

LWVKKC Observer Corps Reporting Form

Email *

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Observer Name *

Zoe Brookshire

Meeting observed *

- Knoxville City Council
- Knox County Commission
- Knox County Board of Education

Meeting date *

MM DD YYYY

03 / 17 / 2026

Three Main Observations *

These are long-winded but I wanted to make sure you had any context you may need.

- Commissioners approved Early Voting Locations and hours, including 3 new locations: Farragut Community Center (replacing Farragut Town Hall), Faithway Baptist Church (replacing Halls Community Center) and the Firestone Building on Clinton Hwy (Replacing Knox Expo Center). All three locations are being changed to improve voter experience or to replace site that are unavailable for use this year. All are within .5 mi of the original site. The full list of locations and respective hours are now posted on KnoxVotes.org. Hours vary by day and location so be sure to check the hours of the location you intend to visit. Many other resources are available on KCEC's website, including Election Day locations (Some have changed), the Absentee Ballot Request form and sample ballots. Note: Sample ballots display all races in all districts in Knox County. Not all races will appear on your ballot.

- The State Div of Elections has issued new guidance regarding acceptable photo IDs. Election workers are instructed to look for IDs with "A "T" inside a circle and the words "Temporary Driver License," or "A driver license class that starts with the letter X, such as XD, XA, XB, or XC" for details on TN State IDs indicating non-citizen residency. Voters using IDs with these indicators will be instructed to vote using a provisional ballot (a ballot that records and seals a voter's selections but cannot be counted until their eligibility is verified) and will have 2 business days to present an acceptable ID at their County Election Commission Office. Acceptable IDs include TN State IDs without these indicators, US passports and military IDs. Voters cannot use college student IDs, City or County work badges or out of state IDs.

- Chris addressed concern over new verbiage on application for ballot forms (the paper you sign before being handed a ballot at the polls). The verbiage is existing state law, but its inclusion on forms was prompted by a memo from State Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins dated Oct. 20th, 2025 and is not a result of any legislative amendments or updates. As it is a state directive, it is not subject to vote or approval by County Election Commissioners. Until instructed otherwise, Knox County poll workers will continue to ask, "In which primary would you like to participate?" when issuing a voter their primary ballot. County Election Commissions have not received any directives instructing them to monitor voter history for party affiliation.

Did the meeting start on time? (use "Other" to write comments or concerns) *

Yes

No

Other:

Were all members present? (If NO, include missing members in "other") *

Yes

No

Other: Eddie Smith was not in attendance, the commission still had 2 republican and 2 democratic members present.

Were all members attentive? (include notes or comments in "Other") *

Yes

No

Other:

Were members prepared? *

Yes

No

Other:

Commissioner Gautreau came prepared with specific questions about a recent State Div of Elections policy requiring additional text regarding party declaration.

Was the agenda posted online 72 hours ahead of the meeting? *

Yes

No

Other:

Was the agenda clear in conveying what was to be discussed? *

Yes

No

Other:

Details of the administrator's report are not published on the agenda, but can be found in meeting minutes once approved and posted.

Was there adequate opportunity for public input? *

Yes

No

Other:

Did it seem like some action items were discussed in a closed, rather than open session? *

Please note the importance of this question, as Sunshine Laws require board or commission members to only discuss business in open sessions.

Yes

No

Other:

Was background information available to the public? *

Yes

No

Other:

Some materials given to commissioners were not distributed to the public but were provided promptly upon a public records request.
.....

Were the facilities/meeting room adequate? (enough seating, ADA access, etc) *

Yes

No

Other: ADA accommodations are provided upon request by contacting KCEC.

Policy PositionsUntitled Title

View the League's [National](#), [State](#), and [LWVKKC](#) policy positions.

LWVKKC Policy Positions: Childcare, Land Use, Health, Homeless/Mentally Ill Persons, Urban Forestry, Use of School Facilities by Communities, Teacher Recruitment & Retention

Were there any issues on the agenda or brought up in public forum that are relevant to LWV positions or programs? *

All issues discussed dealt with voter rights, access and eligibility. There are many changes to Knox County voting sites this year, but are all changes meant to improve the experience of voters and account for larger turnout for key state and local races.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues?

The League as a whole should assist the Knox County Election Commission in spreading the word about new or changing polling places. League Members should familiarize themselves with Knox Co Election Commission's website, so we are always prepared to help a friend or neighbor find information on locations, dates, deadlines and what's on the ballot.

The League will continue their relationship with Knox County Election Commission to ensure Knox County Voters are getting the most accurate information available.

Other concerns or notes

***NOTE this was a Knox County Election Commission Meeting, NOT a County Commission meeting. A panel of 5 commissioners (3 Rep, 2 Dem) are appointed by the State Election Commission with input from State Legislators of each respective party from that County. Day to day operations are overseen by Chris Davis, Knox County Administrator of Elections.

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