

Melinda Lemons, Director of Elections
Pulaski County Board of Election Commissioners

Director Lemons and Fellow Commissioners,

18 January 2022

While my second term does not end until December 31 of 2022, Monday, January 31 will be my last day to serve on the Board. Simply put, I am ready for new challenges, of which I do not think would be appropriate to accept, if available, while serving on the Board.

My thought process on resigning now is this – if a new challenge were to present itself, the citizens of Pulaski County would be best served by the least amount of interruption. I want to ensure that whoever takes my place will have adequate time to get familiar with the election processes and attend the State Board's commissioner training before the Primary.

For every challenge we have faced, we have followed through with successes through streamlined processes, increased transparency and oversight, improved security, and positive staff changes, all of which will ensure valid votes will count and votes that are not valid – will not. This is a great feat for those who has played a role in the improvements.

All Pulaski County voters can be confident that they will have fair, free, and secure elections.

Over the last three years, I made myself several personal promises that would have to be fulfilled by the Board and staff before I could leave. This list is not all-inclusive.

Board Successes:

- Create transparency for the public and all election activities.
- Ensure unrestricted access is to all Board members.
- Provide processes, necessary tools, and communications to Board members.
- Create standardized templates for policies and employ their use.
- Install cameras in areas where ballots are processed.
- Communicate needs effectively with staff and "hire" a new Director.
- Restore previously abandoned effective processes.
- Improve overall security and ensure ballot secrecy.
- Complete ten year redistricting of county quorum districts without interference.
- Utilize social media to educate voters on upcoming elections and related dates.
- IP – establish a secure area with limited access for voted ballots during an election, monitored by cameras with logs for audit, and chain of custody.

Thank you to the staff, Board, and the election workers for your work, dedication, and passion. I have truly enjoyed serving the citizens of Pulaski County and working with you.

Sincerely,
Kristi M. Stahr

Cc: State Board of Election Commissioners and the Secretary of State Elections Division