



Federal / State Primary and Williamson County General Election Day - Thursday, August 6, 2026,
and Early Voting Period for Federal / State Primary and Williamson County General Election -
Friday, July 17, 2026, through Saturday, August 1, 2026

Poll Observation Report

September 9, 2026

The League of Women Voters of Williamson County (LWVWCTN) had 22 members volunteer as observers for the Early Voting Period for Federal / State Primary and Williamson County General Election - Friday, July 17, 2026, through Saturday, August 1, 2026. They observed at one or more of the following polling locations:

- Election Commission Office
- Columbia State Community College
- Franklin Recreation Complex
- The John P. Holt Brentwood Library
- College Grove Community Center
- Fairview Recreation Center
- Nolensville Recreation Center
- Longview Recreation Center

The LWVWCTN also had 12 members volunteer as observers for the Federal / State Primary and Williamson County General Election Day - Thursday, August 6, 2026. They observed at one or more of the following polling locations:

- Westwood Elementary School
- Hillsboro Middle School
- Thompson Station Middle School
- Legacy Middle School
- Creeside Elementary School
- Heritage Elementary School
- Cool Springs Conference Center (Marriott Hotel Lobby)
- Grassland Middle School
- Hunters Bend Elementary School

Pearre Creek Elementary School
Academy Park Gym
The Church of the City
Brentwood High School

Our observers completed surveys focused on their observations. This report is based on those observations and comments.

Overall

The LWVWCTN commends the Williamson County Election Commission for another well-run election.

In most instances, LWVWCTN observers reported short lines, with voters generally taking five to ten minutes to cast their ballots. Observers noted that the flow at most of the polling sites was excellent, though we are providing some recommendations. They stated that the number of voting machines and tabulators seemed adequate. They also observed that all locations were clean and well-organized.

Additionally, observers noted that the poll officials and workers at each location were professional, well trained and worked well together as a team. Specific comments were plentiful regarding poll officials' and poll workers' patience with voters needing additional assistance, celebration of first-time voters, going the extra mile to proactively help those who needed guidance to register to vote for future elections, and handing out of "I voted" stickers to voters and "Future Voter" stickers to accompanying children. One observer also commended the use of a large screen displaying an Election Commission slide show that included information about Go VoteTN, the Congressional redistricting, and Tennessee's awards for election integrity at a polling location.

We also appreciated the poll officials' proactive communication with our observers.

As this report includes observations noted for both the Early Voting period and Election Day, each comment regarding a specific polling location will reference EV for comments pertaining to observations during the Early Voting period and ED for comments regarding observations on Election Day, August 6th

Accessibility Matters

At several locations during early voting (EV) and one location on Election Day (ED), our poll observers found that no sign was evident indicating that persons with disabilities and visibly pregnant women could go to the front of the line (College Grove Community Center (EV), Columbia State Community College (EV), Fairview Recreation Center (EV), Longview Recreation Center (EV), Cool Springs Conference Center at the Marriott (ED), and Grassland Middle School (ED)). In most other locations, the sign was included on a larger board with multiple other required signage. The LWVWCTN recommends that this sign be posted separately and prominently at the entrance or, even better, outside the entrance, so if someone is approaching a line, they will see it and can move to the front of the line. When the sign is posted close to the registration desk, it is not helpful for such affected voters.

Specific to the Cool Springs Conference Center location (ED), it was suggested that voters with disabilities and visibly pregnant women could be directed to either use the exit ramp or move to the front of the line. At this location, the observer noted how helpful the poll workers were in assisting those with disabilities and in escorting them to the front of the line, though posting the sign at or outside the entrance was still recommended.

Our observers at the new Columbia State Community College (EV) polling location noted that there was no clear signage directing where voters with disabilities could enter the polling place. All signage was directed to entries that were not accessible to people with disabilities. It was also noted that the parking is downhill from the building entrance and not close. Our observers felt it would be difficult for someone using a wheelchair or walker to navigate both uphill to the polling place and downhill back to the parking without assistance.

Our poll observer who observed at Thompson Station Middle School (ED) during both the May and August 2026 elections suggested that the middle school gym, which was used in May, was preferable for people with disabilities to the elementary school gym, which was used in August. The middle school gym location makes it much easier to drop off voters at the door and have

them walk right in. There is no way to drop off someone at the door of the elementary gym, and it is a much longer walk to navigate. Also, voters were confused with the change in voting location at the school complex. The poll official responded quickly to feedback and posted additional signs at the old entrance for the May 2026 election directing voters to the other side of the building for the August election. This was appreciated by our observer.

We recommend that all poll workers be trained in how to make the voting computers display a larger font size. Some confusion ensued at the College Grove Community Center (EV) polling location when a voter requested a magnifying glass. Ultimately, one poll worker who knew how to adjust the font size assisted the voter. That worker then taught the other workers how to make the adjustment after the voter left. We suggest that this would be a good training opportunity or retraining opportunity for all poll workers.

At the Academy Park Gym location (ED), our poll observer noted that voters were directed to enter at the back of the building, requiring no steps. However, the exit signage directed voters through a different set of doors that required steps to leave. Since the voter turnout was low, many voters exited back through the entrance as opposed to leaving via the exit. In anticipated larger volume elections, this could be problematic. Our observer recommended that an exit sign for disabled could direct voters to the left after they leave the gym and re-enter the lobby to exit with no requirement to navigate stairs.

It was again noted that the entry door at The John P. Holt Brentwood Library (EV) is very difficult to open. It does have a sign that says it is "heavy", but we noticed many voters struggling to open it and enter. In our report on the May 2026 elections, we suggested that consideration be given to how to make this door more accessible for all voters or consider manning the door with a poll worker to assist. Our observers commented that poll workers were monitoring the door and assisting voters when they appeared to be having difficulties opening the door. We appreciate this improvement.

Since several sites had accessibility challenges, one of our observers questioned if the Election Commission could provide recommendations about voting locations that are most friendly to mobility-impaired individuals. Otherwise, the Commission should ensure all locations are completely accessible.

Voting Signage and Flow

The required signage was visible at most of the polling locations. Following are the exceptions noted by our observers and suggestions for improvement:

At the Nolensville Recreation Center location (EV), our observer thought it was somewhat difficult to locate the polling entrance from the parking lot. Improved and larger signage would be beneficial.

Our observer noted that it was difficult to see the small "Vote Here" signs amongst the many candidate signs in the parking lot of the Cool Springs Conference Center location (ED) and suggested that they be larger and placed more prominently. Specific reference was also made to the sign at the Cool Springs Boulevard entrance. Consideration should be given to making it bigger and / or placing it in the median of Cool Springs Boulevard for drivers to see more easily.

In addition, at the Cool Springs Conference Center location (ED), it was noted that voters did not know exactly where to stop while waiting to be called to the registration table. When there were more than three people waiting in line to be escorted to a voting booth, it was hard for those waiting in line for registration to see when a registrar was free. Consideration could be given to moving the tabulating machines to the other side of the space and using the space where the tabulators were located for several voting booths, allowing more space in front of the registration tables for voters waiting to be escorted to the booths. Better signage would also be helpful.

Our observer at the Westwood Elementary School polling location (ED) felt that privacy for voters could be improved by changing the layout of the voting booths. As configured on election

day, five voting booths (no privacy curtains) were lined up next to each other in the middle of the gymnasium. Voters navigating to and from their voting booths walked immediately behind the other booths and could see people voting. Also, observers were located where they could watch people voting from approximately 10 yards away. Our observer suggested that the booths be placed with the screens facing away from the registration table and room be left in between booths, so access to the booths would not require voters to walk behind other booths but instead between booths.

At the Franklin Recreation Complex location (EV), it was noted that the registration tables were located immediately inside the entrance door which made the entrance very congested. It was recommended that the registration tables be moved back from the door a few feet to give voters the opportunity to more comfortably enter the room.

One of our observers at The John P. Holt Brentwood Library (EV) suggested that a "Stop" sign be added where voters are to wait in order to be escorted to a voting machine after registration. Blue tape was in place on the floor, but it was observed that at least one person proceeded into a booth unescorted, unaware that she was supposed to wait at the blue tape line.

Our observer at the Hunters Bend Elementary School polling location (ED) felt that there was excellent flow until the volume of voters increased significantly around 4:30pm. The voters were asked to line up in a curved line that snaked around and was somewhat confusing for those who just entered the polling location to know where to go. Consideration could be given to having cords / straps on posts available to organize waiting lines for the busiest times on the main election day, such as those utilized at busy stores.

At this same Hunters Bend Elementary School location (ED), it was observed that wait/vote times increased dramatically at the end of the day, estimated ranging from 13 minutes to almost 45 minutes. The Election Commission might want to consider adding additional poll workers for the last several hours of voting to help with the flow and to alleviate longer waiting time.

At The Church of the City polling location (ED), the LWVWCTN observer again noted at this election that when a voter came into the outer foyer, they had to choose to go left or right of a barrier, and no Enter / Exit signs were in place. It was observed that on multiple occasions, the voter would go left and then need to come back out around to go in the right door to proceed to the registration tables. We recommend that Enter / Exit signs be placed at the interior doors in the foyer.

It was also noted that the entire polling space was cramped at The Church of the City location (ED) and there was no place for voters to line up to vote once they register. This was generally not an issue due to the number of voters, but in higher turnout elections, it would create congestion and confusion.

As noted above and in our May 2026 report, the Academy Park Gym location (ED) utilized two rooms. The registrars were in a separate room adjacent to the room with the voting machines and tabulators. Voters checked in with the registrar, then went into the gym to vote and many came back through the same doors to exit once their vote had been counted. If it were busy, there would be significant congestion at that doorway. We suggest that the voter flow at this location be reconsidered.

Voter Registration Matters and Technical Issues

None of the observers reported significant issues with voters being turned away because they were not registered to vote, had address problems, or had name changes. Poll officials were helpful in explaining situations presented to our observers and their decisions and actions taken generally seemed appropriate.

The LWVWCTN poll observer at the Nolensville Recreation Center (EV) noted that voters were asked for their photo IDs and new voter registration cards at registration. Many did not have their registration cards to share and were told they were not required to have their voter registration card to vote. The voters were often instructed to bring the cards next time so registration could double check the number on the registration card because of confusion over the recent redistricting. Our observer felt that the registrars were sometimes a little intimidating

when telling voters that they could "probably" still vote without the card next time. Given the possible confusion, we recommend that registrars be given additional training on what they should say about registration cards and the Election Commission should communicate expectations publicly and widely before the November elections.

The Hillsboro Middle School polling location (ED) had a number of technical issues at opening per the L WVWCTN observer. Express voting did not work for three registrar stations. One computer would not communicate with the ballot printer; one computer would not communicate with the application printer; two computers had difficulty connecting to the internet. It took until 7:24am to get one registrar station to work, at which point the voting machine jammed and would not print the ballot. That machine was disconnected. It wasn't until 7:50am that tech support with the school arrived. By 7:55am, three voting stations were up. Election Commission support came at 8:20am and got the remaining registrar's station up by replacing the laptop.

Registration computer connectivity and latency issues were noted at the Cool Springs Conference Center polling place (ED) when all of the registers were working at the same time. At one point, 29 voters were in line to register. This dwindled down to just a few voters after about 15 minutes.

While one of our observers was at The John P. Holt Brentwood Library location (EV), there was a power outage for approximately 10 minutes. It was noted that the voting and tabulation machines had battery backup, but the registration computers did not, and were all down. The poll workers handled the situation well, catching up quickly and eliminating the line after power was restored. Would it be possible to add battery backup for the registration computers, also? If so, that would be our recommendation.

Our observers did note other minor voting machine technical issues while observing at the Cool Springs Conference Center (ED), Hunters Bend Elementary (ED) and Westwood Elementary

School (ED) polling locations. The consistent answer was to void printed ballots that were not acceptable to the tabulator or, in cases where no ballot was printed, shift the voter to another voting machine and continue their voting process. In these cases, the Election Commission technical staff were consulted, as needed, the voting machines at issue were reset, and incident report were written up for submission. We appreciated that the poll officials shared the details of these situations with our observers.

Location of Poll Observers

To effectively observe polling activity, poll observers need to have the ability to both see and hear polling activity. During this election cycle, LWVWCTN observers at the Cool Springs Conference Center (ED), Election Commission (EV), Franklin Recreation Center (EV), Hunters Bend Elementary School (ED), The John P. Holt Brentwood Library (EV), Legacy Middle School (ED), Nolensville Recreation Center (EV), The Church of the City (ED), and Westwood Elementary School (ED) all noted that they could see all activity, but could not hear some of it due to the size of the room or the room set up and placement of the observers. Placing poll observers in more central locations between the registration tables and the voting machines and tabulators, as opposed to the far end of either, would allow the observers to better both observe and hear pertinent activity.

Also, since the registration and voting were in two separate rooms at Academy Park Gym (ED), it was impossible to observe and hear all pertinent activity.

Other Comment

It is suggested that registrars and other poll workers be reminded to refrain from extended conversations with voters on matters other than voting and that registrars be reminded to refrain from conversations or phone use that keep voters waiting in line to register based on observation at The John P. Holt Brentwood Library polling location (EV).

Summary of League of Women Voters of Williamson County Recommendations

- Ensure required signs indicating that persons with disabilities and visibly pregnant women can go to the front of the line are posted separately and prominently at all voting locations, plus place such signs closer to the entrance so, if someone is approaching a line, they will see it and can move to the front of the line.
- Reconsider disability accessibility to the new Columbia State Community College polling location and improve signage directing those with disabilities to an accessible entrance and exit.
- Consider switching the polling location at the Thompson School complex back to the Middle School gym for convenience to all voters, especially those with disabilities.
- Reduce voter confusion when shifting voting areas at a location by putting signage up at old entrances to help voters navigate to new entrances.
- As a training or retraining opportunity, ensure that all poll workers understand how to make voting computers display larger font sizes, as requested by voters.
- At the Academy Gym location, consider the accessibility flow to remove the barrier of requiring steps on exit.
- Consideration should be given to how to make the entry door at The John P. Holt Brentwood Library more accessible.
- Determine if the Election Commission could suggest certain voting locations that are most friendly to mobility-impaired individuals. If not, ensure that all voting locations are completely accessible.
- More prominently place larger "Vote Here" signs in the parking lot at the Nolensville Recreation Complex and at the Cool Springs Conference Center.
- Move and increase the size of the "Vote Here" sign directing voters into the Cool Springs Conference Center parking lot from Cool Springs Boulevard.
- Consider improving the flow at the Cool Springs Conference Center and improving signage within the registration and voting area.
- Improve privacy at the Westwood Elementary School polling location by shifting and separating the voting booths.
- Decrease congestion at the entrance to the Franklin Recreation Complex voting area by shifting the registration tables back several feet.
- Add a "Stop" sign where voters are to wait to be escorted to a voting booth at The John P. Holt Brentwood Library to provide clarity to waiting voters.
- Consider having cords/ straps on posts available to better organize lines of voters and add poll workers during high traffic times.
- We recommend that entrance / exit signs be placed outside of the interior doors in the foyer at The Church of the City polling place.
- We recommend that a larger space or improved voter flow be considered at The Church of the City to allow for a line for the voting machines after the registration process.
- We suggest that the voter flow at the Academy Park Gym location be reconsidered to alleviate congestion between rooms when higher volume voting is anticipated.
- Consideration should be given to providing additional registrar training on appropriate

voter registration card prompts during the registration process. Also, publicize Election Commission rules regarding proper voter ID for the November election.

- Continue to focus on ensuring strong technology functionality and interfaces, as necessary, at polling locations for future elections.
- Investigate the possibility of adding battery backup to registration computers at polling locations for use during power outages.
- Placing poll observers in more central locations between the registration tables and the voting machines and tabulators, as opposed to the far end of either, would allow the observers to better observe and hear pertinent activity.
- We suggest that registrars and other poll workers be reminded to refrain from extended conversations with voters on matters other than voting and that registrars be reminded to focus on being available for voter registration and refrain from conversations or phone use that slow down the voter registration process.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorinda Smith, President
League of Women Voters of Williamson County