

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

1122 Lady Street, 5th Floor
Columbia, SC 29201

Present: Mr. John Wells, Chairman; Ms. Joanne Day; Mr. Clifford J. Edler (via teleconference); Ms. Linda McCall (via teleconference); Mr. Scott Moseley

Others Present: Marci Andino, Executive Director; Howard Knapp, Director of Voter Services; Harrison Brant, General Counsel; Chris Whitmire, Director of Public Information and Training; Daylin Silber, Administrative Coordinator; Conway Belangia, Director of Greenville County Board of Voter Registration and Elections; Wanda Hemphill, Director of York County Board of Voter Registration and Elections; Lynn West, Director of Laurens County Board of Voter Registration and Elections; and David Alford, Director of Florence County Board of Voter Registration and Elections

COMMISSIONERS

JOHN WELLS
Chairperson

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

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

MARCI ANDINO
Executive Director

Approval of Minutes

The first item of business was the approval of minutes for the meeting of April 19, 2021 (SEC). A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Day, seconded by Ms. McCall. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

The first item of new business was the acceptance of Executive Director Marci Andino's resignation. Ms. Day moved to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moseley. The motion passed by unanimous vote, and the Commission went into executive session.

Upon re-entering open session, Chairman Wells advised no votes were taken during the executive session. Mr. Mosely made a motion to accept Ms. Andino's resignation, seconded by Ms. McCall. The motion passed by 4 to 1 vote, with Ms. Day voting against the motion.

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The second item of new business was the Special Election for School District 3 in Lexington and Saluda Counties. Ms. Andino informed the board the election will take place on July 20 and the certification meeting will be held on July 23, 2021.

Old Business

The Senate Legislative Oversight Committee (the "SLOC") was the first item under old business. Ms. Andino stated there have been three meetings with SLOC which focused on the topics of the Department of Motor Vehicles' role in registering voters, federal funding, and signature verification on absentee ballot return envelopes. She advised the next step will be an initial review meeting scheduled for June 3rd where Senate staff will be visiting the SEC and will explain the review process.

The next item of old business was reapportionment. Ms. Andino stated there is no change in this item and advised U. S. census data is expected at the end of September. She added the General Assembly will return to take up reapportionment and all districts will be updated in time for candidate filing.

An update on agency goals for 2021 was the next item. Ms. Andino advised phase one of county compliance audits, which is comprised of administration and office procedures, is nearing completion. She added phase 2 will be starting soon. Ms. Andino also reported ElectionWare updates are still under way and most small counties have been upgraded. Updates to medium size counties are now underway and this project is on schedule to be completed prior to November municipal elections. She noted the SEC is also working with ES&S to streamline use of electronic pollbooks in runoff elections.

The legislative and budget update was the next item of old business. Ms. Andino advised House bill 3444 was amended, passed the Senate, but the House did not take up the bill. She added no action is expected until at least January. Ms. Andino stated the Senate passed their version of the budget which included \$930,000 in annual support for the paper-based voting system and \$1.35 million in matching funds with the 2020 federal HAVA grant.

The next order of old business was the Election Infrastructure Security Update. Mr. Knapp stated the SEC continues to work with its security partners and added Keith Jones from the Department of Homeland Security is bringing a team to perform physical security assessments. He advised CyberSC has awarded the SEC the cybersecurity award in government. Mr. Knapp stated the SEC is working with Willis, an insurance broker, to procure cybersecurity insurance and will be reviewing two quotes received soon.

The last order of old business was the legal updates. Mr. Brant advised the *League of Women Voters et al v. Marci Andino et al.* case has now been dismissed after all parties consented to a Voluntary Stipulation of Dismissal. In so doing, all parties agreed to the following stipulated language:

[P]ursuant to South Carolina law and Directive No. 2020-001, county boards of elections and voter registration are not authorized to and should not match voters' signatures located on absentee ballot voter oaths with voters' signatures on any other document for the purpose of determining the legitimacy of the absentee ballot or any voter's eligibility to cast a legal ballot in any future election held in South Carolina.

Chairman Wells greeted and welcomed the county directors present and thanked them for their work. He reminded the Commission members the next meeting will be held on June 16, 2021.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Daylin Silber