for this service? For what period of time?
- What cyber certifications and degrees does this entity have? How often are they renewed if they have them?
- What reports are they producing for the state and counties to verify their work and expertise? I would like to see them.
- Have they ever encountered a security breach? If so, what was the result?

Finally, Section 8 of the Order, Preventing Foreign Interference and Unlawful Use of Federal Funds, states that the US Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, "shall prioritize enforcement of 52 U.S.C. 30121 and other appropriate laws to prevent foreign nationals from contributing or donating in United States elections. The Attorney General shall likewise prioritize enforcement of 31 U.S.C. 1352, which prohibits [election] lobbying by organizations or entities that have received any Federal Funds."

Therefore, what is the plan of the Williamson County Election Commission and the Tennessee State Election Commission to work with the state's Attorney General in consultation with the US Attorney General and Secretary of the Treasury to document and ensure that no foreign entity or person or entity supported by foreign nationals is contributing funds or advice to the WCEC or Tennessee Election Office in the management and execution of our elections?

I look forward to your answers. Thank you.

Sincerely

Frank Limpus
Franklin, TN