

To: Meridian City Council, Meridian Star, WTOK, FOX 30, WMOX, WALT, WMER, Supertalk, Comcast, WEXR

From: Lauderdale County Election Commission

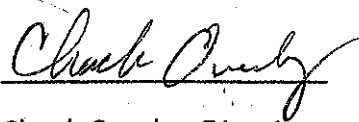
Date: February 21, 2017

Re: City Meridian Election Support

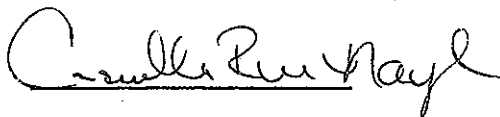
The City of Meridian has always been in charge of their own elections which occurs once every four years. For decades, this was under the direction of, at that time, CFO, Ed Skipper, his staff and city appointed election commissioners. The Lauderdale County Election Commissioners have always offered to be of assistance in any way, if needed. The City has appreciated the expertise of these elected Election Commissioners, as this is what they are educated, trained and certified to do.

The Lauderdale County Election Commission again offered to assist with this year's election, after first being contacted by the current CFO, David Whitaker, as early as May of 2016. At last Tuesday's City's work session, Lauderdale County Election Commission Chairman, Jeff Tate was requested by the City Council to present a cost comparison for Lauderdale County managing the city election cycle to that of ES&S's cost. Lauderdale County's cost is \$20,927 less while providing more than double the services. City Council President, Kim Houston asked for a bottom line cost for this election cycle. Mr. Tate requested more information from the city in order to determine that cost. Council President Houston instructed Mr. Whitaker to get with Mr. Tate with details of how many ballots and poll workers the city would request to determine the cost before the next regular meeting. As of now, there has been no contact.

After much slander, misinformation, accusations and attempts to discredit the Lauderdale County Election Commission by city officials, a meeting was called and a 3-2 decision by the Commission was made to rescind any offer to assist with this City election cycle.



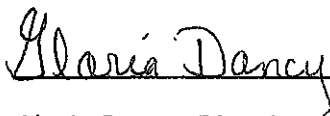
Chuck Overby, Dist. 1



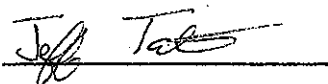
Consuella Rue Naylor, Dist. 2 (Secretary)



Awana D. Simmons, Dist. 3



Gloria Dancy, Dist. 4



Jeff Tate, Dist. 5 (Chairman)