



MEDIA ADVISORY from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PLAN WITH ELECTION
COMMISSION FOR PAYING ELECTION COMMISSION WORKERS \$15 AN HOUR**

As part of the FY2020 budget, the nearly 300 seasonal Shelby County Election Commissioner workers will earn a living wage.

Memphis, TN - Shelby County Commission Chairman Van Turner, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris, and Administrator of Elections Linda Phillips have worked together on a path forward to pay seasonal Shelby County Election Commission workers \$15 an hour. There are as many as 300 people who work on elections.

“Whenever we can, we must work together with institutions to raise pay to a living wage,” says Chairman Van Turner. “When we look at some of our challenges in the community, I think that part of the issue is that people are not making enough to live on, and they’re having to work two and three jobs to make ends meet. \$15/hour will help lift people out of poverty.”

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“We are pleased to bring forth a pledge to bring these seasonal election commissioner employees up to \$15 an hour in FY2020,” says Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris. “Beginning with the next election cycle, the Election Commission will join all other major operations, other than Shelby County Schools, who have committed to pay \$15 per hour.”

Earlier this month, the Shelby County Election Commission passed a resolution in support of this plan.

“I am thrilled to be able to offer our hard working election workers an opportunity to earn more,” says Shelby County Administrator of Elections Linda Phillips. “Our elections are sacred and those who serve during the election process should be compensated accordingly.”

The funds for paying the workers \$15 an hour is expected to be included in the FY2020 Budget.

(end of release)