

# Tuscaloosa County Commission Meeting

September 16, 2026

## Transcript Disclaimer

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**00:00:00 Chairman Rob Robertson**

All right, Sharon.

**00:00:02 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Welcome.

**00:00:03 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Come on up.

**00:00:04 Chairman Rob Robertson**

State your name for the record and your matter of business, please.

**00:00:13 Sharon Turner**

Good morning, Judge Robertson and members of the Commission.

**00:00:16 Sharon Turner**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

**00:00:19 Sharon Turner**

My name is Sharon Turner and I am a Tuscaloosa County voter.

**00:00:22 Sharon Turner**

I live in District 4, Commissioner Murray's district.

**00:00:25 Sharon Turner**

We are here because we care deeply about the state of our elections in Alabama and in Tuscaloosa County.

**00:00:32 Sharon Turner**

Ensuring the integrity of our elections is fundamental to preserving trust in American democracy and over the past years that trust has been eroding.

**00:00:41 Sharon Turner**

We come today as one of a number of counties across the state who are working to identify problems with our voting system and also to investigate how the centralized system restricts the ability of our local officials from carrying out their oath of office.

**00:00:57 Sharon Turner**

Over the past six months, we have taken a thorough methodical review of Tuscaloosa County's voter rolls spanning data from 2020 to 2025.

**00:01:08 Sharon Turner**

We want to stress that this is a nonpartisan.

**00:01:12 Sharon Turner**

a nonpartisan issue, and most importantly, we want to work together with you to find solutions.

**00:01:18 Sharon Turner**

Our findings support the truth that our voting system is broken for many reasons, the main one being that local control of our elections has been replaced with an out-of-state, subcontracted, centralized system, though responsibility is still publicly delegated to our local registrars and probate officers.

**00:01:39 Sharon Turner**

The ability to organize, oversee, and audit our local election process has been slowly stripped from them in the name of progress and in the quest to streamline the system through elections.

**00:01:52 Sharon Turner**

through electronics, excuse me.

**00:01:54 Sharon Turner**

According to the Code of Alabama, section 17-3-6, registrars are judicial officers and shall act judicially in all manners pertaining to the registration of applicants.

**00:02:06 Sharon Turner**

These officials are designated by the Alabama Code to be judicial officers.

**00:02:12 Sharon Turner**

They have the legal authority to make judgments as to whether voters are valid to be entered or removed from our voter rolls.

**00:02:20 Sharon Turner**

Our voter rolls are centrally controlled by the state of Alabama through a contracted vendor, Election Systems and Software, ES&S.

**00:02:29 Sharon Turner**

It is located in Omaha, Nebraska, and that is where our voter rolls are stored, maintained, and controlled.

**00:02:36 Sharon Turner**

Yet our centralized system forces registrars into non-compliance to state and federal laws by usurping their judicial authority.

**00:02:44 Sharon Turner**

The ability to accomplish their oath of office is blocked by restricting their access to our voter rolls.

**00:02:51 Sharon Turner**

Before registrars can do any maintenance or perform any duties on the voter rolls, they must log in to the ES&S software maintenance system.

**00:03:01 Sharon Turner**

This is the registrar's only access to the voter list.

**00:03:06 Sharon Turner**

There have been reports that registrars in some counties who removed non-qualified voters subsequently had those updates reversed by the system.

**00:03:16 Sharon Turner**

County registrars also lack access to cross-state criminal databases and use of their authority to require primary evidence of citizenship, such as birth certificates or naturalization certificates, resulting in criminals and non-citizens being added to the voter list inadvertently.

**00:03:34 Sharon Turner**

As judicial officers, registrars should have access to this information and be encouraged to use their authority to demand proof of citizenship.

**00:03:44 Sharon Turner**

But our registrars have become basic data entry workers, and it is not their fault.

**00:03:50 Sharon Turner**

They are, in most cases, hardworking, conscientious patriots who are just no longer in control of their responsibilities.

**00:03:58 Sharon Turner**

ES&S has control of the state voting records and our county voter rolls.

**00:04:03 Sharon Turner**

The National Voter Registration Act, NVRA, delegates these duties to the state.

**00:04:09 Sharon Turner**

The purpose for NVRA is to protect the integrity of the electoral process and to ensure that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained.

**00:04:21 Sharon Turner**

Harmeet Dhillon of the Civil Rights Division of the DOJ recently said it is a crime to knowingly allow non-citizens to vote in federal elections.

**00:04:31 Sharon Turner**

We have notified all 50

**00:04:33 Sharon Turner**

states of these federal election laws and we will enforce them.

**00:04:37 Sharon Turner**

In January of this year, an Alabama Secretary of State press release announced that the state had 186 non-citizens registered to vote and 25 of them had voted.

**00:04:50 Sharon Turner**

Nine were identified in Tuscaloosa County and thankfully none of them voted in our county.

**00:04:57 Sharon Turner**

Six months later, on July 13, 2026, a Department of Homeland Security report revealed that Alabama had 465 non-citizens on the rolls.

**00:05:09 Sharon Turner**

This would indicate that a cleanup was not successful and the problem is actually getting worse.

**00:05:15 Sharon Turner**

The Department of Homeland Security also identified 33,165 deceased individuals on Alabama's voter rolls.

**00:05:25 Sharon Turner**

As residents of Tuscaloosa County, we have been able to identify many problems, deceased voters, underage voters, sexual predators/felons on our voter rolls.

**00:05:37 Sharon Turner**

I will now defer to my teammate, Bob Bagwell, to give you some more specific details on this.

**00:05:44 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Thank you, Mrs. Turner

**00:05:45 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Mr. Bagwell.

**00:05:46 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Come on up.

**00:05:48 Bob Bagwell**

Good morning, my name is Bob Bagwell.

**00:05:51 Bob Bagwell**

I'm a resident of Tuscaloosa.

**00:05:53 Bob Bagwell**

And I currently reside in Commission District 3.

**00:05:56 Bob Bagwell**

Mark Nelson is my representative.

**00:05:59 Bob Bagwell**

I have had the opportunity to review a number of Tuscaloosa County voter rolls through 2025.

**00:06:06 Bob Bagwell**

Although some evidence of fraud and illegal voting was discovered, a large part of what was found was the failure to maintain clean voter rolls.

**00:06:17 Bob Bagwell**

I will go over some of these issues this morning.

**00:06:22 Bob Bagwell**

Number one, the removal process of purging of the voter rolls began with the reclassification of someone from being marked as active to inactive.

**00:06:34 Bob Bagwell**

According to Alabama Code 17-4-9, a registered voter is marked inactive who fails to vote for four years

**00:06:45 Bob Bagwell**

or two federal election cycles.

**00:06:49 Bob Bagwell**

As I mentioned, the purging process does not begin until this step is completed of marking them inactive.

**00:06:57 Bob Bagwell**

After reviewing the voter rolls, I have found there are 34,152 people that meet this criteria for changing their status from active to inactive.

**00:07:10 Bob Bagwell**

And like I said, they're still marked active at this point through 2025.

**00:07:16 Bob Bagwell**

And I have found that thousands of these 34,152 people registered many years ago as far back as 1963 have never voted and are still marked as active.

**00:07:31 Bob Bagwell**

And I've got a few examples of all of these.

**00:07:35 Bob Bagwell**

And I've got the voter ID number for these people, but I'll just use the last four digits of their voter ID number.

**00:07:44 Bob Bagwell**

Person A, number 2631, registered in 1963, has never voted, and is still marked active 61 years later.

**00:07:58 Bob Bagwell**

Person B

**00:08:00 Bob Bagwell**

number 6285 registered in 1970 has never voted and is still marked active.

**00:08:10 Bob Bagwell**

Another issue that we have found is dead people not being removed from the voter rolls in a timely manner.

**00:08:17 Bob Bagwell**

A computer program that we recently were given access to shows that there are currently 34 dead people on the Tuscaloosa County voter rolls.

**00:08:31 Bob Bagwell**

And here's a couple of examples.

**00:08:34 Bob Bagwell**

Person A, number 2288, passed in October of 2022.

**00:08:41 Bob Bagwell**

Three years later, they're still marked as active on the voter rolls.

**00:08:46 Commissioner Mark Nelson**

Can I interrupt you right there, just I want to ask a question, but that person hasn't voted after that, Correct?

**00:08:50 Bob Bagwell**

No, No.

**00:08:51 Commissioner Mark Nelson**

OK.

**00:08:52 Bob Bagwell**

I do have an incident, one that did.

**00:08:54 Bob Bagwell**

I hope to share.

**00:08:55 Commissioner Mark Nelson**

OK.

**00:08:55 Bob Bagwell**

OK, but no, these two people have not voted, yes.

**00:09:00 Bob Bagwell**

Person B, number 2773, passed in June of 2021, and over four years later is still marked active on the voter rolls.

**00:09:12 Bob Bagwell**

Now, not clearing of the voter rolls of deceased people leaves the door open for fraudulent voting, which we believe that we have found a case of this.

**00:09:24 Bob Bagwell**

Person A, number 5505,

**00:09:28 Bob Bagwell**

voted in the 2024 election at the age of 118 years old.

**00:09:35 Bob Bagwell**

So, and also here's another issue that I've been working on.

**00:09:41 Bob Bagwell**

I've been attempting to obtain a

**00:09:42 Bob Bagwell**

copy of the absentee voter rolls for Tuscaloosa County.

**00:09:46 Bob Bagwell**

According to the Alabama Code 1711-5C1, the absentee election manager shall deliver to the Board of Registrars the day following the election a copy of the list of all absentee voters, at which point the list is deemed a public record.

**00:10:08 Bob Bagwell**

The list shall be maintained in the office of the circuit clerk for 60 days after that, at which time it shall be delivered to the judge of probate.

**00:10:19 Bob Bagwell**

My first attempt to obtain this public document, I was told by the circuit court clerk that she had to have specific approval from the Secretary of State to release these public documents.

**00:10:35 Bob Bagwell**

After several months, I checked back to see if permission had been granted.

**00:10:40 Bob Bagwell**

At that time, I was told to follow another Alabama code that pertained to the general voter rolls and request it through the Secretary of State.

**00:10:51 Bob Bagwell**

I did not agree with the substitute Alabama code that I was given, although I did apply through the Secretary of State anyway, and have not heard back from them after months.

**00:11:05 Bob Bagwell**

I will continue to apply for the absentee voter rolls through the Alabama code that specifically applies to absentee voter rolls that are now public documents and should reside in the office of the judge of probate.

**00:11:22 Bob Bagwell**

Thank you for your attention to listening to me for this matter and trying to improve the Tuscaloosa County voter rolls.

**00:11:31 Bob Bagwell**

Thank you.

**00:11:38 Sharon Turner**

I'll be brief.

**00:11:42 Sharon Turner**

Our system is clearly not working.

**00:11:44 Sharon Turner**

In the issue of non-citizen voting, neither the registrars nor the citizen investigators can identify these individuals.

**00:11:51 Sharon Turner**

Alabama Code Section 31-13-28C lists conflicting requirements for the applicant to prove U.S.

**00:11:59 Sharon Turner**

citizenship.

**00:12:01 Sharon Turner**

Even though it is stated that evidence of U.S.

**00:12:03 Sharon Turner**

citizenship shall be demonstrated by one of a list of designated documents, the very first document listed is a driver's license.

**00:12:13 Sharon Turner**

which only requires proof of lawful presence in the United States in order to get it.

**00:12:18 Sharon Turner**

This lawful presence is not sufficient to show citizenship.

**00:12:23 Sharon Turner**

A guest worker with a visa or a green card can get a driver's license legally and is not a citizen.

**00:12:29 Sharon Turner**

Also, currently established processes at federal and state level, such as obtaining Medicaid or obtaining a driver's license or other federal or state benefits have been commingled with voter registration.

**00:12:42 Sharon Turner**

If someone is registering for one of these benefits, they are automatically offered voter registration.

**00:12:48 Sharon Turner**

This process results in excess voter registration applications, which is a burdensome responsibility for registrars.

**00:12:57 Sharon Turner**

These bloated roles are then vulnerable to being used and manipulated by nefarious domestic and foreign actors by using hijacked voter names to cast votes.

**00:13:08 Sharon Turner**

Now I want to address a problem that is near and dear to your hearts, wasted tax dollars.

**00:13:13 Sharon Turner**

We've talked about that a lot this morning, about how they're used wisely.

**00:13:17 Sharon Turner**

These bloated rolls create bloated costs such as excess ballot printing.

**00:13:22 Sharon Turner**

How many excess ballots are destroyed after an election?

**00:13:26 Sharon Turner**

Notification cards are mailed out every four years and more.

**00:13:29 Sharon Turner**

Have you checked the price of postage lately?

**00:13:34 Sharon Turner**

Is it sensible stewardship of taxpayer dollars?

**00:13:37 Sharon Turner**

Are we in Tuscaloosa County okay with being non-compliant with state and federal laws and putting ourselves at risk of being prosecuted by the DOJ and Harmeet Dhillon?

**00:13:47 Sharon Turner**

I will leave with each of you an article.

**00:13:50 Sharon Turner**

DHS requires states to adopt common sense election security measures before receiving federal funds.

**00:13:57 Sharon Turner**

FEMA has published the funding opportunity for the Homeland Security Grant Program, making over \$1 billion of taxpayer funds available to state, tribal nations, territorial, and local governments.

**00:14:09 Sharon Turner**

This means a county can apply even if a state chooses not to.

**00:14:14 Sharon Turner**

thank you so much for your time and I hope we will have the opportunity to speak again actually we're back on the agenda agenda in three weeks we want we want to work with you and we would love to see Tuscaloosa County shine in true election Integrity and I have these packets if I may approach the bench and share them with you if you.

**00:14:35 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Just hand them to to our administrator.

**00:14:37 Sharon Turner**

I will do that and it also shares everything I've said thank you so much.

**00:14:42 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Thank you Mr.

**00:14:43 Chairman Rob Robertson**

thank you

**00:14:44 Chairman Rob Robertson**

So let me a couple of quick things I want to respond to.

**00:14:47 Chairman Rob Robertson**

First, thank you for your vigilance.

**00:14:50 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Everybody needs to pay attention to the election system and keep at it.

**00:14:54 Sharon Turner**

Thank you.

**00:14:55 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Now, a lot of this, we covered a lot of territory.

**00:14:58 Chairman Rob Robertson**

If there is a concern that someone voted that was 118 years old, that should immediately be reported and it should be investigated as they do through the Secretary of State's office in that.

**00:15:12 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Sometimes an age is wrong, the date of birth is wrong in the system, so who knows, okay?

**00:15:17 Chairman Rob Robertson**

But please, if there's something like that, that's of utmost concern.

**00:15:22 Chairman Rob Robertson**

So our board of registrars, as our friends know, are appointed by various parts of our state government.

**00:15:30 Chairman Rob Robertson**

They are our state auditor, our secretary of state, the secretary of agriculture, get appointments to registrars.

**00:15:37 Chairman Rob Robertson**

This body has no jurisdiction over registrars.

**00:15:41 Chairman Rob Robertson**

or voter registration or any of these processes.

**00:15:44 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We don't have the databases.

**00:15:47 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Probate does not have, you know, all the motor voter things.

**00:15:52 Chairman Rob Robertson**

I will say what has been said, all these different systems that make for rapid and easy voting registration can create a lot of havoc because

**00:16:06 Chairman Rob Robertson**

They're fine that what was supposed to happen didn't happen and the databases aren't talking correctly.

**00:16:12 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We're talking multi-state.

**00:16:14 Chairman Rob Robertson**

It's a lot to it.

**00:16:17 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We don't, of course, have anything to do with how that's regulated.

**00:16:22 Chairman Rob Robertson**

But as far as the names, I can tell you as of yesterday, because we did a public presentation relating to elections yesterday for television,

**00:16:34 Chairman Rob Robertson**

And we pulled the numbers.

**00:16:35 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We have about 146,500 registered voters in Tuscaloosa County.

**00:16:41 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Of those, we've got about approximately 20,000 that are flagged as inactive.

**00:16:48 Chairman Rob Robertson**

So you described the process.

**00:16:50 Chairman Rob Robertson**

That's correct.

**00:16:50 Chairman Rob Robertson**

There's a process that when someone has not voted, that's what they deem inactive, which comes from the Secretary of State in the database.

**00:17:01 Chairman Rob Robertson**

So inactive voters can still vote if they show up to the polling place and they say, hey, I just haven't voted in years.

**00:17:07 Chairman Rob Robertson**

I do want to vote in the process.

**00:17:10 Chairman Rob Robertson**

So inactive, inactive, any dead voter, of course they have to be aware that the person died.

**00:17:17 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Next week there'll be more deaths in our county and it takes a bit sometimes.

**00:17:22 Chairman Rob Robertson**

So it is a lot of data.

**00:17:25 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We've got about 246,000 residents here and

**00:17:31 Chairman Rob Robertson**

As I shared earlier, we're a little bit transient in Tuscaloosa County.

**00:17:34 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We got folks coming to school here and then leaving, and we have to make sure we're trying to watch all this.

**00:17:41 Chairman Rob Robertson**

So I do want to make that clear.

**00:17:45 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We all want to make sure that people that are voting, I'm a big supporter of voter ID.

**00:17:52 Chairman Rob Robertson**

If a lot of us pass the save act across the country, but that's neither here nor there.

**00:17:57 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We need to know who votes.

**00:17:58 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We need to make sure that those votes get counted.

**00:18:00 Chairman Rob Robertson**

So vigilance is important.

**00:18:05 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We always need poll workers.

**00:18:07 Chairman Rob Robertson**

So if you want to help out even more, please let us know.

**00:18:12 Chairman Rob Robertson**

So that's it.

**00:18:14 Chairman Rob Robertson**

But thank you all.

**00:18:14 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We look forward to hearing and, you know, hey, bring those concerns and let's get it properly looked at.

**00:18:21 Chairman Rob Robertson**

The registrars need to be part of this conversation.

**00:18:25 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Definitely.

**00:18:26 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Okay.

**00:18:27 Commissioner Mark Nelson**

Okay. I'd say thank you for coming, but I also want you guys to know that I trust Judge Robertson with

**00:18:33 Commissioner Mark Nelson**

process, there's no way I'd rather have in charge of our voter process here.

**00:18:38 Commissioner Mark Nelson**

So if you've got concerns, if there are problems, I have no doubt he'll look into it because it's near and dear to his heart and something he takes very seriously.

**00:18:46 Commissioner Mark Nelson**

So I appreciate you guys taking the time to come because, you know, it's easy to sit back and not do anything and complain about it.

**00:18:53 Commissioner Mark Nelson**

But I appreciate that.

**00:18:54 Chairman Rob Robertson**

That's why I like you just said.

**00:18:56 Chairman Rob Robertson**

We need that to raise awareness.

**00:18:59 Chairman Rob Robertson**

At the same time, we have jurisdiction on certain things, as everybody knows, legislature, federal government, you know, we didn't come up with any of these voting systems.

**00:19:09 Chairman Rob Robertson**

This is, we follow what is directed.

**00:19:13 Chairman Rob Robertson**

So yeah, that's the reality of the situation.

**00:19:18 Chairman Rob Robertson**

Okay, thank you.