

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

September 18, 2024

10:00 AM

1122 Lady Street, Suite 500
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Present: Hon. Dennis Shedd, Chairman; Ms. JoAnne Day (via phone); Mr. Clifford Edler (via phone); Ms. Linda McCall; Mr. Scott Moseley.

Others Present: Howard Knapp, Executive Director; Jenny Wooten McGill, Director of Government Affairs and Policy; Thomas Nicholson, General Counsel; Madelyn Chavis, Senior Paralegal; Elizabeth Harrell, Executive Assistant Paige Salonich, Director of Training and County Support Services; TJ Lundeen, Director of Public Information; Brian Leach, Voter Services.

Chairman Shedd called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Chairman Shedd asked Director Knapp if a quorum was present. Director Knapp affirmed it was with Commissioners Day and Edler in attendance via phone. Director Knapp advised all notices of the meeting had been posted as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

COMMISSIONERS

HON. DENNIS W. SHEDD
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

Approval of Minutes:

August 21, 2024, South Carolina Election Commission Meeting

Chairman Shedd introduced the minutes, noting a scrivener's error. No discussion on the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Moseley and the motion was seconded by Chairman Shedd. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Accountability Report

HOWARD M. KNAPP
Executive Director

Director Knapp explained that the accountability report spanned over July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, providing an overview of various goals and challenges taking place during that time. Director Knapp highlighted major achievements of the SEC including increases in election security, the creation of the training division and addition of training services, and the strengthening of the post-election hand-count audit program.

Discussion over the accountability report took place between the Commissioners and the Chairman.

Director Knapp specified this is to be taken as information and no action needs to be taken.

2025-2026 Agency Budget Request to General Assembly

Director Knapp explained the Agency Budget Request for the fiscal year FY 2025-2026. Director Knapp gave an explanation of the pricing behind 2026 June primaries statewide election based on prior primary election budgeting. Director Knapp went into detail about each item on the budget request, which focuses on meeting the future needs of both the State Election Commission and

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items county boards have requested. Discussion between Chairman Shedd and Director Knapp about how the budget presented compares to prior ones.

Voter List Maintenance Update – Letter to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Director Knapp explained SEC's letter to the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for guidance in submitting a list of new registrants for verification.

Director Knapp explained the next planned action is to contact the Attorney General's office.

Old Business:

Voting System Upgrade Update

Director Knapp gave a summary of the Voting System Upgrade Update, providing a brief timeline update. Director Knapp explained that the voting system upgrade is ahead of schedule. All counties will receive their new equipment by the first week of October, and that after this week only 8 counties will be left to receive equipment.

Discussion between Chairman Shedd, Director Knapp, and Jenny McGill, Director of Government Affairs. McGill spoke on county growth and how this affected the Voting System Upgrade Update. Director Knapp explained we have allocated all resources to run the election as smoothly as we can.

Voter Education/Outreach Update

Director Knapp explained the various Voter Education and Outreach events in place, highlighting the Darlington Raceway event and the upcoming State Fair day on October 12th. Director Knapp listed some of the upcoming high school and college outreach events such as the Disability Voting Coalition and USC's Spur the Vote event.

October meeting in Charleston

Director Knapp confirmed that the next Commission meeting will be in Charleston at the Citadel Alumni Association on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 11:00 a.m..

Election Infrastructure Security Update

Director Knapp explained that the SEC continues to work with our state and national law enforcement and security partners to ensure that elections are secure and accurate in South Carolina.

Chairman Shedd asked about our efforts and success compared to the other 49 states. Director Knapp explained we are the top 5% easily.

General discussion on public comment.

Chairman Shedd recognized Margie Shelps's attendance in the crowd. Chairman Shedd responded to the letter received from Mrs. Shelps. Chairman Shedd asked about the Aiken County Election Integrity Committee.

Chairman Shedd asked a series of questions to Director Knapp involving priorities and goals of the State Election Commission. Director Knapp stated the agency is focused on: 1) ensuring voters know how to register to vote, how to vote, and what the SEC is doing to ensure as smooth an election day as possible; 2) ensure county officials are trained and have the resources needed to train their poll managers; and 3) ensure election results are reported in an accurate and efficient manner.

Chairman Shedd listed 3 things he would like to see of the SEC:

Upkeep publicizing what the SEC is doing to maintain trust and open communication with the public. Chairman Shedd listed the board's diligence on the ES&S deal.

Prioritizing efficiency and ease of voting on Election Day.

Efficient and correct timely tallying of votes on Election night. Director Knapp went into detail on how election results are tabulated and publicized on Election Day.

Discussion between Chairman Shedd, Director Knapp, and Commissioner McCall about early voting. Commissioner Edler asked questions regarding the voting system upgrade's new equipment. Chairman Shedd and Director Knapp discussed prior election incidents with absentee ballots and early voting.

Commissioner Day gave a positive comment about publicity in the SEC with emphasis on smaller elections. Director Knapp said that the agency was focused on the General Election in November, but was also already thinking about 2025, including Municipal Election Day in November 2025. Chairman Shedd gave comment on the good system of elections in the history of South Carolina.

On the motion of Commissioner McCall, seconded by Commissioner Edler, the Commission voted to go into executive session to receive legal updates and advice at 10:57 a.m.. Chairman Shedd recused himself for the discussion of *Public Interest Legal Foundation v. Howard M. Knapp*. Commissioner Day recused herself for the discussion of *League of Women Voters v. Alexander, et al.* On motion of Chairman Shedd, seconded by Commissioner McCall, the Commission voted unanimously to leave executive session. Chairman Shedd noted no votes were taken in executive session.

Director Knapp confirmed that the next Commission meeting will be in Charleston at the Citadel Alumni Association on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 11:00 a.m..

Chairman Shedd adjourned the meeting.