

COMMISSION POLICY

POLICY #2.10

SUBJECT: Polling Place Hours / Poll Worker Compensation

DATE ADOPTED
February 7, 2012

AGENDA ITEM
EA5

OBSOLETE VERSIONS (Can be found in the Inactive Policy Book.)

DATE ADOPTED

PAGE (BCC MINUTES)

December 15, 1992

Book 12, pg. 358

June 10, 1998

Book 20, pg. 313

February 19, 2008

Page 26

September 21, 2010

Page 13

NOTE: (CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD POLICY AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT) -- A policy is typically a document that outlines specific requirements or rules that must be met. The overall goal is to write policies that are clear, concise and in simple language. If you use an acronym, spell it out the first time you use it.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy relates to the hours of operation for polling places as well as the provision of equivalent compensation for poll workers in Baldwin County, Alabama, for federal / state / statewide elections and special county elections; further, addressing compensatory issues for county employees, who work as a poll worker or with absentee balloting as part of their job responsibilities, in conformance with the *Baldwin County Commission Employee Handbook*.

A. THE HOURS OF OPERATION OF POLLING PLACES

In accordance with Section 17-9-6 of the Code of Alabama 1975, every polling place, in Baldwin County, Alabama, shall be open for voting at 7:00 A.M. and shall close at 7:00 P.M.

B. COMPENSATION OF POLL WORKERS – GENERAL INFORMATION

Section 45-2-111 of the Code of Alabama 1975 provides as follows:

Compensation - Poll workers.

In Baldwin County, each poll worker shall receive compensation payable out of the general fund of the county as set by the county commission from time to time. The compensation shall be in lieu of any and all prior or subsequent compensation provided by local law.

(Act 80-498, p. 772, §1; Act 92-670, 2nd Sp. Sess., p. 50, §1; Act 2007-265, p. 357, §1.)

B. (1) COMPENSATION OF POLL WORKERS FOR FEDERAL / STATE / STATEWIDE ELECTIONS FOR WHICH COUNTY EXPENSES ARE REIMBURSED BY THE STATE OF ALABAMA AS DEFINED IN CHAPTER 16, TITLE 17 OF THE CODE OF ALABAMA 1975

Under authority of Section 45-2-111 of the Code of Alabama 1975 (Act No. 92-670, as amended by Act No. 2007-265), and only for federal / state / statewide elections for which county expenses are reimbursed by the State of Alabama as defined in Chapter 16, Title 17, of the Code of Alabama 1975, the Baldwin County Commission shall compensate poll workers as follows:

Precinct Inspectors: One Hundred and Twenty-five Dollars (\$125) per day*
Precinct Chief Clerks: One Hundred and Ten Dollars (\$110) per day* (**)
Precinct Clerks: One Hundred Dollars (\$100) per day*

* Section 17-8-12 of the Code of Alabama 1975 requires, for federal / state / statewide elections, Precinct Inspectors to be compensated \$100 per day and Precinct Clerks to be compensated \$75 per day which this policy, at this subsection, is compliant. Further, Section 17-8-12 of the Code of Alabama 1975 provides that poll workers, for federal / state / statewide elections, also receive additional compensation of \$25 upon completion of a local election school or being certified as a qualified poll worker by the Probate Judge which, upon the foregoing being accomplished, provides total compensation for eligible Precinct Inspectors at \$150 per day, Precinct Chief Clerks at \$135 per day and Precinct Clerks at \$125 per day.

(**) This policy authorizes no more than ten (10) total Precinct Chief Clerks countywide for each election. A Precinct Chief Clerk shall discharge duties as designated, and as determined necessary, by the Probate Judge of Baldwin County. It is the intent of this policy that a Precinct Chief Clerk only be designated by the Probate Judge to aid a respective Precinct Inspector at a Polling Place with a large number of qualified electors necessitating aid to the respective Precinct Inspector.

B. (2) COMPENSATION OF POLL WORKERS FOR SPECIAL BALDWIN COUNTY OR OTHER ELECTIONS HELD AT ANY TIME OTHER THAN AT THE TIME OF HOLDING FEDERAL / STATE / STATEWIDE ELECTIONS

Under authority of Section 45-2-111 of the Code of Alabama 1975 (Act No. 92-670, as amended by Act No. 2007-265), and only for special Baldwin County or other elections held at any time other than at the time of holding federal / state / statewide elections, the Baldwin County Commission shall compensate poll workers as follows:

Precinct Inspectors: One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150) per day
Precinct Chief Clerks: One Hundred and Ten Dollars (\$135) per day (**)
Precinct Clerks: One Hundred and Twenty-five Dollars (\$125) per day

(**) This policy authorizes no more than ten (10) total Precinct Chief Clerks countywide for each election. A Precinct Chief Clerk shall discharge duties as designated, and as determined necessary, by the Probate Judge of Baldwin County. It is the intent of this policy that a Precinct Chief Clerk only be designated by the Probate Judge to aid a respective Precinct Inspector at a Polling Place with a large number of qualified electors necessitating aid to the respective Precinct Inspector.

C. COUNTY EMPLOYEES

In accordance with the *Baldwin County Commission Employee Handbook*, adopted by the Baldwin County Commission pursuant to Act No. 95-581, 1995 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama, as amended by Act No. 2005-159, 2005 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama, as amended by Act No. 2010-566, 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama, a county employee who works as a poll worker or with absentee balloting as part of his or her job responsibilities as a county employee shall be paid for working the hours he or she is required to spend at the polls and shall be allowed to receive any additional fees allowed by law.

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS

- 1) Act No. 92-670
- 2) Act No. 2007-265 (Section 45-2-111 of the Code of Alabama 1975)
- 3) Section 17-8-12 of the Code of Alabama 1975
- 4) *Baldwin County Commission Employee Handbook* (see III. Employee Benefits. D. 2. Voting)

RELATED POLICIES

Baldwin County Commission Employee Handbook (see III. Employee Benefits. D. 2. Voting)

Act No. 92-670

H. 92 – Reps. Penry, McMillan

AN ACT

Relating to Baldwin County, providing further for the compensation of poll workers payable from the county general fund

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of Alabama:

Section 1. In Baldwin County each poll worker shall receive compensation in the amount of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100) per day nor less than fifty dollars (\$50) per day payable out of the general fund of the county as set by the county commission from time to time. The compensation shall be in lieu of any and all prior or subsequent compensation provided by law.

Section 2. All laws or parts of laws which conflict with this act are repealed.

Section 3. This act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

Approved October 6, 1992

Time: 4:36 P.M.

ACT No. 2007- 265

1 HB633
2 88668-3
3 By Representatives McMillan, Davis, Faust, Baker (A) and
4 Shiver (N & P)
5 RFD: Baldwin County Legislation
6 First Read: 10-APR-07



Page 0

1

2 ENROLLED, An Act,

3

4 Relating to Baldwin County; amending Act No. 92-670,
5 1992 Second Special Session (Acts 1992, p. 50), providing for
6 the compensation of poll workers, to further provide for the
7 compensation.

8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

9

10 Section 1. Section 1 of Act No. 92-670, 1992 Second
11 Special Session (Acts 1992, p. 50), is amended to read as
12 follows:

13

14 "Section 1. In Baldwin County, each poll worker
15 shall receive compensation payable out of the general fund of
16 the county as set by the county commission from time to time.
17 The compensation shall be in lieu of any and all prior or
18 subsequent compensation provided by local law."

19

20 Section 2. This act shall become effective
21 immediately following its passage and approval by the
22 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17

Jeff. H. Smith

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Jim Zohmf

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 12-APR-07.

Greg Pappas
Clerk

Senate

29-MAY-07

Passed

APPROVED *June 6, 2007*
TIME *11:35 a.m.*
Bob Riley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Secretary Of State

Act Num....: 2007-265
Bill Num...: H-633

Page 2

Recv'd 06/06/07 01:58pmJJB

HISTORY**Derivation of Section:**

This section is former Section 17-6-12, as amended and renumbered by Act 2006-570, § 41, effective January 1, 2007.

Amendment notes:

The 2006 amendment, effective January 1, 2007, substituted "inspector" for "returning officer", and substituted "precinct election officials present shall select one of their number to return the ballots to the county returning officer" for "inspectors or those acting as such

must appoint from the qualified electors one to serve during the election".

Disposition of Former Section:

Former Section 17-8-11 was amended and renumbered as Section 17-6-34 by Act 2006-570, § 33, effective January 1, 2007.

LIBRARY REFERENCES**American Digest System:**

Elections ¶251.

Corpus Juris Secundum:

C.J.S. Elections § 229.

§ 17-8-12. Compensation of election officials.

(a) The inspector and clerks shall each be entitled to base compensation of fifty dollars (\$50). The compensation of the election officials shall be paid as preferred claims, out of moneys in the county treasury not appropriated, on proper proof of service rendered. In all counties in which the compensation of election officials is prescribed by local law or general law of local application at an amount in excess of the amount prescribed, the compensation of the election officials shall not be decreased under this section and the county commission may increase the compensation so prescribed. In those counties in which compensation of election officials is set at an amount in excess of five dollars (\$5) per day, but less than fifty dollars (\$50) per day, the provision of the local law or general law of local application relative thereto is superseded and the compensation prescribed herein shall be the total compensation of election officials in the counties.

(b) In addition to the compensation provided in subsection (a), each clerk shall be entitled to supplemental compensation paid by the state to ensure that the total compensation paid to each shall be in an amount of at least seventy-five dollars (\$75) per day, and each inspector shall be entitled to supplemental compensation paid by the state in an amount that ensures that the total compensation of an inspector is at least one hundred dollars (\$100) per day. Upon completion of a local election school or being certified as a qualified poll worker by the probate judge, or both, each clerk and inspector shall be entitled to receive an additional twenty-five dollars (\$25) per day in compensation from the state. The increase provided for in this subsection shall not increase or decrease any salary supplement paid under a local law which is in effect on October 1, 2005. The provisions of this subsection shall only apply to those statewide elections for which county expenses are reimbursed by the state as defined in Chapter 16. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to special county or other elections held at any time other than at the time of holding statewide elections. (Code 1876, § 290; Code 1886, § 386; Code 1896, § 1643; Code 1907, § 419; Code 1923, § 509; Code 1940, T. 17, § 198; Acts 1943, No. 311, p. 299; Acts 1947, No. 127, p. 38; Acts 1970, Ex. Sess., No. 30, p. 2652; Acts 1981, No. 81-674, p. 1099; Acts 1993, No. 93-639, p. 1095, § 1; Act 2000-671, p. 1338, § 1; Act

2006-327, p. 705, § 1; § 17-6-13; amended and renumbered by Act 2006-570, p. 1331, § 41.)

COMMENT

No substantive change. Precinct election officials are defined in § 17-1-2.

HISTORY

Derivation of Section:

This section is former Section 17-6-13, as amended and renumbered by Act 2006-570, § 41, effective January 1, 2007.

Amendment notes:

The 1993 amendment, effective May 13, 1993, in the first sentence, deleted "and" following "officer," substituted "\$50" for "\$25.00," and deleted "and the returning officer, in addition, to \$.25 a mile in going to the courthouse and returning to the place of holding the election" at the end of the sentence; deleted "otherwise" preceding "appropriated" in the second sentence; in the third sentence, deleted "However" preceding "in all," deleted "hereinabove" preceding "prescribed," substituted "the election" for "such election," and deleted "hereby, but in those" following "decreased"; and in the last sentence, inserted "compensation of," deleted "compensation" following "officials," substituted "less than \$50" for "not as much as \$25.00," deleted "hereby" preceding "superseded," deleted "hereinabove" preceding "prescribed," and substituted "the counties" for "such counties."

The 2000 amendment, effective October 1, 2000, designated the existing provisions as subsection (a); and added subsection (b).

The 2006 amendments. — The 2006 amendment by Act 2006-327, effective April 11, 2006, in subsection (a) substituted "base compensation of fifty dollars (\$50). The compensation of the election officials" for "\$50. The several claims," substituted "decreased under this section and the county commission may increase the compensation so prescribed. In those" for "increased or decreased. Those", substituted "five dollars (\$5)" for "\$5", substituted "fifty dollars (\$50)" for "\$50", and inserted "herein"; and in subsection (b), in the first sentence deleted ", inspector," following "officer", inserted "supplemental", deleted "election official" following "each" and substituted "seventy-five dollars (\$75) per day, and each inspector shall be entitled to supplemental compensation paid by the state in an amount that ensures that the total compensation of an inspector is at least one hundred dollars (\$100) per day" for "seventy dollars (\$70) per day", inserted the second sentence, in the third sentence substituted "2005" for "2000", in the fourth sentence de-

leted "and the on-site balloting days associated therewith" following "title", and in the final sentence substituted "to special" for "to: (1) Special" and deleted "elections; or (2) on-site balloting days associated with such special county or other elections, including municipal" following "statewide".

The 2006 amendment by Act 2006-570, effective January 1, 2007, in subsection (a) substituted "precinct election officials" for "returning officer, the inspectors, and clerks", a change which was not included in the section as harmonized by the Code Commissioner; and in subsection (b) substituted "precinct election official" for "returning officer, inspector, and clerk", which was likewise not included in the harmonized section, and substituted "Chapter 16" for "Chapter 21".

Code Commissioner's Notes

This section was affected by Act 2006-327 and Act 2006-570. Act 2006-570 is essentially a recodification of Title 17. Section 90 of Act 2006-570 provides:

"(a) The purpose of this act is to substantially revise the provisions of Title 17 of the Code of Alabama 1975, to modernize the language, to resolve ambiguities that have arisen from multiple enactments over the years, to incorporate judicial decisions and constructions of language, to incorporate administrative rules, and to make other technical changes to Title 17, all without making any substantive change in existing law.

"(b) To further the purpose of this act, any section of any act enacted at the 2006 Regular Session in substantive conflict with any provision of this act shall prevail over this act whether enacted before or after this act.

"(c) When codifying this act and acts of the 2006 Regular Session or any special session occurring before the 2007 Regular Session, the Code Commissioner shall place the provisions of other acts relating to the subject of this act within the structure of Title 17 as altered by this act. Actions taken by the Code Commissioner in complying with this requirement shall include, but not be limited to, placing a section that is amended and renumbered by this act into the code in the substantive form as amended by the other act but assigning it the code section number contained in this act and assigning a section number based on the numbering system contained in this act for any

section amended by another act that is repealed by this act."

Act 2006-570, effective January 1, 2007, revised this title and renumbered Section 17-6-13 as Section 17-8-12. Act 2006-570 generally amended the section to conform with the revised title, including changing references to returning officers, the inspectors, and clerks to precinct election officials; deleted language concerning on-site balloting days; and adjusted internal references. Act 2006-570 did not change language concerning the compensation of election officials.

Act 2006-327, effective April 11, 2006, described the \$50 payment as base compensation; specified that compensation shall not be decreased but may be increased by the county commission; increased supplemental compensation so that total compensation is at least \$75 per day for returning officers and clerks and \$100 per day for an inspector; provided for an additional \$25 per day payment upon completion of a local election school or certification as a qualified poll worker; and changed local law application date range from 2000 to 2005.

In compliance with Section 90 of Act 2006-570 and the general authority granted the Code Commissioner in Section 29-7-8(a)(11), the Code Commissioner gave effect to both acts as set forth above. Further, in 2006, pursuant to the authority granted in 29-7-8(a)(11), the Code Commissioner deleted references to "returning officer". Such edito-

rial action was taken in order to conform this section with Section 17-8-1, which deletes references to the returning officer and provides that the inspector shall serve as returning officer for the voting place. These editorial changes result in compensation as specified in Act 2006-327 being provided in this section only to inspectors and clerks.

Disposition of Former Section:

Former Section 17-8-12 was repealed by Act 2006-570, § 89, effective January 1, 2007.

LIBRARY REFERENCES

American Digest System:

Elections ¶53.

Corpus Juris Secundum:

C.J.S. Elections § 63.

CASENOTES

Priority of claims 1

1. Priority of claims

The fact that election expense is an involuntary expense of county makes such expense a preferred claim against the county, taking precedence over general and voluntary obligations. *Abrasley v. Jefferson County*, 241 Ala. 660, 4 So.2d 153 (Ala.1941). Counties ¶ 207(1)

Cited in State ex rel. *Austin v. Black*, 224 Ala.200, 139 So. 431 (1932).

§ 17-8-13. Certain election officials excused from employment to perform election duties.

(a) All laws to the contrary notwithstanding, any precinct election official appointed pursuant to Section 17-8-1 shall be excused from his or her employment without penalty of loss of time for election day only in order to perform the duties of the position to which he or she has been appointed. Proper documentation of the appointment and the dates of the required service shall be furnished to the employer by the appointee at least seven days before the expected absence from his or her employment.

(b) This section shall not apply to any employee working for an employer with 25 or fewer employees or require an employer to compensate an employee while performing the duties as prescribed in subsection (a). (Act 2001-1130, 4th Sp. Sess., p. 1210, §§ 1, 2; Act 2002-412, p. 1038, §§ 1, 2; § 17-6-17; amended and renumbered by Act 2006-570, p. 1331, § 41.)

COMMENT

No substantive change. Precinct election official defined in § 17-1-2.

given, if February - May, two (2) personal leave days will be given, or June - September, one (1) personal leave day will be given.

These days can be taken for any personal reason. Personal leave days should be scheduled in full eight (8) hour segments as much in advance as possible. Partial days may not be used. These personal leave days must be taken between the first and last full pay period in the fiscal year. No employee will be permitted to carryover personal leave days to the following fiscal year.

Employees leaving employment with Baldwin County will be paid for any personal leave not taken. Employees may not borrow personal leave. Any full-time or probationary employee who is absent and who does not have any sick or annual leave available may take his or her personal leave days or leave without pay.

D. OTHER LEAVE WITH PAY

Employees may be authorized leave with pay for absences which are not counted as annual leave, sick leave or personal leave for any of the following reasons:

1. Jury Duty

Leave will be granted an employee for jury duty. The employee must submit a work permit furnished by the court with time card. All fees paid by the court shall be retained by the employee. Jury duty will be considered as any other time worked.

2. Voting

An employee who works as a poll worker or with absentee balloting as part of his or her job responsibilities as a County employee shall be paid for working the hours he or she is required to spend at the polls and shall be allowed to receive any additional fees allowed by law.

Employees will be encouraged to exercise his/her right to vote.

3. Court Attendance

Attendance in court by law enforcement officers or other employees in an official capacity during their regularly scheduled work days shall not be considered as a civil/legal leave. Except where it would be contrary to law, the employee may retain any fees received in addition to his or her pay.