

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 19, 2022  
10:00 a.m.**

1122 Lady Street, 5th Floor  
Columbia, SC 29201

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

**Others Present:** Howard Knapp, Executive Director; Chris Whitmire, Deputy Executive Director; Thomas W. Nicholson, General Counsel; Barbara Pittelli, Administrative Coordinator; Sharese Johnson, Administrative Coordinator; Courtney Phillips, Director of Audit; Donald Palmer, U.S. Election Assistance Commission; Ricki Harris, Legislative Audit Council; Chris Shefelton, Legislative Audit Council; two members of the public

**COMMISSIONERS**

JOHN WELLS  
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

HOWARD M. KNAPP  
Executive Director

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 September 21, 2022 (SEC) meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Day, seconded by Mr. Moseley. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**New Business**

The first item under new business was the agency visit from Commissioner Donald Palmer of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Commissioner Palmer stated the EAC supports states and localities with issues in preparing for elections. He further stated the EAC tests and certifies voting machines for accuracy, security, accessibility, and is a clearinghouse for best practices.

The second item of new business was the S.C. Supreme Court order 2022-09-27-01. Mr. Knapp advised the Supreme court order was issued in late September to encourage attorneys in South Carolina to work as poll managers for the upcoming statewide general election. He further advised, the attorneys who do so will receive six hours of CLE credit in lieu of pay.

The next item under new business was the new SEC Director of Audit. Mr. Knapp introduced Courtney Phillips as the agency's first Director of Audit.

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General election supplies for county offices was the next item under new business. Mr. Knapp advised the agency is currently shipping election supplies and requested PPE supplies to all the counties to support them in November.

The next item was the Decertification of the Working Families party. Mr. Knapp informed the Commission the Working Families party no longer met the requirements for certification under statute 7-9-10, Certification and Decertification of Political Parties. After reading the statute, Mr. Knapp stated the provisions for decertification, as stated in the statute, all applied and asked the Commission to decertify the Working Families party in South Carolina. Mr. Moseley made a motion to decertify the Working Families party, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The next item under new business was agency regulations. Mr. Knapp advised the agency has a number of old and obsolete regulations, and that although the staff has begun the process of drafting new regulations, the old ones need to be repealed. Mr. Knapp further advised the agency is working with the South Carolina Legislative Council to repeal the regulations and requested the Commission's approval to proceed with the process to delete the agency's existing regulations. Ms. Day made a motion to proceed with deleting the agency's existing regulations, seconded by Ms. McCall. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The last item under new business was OSCE office for democratic institutions and human rights observation of elections in South Carolina. Mr. Knapp stated the federal government invites foreign entities to the United States to observe our elections. He further stated the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) will have observers in South Carolina during the November election.

### **Old Business**

Agency FY 2023-2024 budget request update was the first item under old business. Mr. Knapp advised the agency met with the Governor's office staff on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, and that the agency's budget request was well received.

The second item under old business was the statewide standardized procedures project update. Mr. Knapp stated the voter registration section is nearly completed, and once finalized will be shared with the Commission and then published to the counties.

The last item under old business was the election infrastructure security update. Mr. Knapp informed the Commission he attended a security briefing with the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, NSA, and CIA on threats to the November elections. He stated concerns were shared relating to international threats posed by Russia, China, and Iran via their use of social media to spread misinformation about the integrity of U.S. elections, as well as nationwide reports of election watchers and observers harassing poll workers.

### **Executive Session**

Chairman Wells asked for a motion to go into executive session to receive and discuss legal advice. Mr. Moseley made said motion, seconded by Ms. McCall. The motion passed unanimously.

Zigmantanis, et al v. McMaster, et al  
Osborne, et al v. S.C. State Election Commission, et al  
SC Safe Elections, et al v. SC State Election Commission, et al  
S.C. NAACP, et al v. Alexander, et al  
Curry v. S.C. State Election Commission  
Other items as needed

No votes were taken during executive session.

Upon returning to open session, Chairman Wells reminded the Commissioners the next SEC meeting would be November 16, 2022.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Pittelli