

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2023
10:00 a.m.

1122 Lady Street, 5th Floor
Columbia, SC 29201

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

Others Present: Howard Knapp, Executive Director; Sharese Johnson, Administrative Coordinator; Thomas Nicholson, General Counsel; one member of the public

COMMISSIONERS

JOHN WELLS
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

Chairman Wells called the meeting to order. Director 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 15, 2023 (SEC) meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. McCall, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

HOWARD M. KNAPP
Executive Director

The first item under new business was management and personnel updates. Paige Salonich has been promoted to Director of Training and County Support Services. John Michael Catalano has been promoted to Public Information Officer. This position is responsible for media interviews, responding to public records requests and leading many of the SEC public relations objectives. The SEC position, Director of Public Information and Outreach, has been posted and is now accepting applications.

1122 Lady Street
Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987
Columbia, SC 29250

803.734.9060
Fax: 803.734.9366
www.sevotes.gov

The second item of new business was the Physical Security Assessments of County Offices. Every other year the SEC partners with the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security to assess the physical security of county election offices. The SEC does not have any authority to mandate remediation of any findings. It is in hopes that these reports help assist the county offices with their budget requests to their county councils so they can get the funding needed to keep their offices and assets secure. The SEC has begun a tracking method that allows counties to compare past and current reports, as well as track improvements made as recommended in the reports.

Old Business

The first item under old business was the SEC audit of Berkley County Board of Voter Registration and Elections. The audit is nearing the end with a few findings. Once the audit is complete, Director Knapp will send it to the Commission first and then it will be sent to the requestor and Berkley County. The audit is predicted to be completed in late May.

The second item under old business was the U.S. Senate Rules Committee Testimony. Director Knapp gave testimony before the U.S. Senate Rules Committee and discussed many of SEC success as well as some of the challenges we faced. Such as, over half of all county election directors resigning and that the SEC has lost over 75% of its staff since January 2021.

The third item under old business was Legislative Update. The Crossover date has passed. The only election bill that appeared to make the crossover deadline is S.92- Senator Campsen's bill that extends the protest deadline if it falls on a legal holiday. It passed out of Senate and has been sent to the House. Director Knapp will have a final update next month once session concludes.

The fourth item under old business was the Agency Budget. The Senate Finance Committee passes their budget proposal, which gave the SEC its full budget request. The full Senate will debate the budget next, from the date of these approved minutes.

The last item under old business was the election infrastructure security update. Director Knapp stated the agency continues to work with its federal, state, and private security partners to protect South Carolina's election infrastructure.

Executive Session

Chairman Wells asked for a motion to go into executive session to receive and discuss legal advice. Ms. Day made 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 with no further business to discuss, Ms. McCall made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharese Johnson