

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 21, 2024  
10:00 a.m.**

1122 Lady Street, Suite 500  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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

Others Present: Howard Knapp, Executive Director; Shannan Woovis, Executive Assistant; Madelyn Chavis, Senior Paralegal; Thomas Lundeen, Program Manager; Thomas Nicholson, General Counsel; Paige Salonich, Training Director; Dana Aldighieri, Training Manager; Shareese Gilmore, Trainer; Christopher Shealy, Trainer; Jontue Surratt, Trainer; Eric Stamey, Trainer; Jenifer White, Training Coordinator

**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. 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 January 24, 2024 (SEC) meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Moseley to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. McCall. The motion passed by unanimous vote. A motion was made by Mr. Moseley to approve the minutes for the February 2, 2024, SBC meeting, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion passed by unanimous vote. A motion was made by Ms. McCall to approve the minutes for the February 8, 2024, SBC meeting, seconded by Mr. Edler. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**New Business**

Director Knapp gave an update on the early voting progress of the Republican Presidential Preference Primary (PPP). Early voting began on Monday, February 12, 2024, and will end Friday, February 23, 2024. As of Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 128,572 total votes had been cast. The top three counties include Horry (17,267), Greenville (14,533) and Charleston (11,977). Thus far, the highest daily total occurred on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, with 34,414 votes.

The 2024 SCARE Conference will be held in Myrtle Beach on March 5-9, 2024. The SEC has been asked to provide an update to county election officials in addition to facilitating six classes. There will be an excess of 400 attendees, representing all 46 counties.

Candidate filing begins on March 16, 2024, and will last until April 1, 2024. In preparation, internal staff and county employees are being trained.

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## **Old Business**

The Democratic Presidential Preference Primary concluded on February 2, 2024, with an estimate of 100,000 votes, or a 4% turnout rate. Compared to the GOP PPP, there is a higher turnout rate already.

The House Ways and Means Committee will be meeting this week to discuss agency budget requests for 2024-2025. There may be new provisos being added to the SEC budget related to schools and libraries, SEC authority over counties and vacated county director positions.

The third item under old business was a legislative update on elections bills being considered:

- H.3734, which originally required municipal election commissions to use a statewide voting system but now involves dissolving these municipal election commissions.
- 7-7-910, amending to allow the board, with approval of the delegations, to combine polling precincts.

The SEC 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. Mr. Edler made said motion, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion passed unanimously.

No votes were taken during executive session. Ms. McCall made a motion to exit executive session, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning to open session, Chairman Wells reminded the Commissioners the next SBC meeting would be on Thursday, February 29, at 3:00p.m. to certify the Republican PPP, and the next SEC meeting would be held on Wednesday, March 30, 2024, at 10:00a.m. With no further business to discuss, Ms. Day made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. McCall. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannan Woovis