

Shelby County Election Commission

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For Immediate Release

SHELBY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION CHANGES EARLY VOTING HOURS, QUICKENS CHECK-IN PROCESS

Oct. 25, 2016 (Memphis, Tenn.) Beginning Thursday, Oct. 27, Early Voting locations will open an hour earlier, at 9 a.m.

Since Oct. 20, the second day of Early Voting, the total of voters has exceeded the total number of people who voted early in the presidential election in 2008 and 2012. Each day at several polling locations, there have been lines of about 100 people or more waiting for the polls to open at 10 a.m.

Members of the Board of the Shelby County Election Commission voted unanimously in favor of extending the hours, which was proposed by Linda Phillips, administrator of election for the commission.

“We want to provide the best possible service to the voters here in Shelby County, and to reduce wait times as much as possible,” Phillips said. “We are continually looking at ways to make voting as quick and easy as we can.”

This comes on the heels of a change made by the Commission made late Friday evening, with the help of the Shelby County IT Department. Additional virtual CPUs added to the Early Vote Server, has reduced the time it takes for voters to check in at the polls. The average time it takes voters to cast their ballots, once they reach the machines, is 2-1/2 seconds.

Early voting continues through Thursday, Nov. 3rd at the Downtown location and all 21 satellite locations. Beginning Thursday, weekday hours will be 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Saturday, Oct. 29, the polls will open at 8 a.m. and will close at 4 p.m.

“We hope we continue to see record-breaking turnout numbers at the polls,” Phillips said. “The more people who vote early the better. It’s much more convenient for voters, and will make lines shorter for those people who do choose to vote on Election Day.”

Daily Early Voting Totals are available at www.shelbyvote.com by clicking on the top center tab on the home page “Early Voting Daily Totals.” This tab is located directly beneath the image of the county seal.

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