



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building
11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

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**SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO ANNOUNCE EFFORTS TO MAKE IT AS
EASY AS POSSIBLE TO VOTE EARLY IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS**

*Voters will be able to cast their ballots at a new early voting location downtown at the James
Meredith Building, 157 Poplar Avenue.*

MEMPHIS, TN - Shelby County Commissioner Van Turner, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris, and the Shelby County Election Commission are excited to announce early voting has returned to downtown Memphis. On August 20, the Shelby County Election Commission approved 157 Poplar Avenue as an early voting location. Shelby County Commission Chairman Van Turner, the Mayor's Administration, and the Shelby County Election Commission have been working together for several months on a plan to return early voting operations to downtown Memphis. Voters will be able to cast a ballot at the James Meredith Building, 157 Poplar Avenue, weekdays during the entire early voting period.

"As a government, we should do everything we can to increase participation in our elections," says Shelby County Commissioner Van Turner. "We owe every resident in this great County, from those who registered for the first time in 1968 to those who registered for the first time in 2018, easy access to the ballot box."

VASCO A. SMITH, JR. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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“An early voting location in the downtown area of Memphis helps ensure access to early voting for the hundreds of thousands of people who live and work in our urban core,” says Mayor Lee Harris. “This administration’s guiding principles regarding elections include the critical need to increase participation. The ability to vote hassle free early in downtown Memphis helps achieve that goal.”

Shelby County Government was also able to work with the Downtown Memphis Commission to secure eight dedicated parking spots adjacent to the James Meredith Building to provide free parking for early voters. The eight metered spots are all on the east side of Second Street, between Poplar Avenue and Washington Avenue. There will be signage to indicate the parking is for early voters only and the meters will be hooded. Voters are asked to use their hazard lights.

“I would like to thank Mayor Harris and Commissioner Turner for working to provide free parking for early voting at the downtown voting location,” says Shelby County Election Commissioner Brent Taylor. “The removal of barriers, large and small, should be the mission of everyone.”

We are also excited to partner with the Downtown Memphis Commission and the Blue Suede Brigade. The Blue Suede Brigade will help ensure the parking spots are not used for purposes other than voting at the James Meredith Building. Handicapped parking is available on the west side of the building and in the alley between 157 Poplar Avenue and 150 Washington Avenue.

We invite the media to join Mayor Harris, Shelby County Commissioner Van Turner, and Shelby County Election Commissioner Brent Taylor for a photo opportunity and brief remarks this Monday at 1:15 p.m. The goal is to promote the new downtown location with free and easy parking to voters.

**Early Voting Media Event
James Meredith Building
157 Poplar Avenue, Second Street Entrance
September 16, 2019 at 1:15 p.m**



Early voting in the Memphis Municipal Election begins September 13, 2019. The James Meredith Building is open from 9am until 5pm on weekdays until September 27, 2019. Election day is October 3, 2019.

(end of release)