

JACKSON COUNTY PRESS RELEASE
DECEMBER 23, 2020

As explained at the Commission Meeting yesterday, Mr. Guffey has submitted his letter of resignation to Governor Ivey and that letter has been received by her office. The Chairman alone is responsible for his resignation and the Commission has no control over that process or the date he chooses for it to become effective. Mr. Guffey is on administrative leave pending the effective date of his resignation and will not return to the Courthouse or perform any function as Chairman pending his resignation date. As of today, the Commission is not aware of any formal criminal charges having been brought against the Chairman although the matter is under investigation by the appropriate law enforcement agency. The Commission has been advised by legal counsel that the only legal means of removing the Chairman from office is through an impeachment proceeding based on limited statutory reasons, none of which have yet been proven. Without the Chairman's voluntary resignation, a contested impeachment process would take at least six months to complete and the Chairman would remain in office during the impeachment process. For the Chairman to attempt to carry out his duties, to work with other elected officials, the employees of the County and the general public, while under impeachment proceedings, would cause dysfunction within the County and would impair the County Offices ability to serve the citizens of the County during the process. It is the belief of the County Commissioners that it would be in the best interest of the people of the County for the Chairman to immediately vacate his office but to allow the Chairman to retain his official position until the date he chose for his resignation to be effective. With the Chairman immediately removing himself from office, the Commissioners hope the County can move forward to provide the citizens the best public service possible in 2021.