

CALHOUN COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
January 18, 2023

RE: Petition to RECALL Deb Belles
Emmett Charter Township Supervisor

DETERMINATION OF ELECTION COMMISSION

A petition was filed with the Calhoun County Clerk seeking the recall of Emmett Charter Township Supervisor Deb Belles. The Election Commission met in a public session on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 12:30pm and took comments and arguments on the clarity and factual nature of the petition language.

The Commission is charged with determining whether each reason stated in the petition is based upon conduct occurring during the officials' current term of office, and whether each reason "is factual and of sufficient clarity to enable the officer whose recall is sought and the electors to identify the course of conduct that is the basis for the recall."

❖ The language is as follows:

Charter Township of Emmett Supervisor Deb Belles is unfit for office and should be recalled from the elected office of Township Supervisor for the following reasons. 1. Supervisor Belles hired a convicted felon as code enforcement officer of the Township. 2. Supervisor Belles violated Article 2, Section 2.01 of the Zoning Ordinances of Emmett Township when she hired a Zoning Administrator without Township Board approval. 3. Ms. Belles uses bullying, intimidation, and verbal abuse as a management style. 4. Ms. Belles was given 25 Chick-fil-A "Local Hero Gift Cards" (valued at \$11,154), that were intended for Public Safety Officers and gave the cards to "whoever she seen fit." Only 8 of the 25 cards were given to the intended public safety officers, Ms. Belles refuses to account for the other 17 cards.

❖ The Election Commission is charged as follows:

"...shall meet and shall determine whether each reason for the recall stated in the petition is factual and of sufficient clarity too enable the officer whose recall is sought and the electors to identify the course of conduct that is the basis for the recall. If any reason for the recall is not factual or of sufficient clarity, the entire recall petition shall be rejected." MCL 168.952

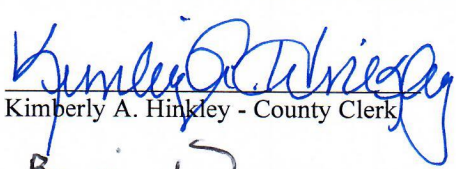
The Election Commission determines:


by a vote of 0 (# of votes for...) **APPROVED** 3 **VERSUS** (# of votes against...)
REJECTED X that the reasons for recall stated in the petition:

ARE _____ **or ARE NOT** X factual in nature and of sufficient clarity to enable the officer whose recall is sought and the electors to identify the course of conduct that is the basis for the recall.

Therefore, the Commission **ACCEPTS** _____ **REJECTS** X **the petition.**

Appeals to this determination may be made to the Circuit Court of Calhoun County no later than Monday, January 30, 2023.

Dated: 1/18/23 YES: *Approved* _____ NO: *Rejected* X 
Kimberly A. Hinkley - County Clerk

Dated: 1/18/23 YES: *Approved* _____ NO: *Rejected* X 
Brian Wensauer - County Treasurer

Dated: 1/18/23 YES: *Approved* _____ NO: *Rejected* X 
Michael Jaconette - Probate Judge