

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 20, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

1122 Lady Street, 5th Floor  
Columbia, SC 29201

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

Others Present: Howard Knapp, Executive Director; Thomas W. Nicholson, General Counsel; Chris Whitmire, Deputy Executive Director; Ms. Wanda Hemphill, Director of Voter Services; two members of the public.

**COMMISSIONERS**

JOHN WELLS  
Chairman

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 March 11, 2022 (SBC) meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Moseley, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The second item of business was the approval of minutes for the March 16, 2022 (SEC) meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Moseley, seconded by Mr. Edler. The motion was approved unanimously.

HOWARD M. KNAPP  
Executive Director

**New Business**

The first item under new business was the Commission regulations. Mr. Knapp advised pending legislation mandates the promulgation of regulations, Section 45 of the Code of Regulations is reserved for the State Election Commission. He further advised as the current regulations are obsolete, the agency will start the process of reviewing the existing regulations for amendment or deletion.

New State Election Commission (SEC) Candidate Withdrawal policy was the next item under new business. Mr. Knapp informed the Commission that as the agency has established new technologies and audit processes that require ballots be completed earlier, it has become necessary for the SEC to establish a candidate withdrawal deadline. Mr. Moseley made a motion to approve the policy, seconded by Ms. McCall. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The last item under new business was new management hire and promotion. Mr. Knapp advised the agency hired Ms. Wanda Hemphill as the Director of Voter Services and promoted Chris Whitmire to

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Deputy Executive Director. Mr. Whitmire will retain his duties as Director of Public Information and Training.

### **Old Business**

Legislative update was the first item under old business. Mr. Knapp informed the Commissioners bill H.4919 passed the House unanimously and has been assigned to Senate Judiciary, no subcommittee hearing has been scheduled yet. Mr. Knapp stated bill H.3444 also passed the House and is in the Senate Judiciary committee awaiting a subcommittee hearing.

Candidate filing period was the second item under old business. Mr. Knapp stated the agency had five filing stations set up and that the process ran smoothly with no delays.

Statements of economic interest was the next item under old business. Mr. Knapp stated all Commission members and management staff filed their reports by the March 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Redistricting/Reapportionment was the next item under old business. Mr. Knapp advised the agency is working on error reports and kickout lists. He further advised as Greenville County is not done with their redistricting the agency is waiting on them to finish.

The next item under old business was the FY2022/23 budget request. Mr. Knapp informed the Commission the Full Senate Finance Committee supported the agency's entire budget request and that the budget will be debated the following week on the Senate floor.

The election infrastructure security update was the next item under old business. Mr. Knapp advised the agency continues to work with it's federal, state, and private security partners to secure the state's election infrastructure.

The last item under old business was the legal updates of:

S.C. NAACP, et al v. Alexander, et al

Scharr, et al v. Whitmire, et al

Osborne, et al v. S.C. State Election Commission, et al

Curry v. S.C. State Election Commission

Chairman Wells asked for a motion to go into executive session to receive and discuss legal advice. Ms. Day made said motion, seconded by Mr. Edler. 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 Commissioners the next SEC meeting would be on May 18, 2022, and there would be an SBC meeting on May 20, 2022.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Whitmire

