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Judge rules for new Aberdeen Ward 1 alderman election

Ray Van Dusen, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, Tupelo

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Mar. 1—ABERDEEN — Special Judge Jim Weill, Sr. of Jackson signed an order Feb. 26 for a new election for Ward 1's alderman seat, setting up Aberdeen's second special election scheduling in approximately a month's time.

An election contest was filed last July on behalf of Robert Devaull against Nicholas Holliday, who was certified as the winner of the Ward 1 alderman race. Devaull received 44 percent of the vote, compared to Holliday's 56 percent in the June 16, 2020 Democratic run-off.

Devaull was represented by Starkville attorneys Lydia Quarles and Jim Mozingo in the January court proceedings in Monroe County Circuit Court, while Holliday was represented by Walter Zinn Jr.

As another result, Judge Weill ordered a separate bench warrant and order setting bond at \$500 for Dallas Jones, who notarized absentee ballots for the election. Court documents state she admitted clear violations of notary duties and furthermore state she assisted a person or persons to vote absentee in violation of Mississippi Code 23-15-753, which pertains to voter fraud.

The filing also stated testimony from a second notary public, Lu Stephens, was not believable.

According to court documents, finding of facts in the case included substantial irregularities occurred in accepting/rejecting absentee

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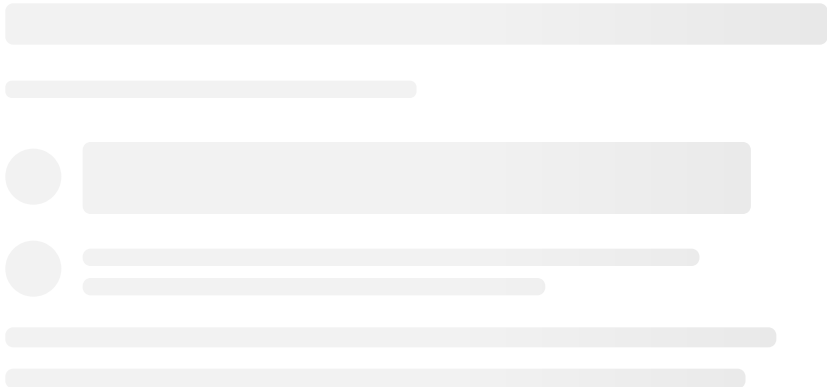
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The final total of votes was 177 for Holliday and 140 for Devaul, and court documents state, "an election in which 66 ballots have been handled erroneously and in which the winner led by only 37 votes is an election in which these erroneously accepted or rejected ballots could change the results of the election. Since no one knows who those 66 ballots were voted for, it is clear that the will of the voters is impossible

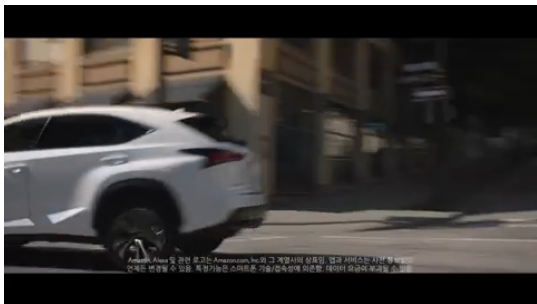
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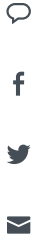
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