

# Shelby County Election Commission

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**For Immediate Release**

## **SCEC Prepares for Possible Power Outages in Lakeland and Arlington**

July 18, 2016 (Memphis, Tenn.) In response to a Press Release issued yesterday by MLG&W, advising of the likelihood of rolling blackouts in the Lakeland and Arlington areas, Linda Phillips, administrator of elections for the Shelby County Election Commission (SCEC) is making sure generators are ready and making plans to minimize inconvenience to voters should power outages occur during voting hours.

The MLG&W Press Release warns that the blackouts are most likely to occur during peak hours of usage, between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. "Rolling blackouts...are intended to balance power loads and protect the electric distribution system from damage that could result from the high demand for power caused by the extreme heat until Substation 68 is repaired on or before Aug. 8," the release states. The blackouts last about four hours, rotating between sections of the city, to balance power loads during these peak hours.

Early voting sites at The Bethel Church and at Refuge Church are ones that could potentially be affected by the power outages.

"Early voting will continue as planned," said Linda Phillips, administrator of elections for SCEC. "If Refuge Church is in a blackout area, voting can continue. The beauty of early voting is that you can vote anywhere, so people might consider an alternative site that is not likely to be affected. The site closest to the area that is not included in the blackout warning is Bellevue Baptist Church."

A map of Early Voting sites is available at [www.shelbyvote.com](http://www.shelbyvote.com).

Officials at SCEC are already working on contingency plans for Election Day in the event the MLG&W substation is not operational by Aug. 4, and the threat of power outages still exists at that time, Phillips said.

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