

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

1122 Lady Street, 5th Floor
Columbia, SC 29201

Present: Mr. John Wells, Chairman; Ms. JoAnne Day, Mr. Scott Moseley, Mr. Cliff Edler, and Ms. Linda McCall (via teleconference)

Others Present: Howard Knapp, Interim Executive Director; Thomas W. Nicholson, General Counsel; John Michael Catalano, Voter Education/Outreach Coordinator; Barbara Pittelli, Administrative Coordinator and three members of the public.

COMMISSIONERS

JOHN WELLS
Chairperson

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

Chairman Wells called the meeting to order. Mr. Knapp advised all notices of the meeting had been posted as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of Minutes

The first item of business was the approval of minutes for the meeting of November 17, 2021 (SEC). A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Day, seconded by Mr. Edler. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

HOWARD M. KNAPP
Interim Executive Director

A new statewide asset management system was the first item under new business. Mr. Knapp informed the Commission the new system, procured from Easy Vote, will enable the agency to monitor the use, maintenance, and servicing of the statewide election system, the statewide e-poll book system, and other statewide technologies the agency purchases for county use.

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The next item under new business was the voter list maintenance confirmation card mailing. Mr. Knapp advised the mailings are done every two years. He further advised, 272,590 cards were sent, and to date 4,500 were returned for processing.

P.O. Box 5987
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Audit results of 2021 Municipal Election Day was the next item under new business. Mr. Knapp stated, currently, audits in statewide elections consist of hand count audits in select precincts and ballot reconciliation, ensuring the number of ballots distributed matches the number of ballots scanned. Mr. Knapp informed the Commission, beginning with the June 2022 primaries, the agency is mandating a full audit of all election results prior to certification in statewide elections. He stated a recent pilot was conducted with the three largest counties, Charleston, Greenville, and Richland on Municipal Election Day, November 2, 2021. Mr. Knapp explained a discrepancy rate, how the voting system tabulated results versus how they should have been tabulated, of half a percent (0.5) triggers a manual review of questioned ballots. Mr. Knapp advised the results of the pilot for Charleston

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county was .009 percent, and Greenville county was .0 percent. He further advised due to a series of errors, the Town of Arcadia Lakes election in Richland county had a discrepancy rate of 15.65 percent, however, not enough to impact the election.

The last item under new business was the agency website RFP award. Mr. Knapp advised the agency went through the state procurement office and chose Chernoff Newman.

Old Business

Redistricting/Reapportionment update was the first item under old business. Mr. Knapp advised the Governor signed off on the state's new maps and the General Assembly hopes to have the Congressional maps passed by the end of the month.

The House and Senate Legislative Oversight Committee(s) (HLOC) and (SLOC) reviews were the next item under old business. Mr. Knapp stated there was nothing new to report on the HLOC review. He further stated that the SLOC staff is working on their report and that it should be done within a month.

Mr. Knapp advised there was no new update on the FY2022/23 budget request, but that budget request to the House of Representatives would be due within the next month.

The next item under old business was the update on agency goals for 2021. Mr. Knapp stated the agency met with consultants on the development of statewide standard procedures and solicited documented best practices for voter registration. He further stated the county advisory group will likely consist of five counties that will comment on/help edit the draft copy of the procedure.

The election infrastructure security update was the next item of old business. Mr. Knapp advised the agency continues to work with their state and federal security partners.

The last two items of old business were (1) the executive director vacancy and (2) the legal update of *S.C. NAACP, et al v. Governor Henry McMaster, et al*. Chairman Wells asked for a motion to go into executive session for both items, (1) to discuss a personnel matter, and (2) to receive and discuss legal advice. Mr. Edler made said motion, seconded by Ms. McCall. The motion passed by unanimous vote and the board went into executive session. No votes were taken during executive session.

Upon returning to open session, Chairman Wells reminded the Commission members the next meeting will be held on January 19, 2022.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Day made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moseley. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Pittelli