

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2024, 2023
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; Mr. Scott Moseley

Others Present: Howard Knapp, Executive Director; Thomas Nicholson, General Counsel; Shannan Woovis, Executive Assistant; Madelyn Chavis, Senior Paralegal

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.

COMMISSIONERS

JOHN WELLS
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

Approval of Minutes

The first item of business was the approval of minutes for the February 21, 2024, State Election Commission (SEC) Meeting. A motion was made by Ms. McCall to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Ms. Day motioned to approve the minutes from the February 29, 2024, State Board of Canvassers (SBC) Meeting, followed by Ms. McCall. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

The 2024 Candidate Filing began on March 16, 2024, and will close on April 1, 2024, at 12:00 P.M. All 46 counties opened on Saturday, March 16, 2024, except Greenville County. As of March 19, 2024, 596 individuals have filed. Citizens can follow SCVotes.gov to track the status of filers.

The 2023 Statements of Economics Interests are due by March 31, 2024.

The State Election Commission will hold its first Primary Workshop for Counties on April 8, 2024, for Directors and staff at the county levels. On April 15, 2024, Board Members will attend the workshop in preparation for the June Primaries.

Old Business

The SCARE Conference was held in Myrtle Beach on March 2-5, 2024, attended by 28 staff. Five classes were offered and taught by the SEC.

The SEC presented the FY 24-25 Agency Budget Request to the Senate Finance Committee on March 14, 2024. Of the \$326,000 requested for retention and recruitment, SEC received all from the House. The SEC received \$8M in recurring funds, of the \$11.4M requested. Poll manager pay will be

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increased from \$75 to \$100, training will increase to \$75, from \$60, Board stipends increased from \$1000 to \$2500, and Board Commissioners increased to \$2250, from \$1500. There was an additional \$300,000 received for cyber security. Proviso 102.cdv was added to the SEC budget for the appointment of an interim county directory by the SEC Executive Director.

The SEC continues to work with it's federal, state and private security parnters to protect South Carolina's election infrastructure. In doing so, the agency has upgraded it's security ssystem and is meeting with state law enforcement to plan for responses to threats and harrassment of SEC staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Upon returning to open session, Chairman Wells asked for a motion to develop and adopt new policies related to staff use of agency-owned vehicles, travel expenses, and procurement practices for small purchases. A motion was made by Ms. McCall, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Wells reminded the Commissioners the next SBC meeting would be April 5, at 3:00p.m. and the next SEC meeting would be April 17, 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