



Lynn Fitch
ATTORNEY GENERAL
OPINIONS AND POLICY

May 10, 2024

Stephanie N. Morris, Esq.
Attorney, Bolivar County Election Commission
Post Office Box 656
Cleveland, Mississippi 38732

Re: Number of Poll Managers

Dear Ms. Morris:

The Office of the Attorney General has received your request for an official opinion.

Questions Presented

- 1) May there be four to six poll managers at a single precinct with 500 or fewer registered voters?
- 2) If so, how is the optional number of poll managers determined for a single precinct with 500 or fewer registered voters?

Brief Response

- 1) For a voting precinct with 500 or fewer registered voters, the election commission must appoint three poll managers pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated Section 23-15-231 and may appoint up to three additional poll managers pursuant to Section 23-15-235, for a maximum number of six poll managers.
- 2) The statute does not provide any parameters for determining the additional number of poll managers needed under Section 23-15-235 other than to state that this is within the election commissioners' discretion.

Applicable Law and Discussion

Section 23-15-231 requires election commissioners to appoint three poll managers per voting precinct. Additionally, Section 23-15-235 provides, in relevant part:

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In addition to the poll managers appointed pursuant to Section 23-15-231, for the first five hundred (500) registered voters in each voting precinct, the election commissioners may, in their discretion, appoint not more than three (3) persons to serve as poll managers of the election. The election commissioners may, in their discretion, appoint additional persons to serve as poll managers for each one thousand (1,000) registered voters or fraction thereof in each voting precinct above the first five hundred (500), as determined necessary by the election commissioners and approved by the board of supervisors.

(emphasis added). Accordingly, for a voting precinct with 500 or fewer registered voters, the election commissioners must appoint three poll managers pursuant to Section 23-15-231 and may appoint up to three additional poll managers pursuant to Section 23-15-235, for a maximum number of six poll managers. In response to your second question, the statute does not provide any parameters for determining the additional number of poll managers needed under Section 23-15-235 other than to state that this is within the election commissioners' discretion. The election commissioners decide whether they want to appoint additional poll managers and may appoint up to three.

If this office may be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

LYNN FITCH, ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: /s/ Beebe Garrard

Beebe Garrard
Special Assistant Attorney General