

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS, the S.C. State Election Commission was created by Act 955 of 1968, which was signed into law by Governor Robert McNair on March 2, 1968, and became effective January 1, 1969; and
- WHEREAS, prior to 1969, the State Election Commission functioned as a division of the S.C. Secretary of State's office; and
- WHEREAS, in 1968, the General Assembly determined that voter registration and the administration of elections were matters that should be removed from possible influence of partisan, elected officials and placed under the custody of a non-elected, bipartisan board or commission; and
- WHEREAS, the State Election Commission commenced operations as an independent state agency on January 1, 1969; and
- WHEREAS, the mission of the State Election Commission is to ensure every eligible citizen has the opportunity to register to vote, participate in fair and impartial elections and have the assurance that their votes will count; and
- WHEREAS, the Agency has a rich 50-year history of ensuring the will of the people of South Carolina is fairly expressed through the conduct of 25 General Elections and more than 12,000 other elections for federal, state and local offices; and
- WHEREAS, the State Election Commission has enjoyed extraordinary consistency and a remarkable transfer of institutional knowledge under leadership of only four executive directors during that time; and
- WHEREAS, the Agency has numerous accomplishments over the years including becoming the first state to have a computerized statewide voter registration database; implementing voter registration by mail, at various state agencies, and online; taking on the responsibility of conducting partisan candidate filing and party primaries; implementing a uniform, statewide voting system; and ensuring the security of South Carolina's election infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS, the S.C. State Election Commission is celebrating the people who have and continue to carry out South Carolina's elections, both past and present, including commissioners, executive directors, and agency staff; as well as county board members, directors and staff, and poll managers.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim 2019 as

### S.C. STATE ELECTION COMMISSION 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate the State Election Commission's 50 years of ensuring eligible citizens have the opportunity to register to vote, the opportunity to participate in fair and impartial elections, and the assurance that their votes will count.



**HENRY MCMASTER**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**