

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
AGENDA**

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

10:00 AM

1122 Lady Street, Suite 500
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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

Others Present: Howard Knapp, Executive Director; Paige Salonich, Deputy
Directory; Thomas Nicholson, General Counsel; Jenny Wooten
McGill, Chief of Staff; TJ Lundeen, Director of Public Information
and Outreach; LaToria Williams, Director of Administration and
Finance

Chairman Shedd confirmed with Director Knapp that there was a quorum present and 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

HON. DENNIS W. SHEDD
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

Approval of Minutes:

October 17, 2024, State Election Commission Meeting
November 14, 2024, State Board of Canvassers Meeting
November 15, 2024, State Board of Canvassers Meeting
November 18, 2024, State Election Commission Meeting
December 2, 2024, State Board of Canvassers Meeting
January 24, 2025, State Board of Canvassers Meeting

Director Knapp introduced the past Commission and Board of Canvassers meeting minutes that have yet to be approved because past meetings were via teleconference. On motion of Chariman Shedd, seconded by Commissioner Moseley, the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

HOWARD M. KNAPP
Executive Director

New Business:

2025 State Election Commission Meeting Schedule & State Board of Canvassers Meeting Schedule

1122 Lady Street
Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987
Columbia, SC 29250

803.734.9060
Fax: 803.734.9366
www.scvotes.gov

Under FOIA all bodies have to propose the meeting dates. Director Knapp explained the 3rd Wednesday of every month and that all meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be held at 1122 Lady St., Suite 500, Columbia, SC, 29201. Notices are subject to change up until 24 hours prior to meeting. Meetings of the State Board of Canvassers are ad hoc typically Fridays involving races that the Board of Canvassers will have to certify.

Commissioner McCall motioned to adopt the approve and adopt the schedules as they were defined, seconded by Chairman Shedd. The motion passed unanimously.

2025 Election Calendar

Director Knapp informed the Commission of the 2025 Election Calendar, with no vote needed on this item.

Legislative Updates

scVOTES.gov

To be eligible to register, you must be:
A U.S. Citizen | S.C. Resident | 18 years or older

Director Knapp gave a brief overview of the election-related bills filed in the General Assembly and their status. Of note, he listed the status of S.36 (Polling Locations), S. 37 (Municipal Elections), S. 38 (Special Elections), H. 3459 (Voter Registration), and H. 3556 (Political Parties and Primaries) as of February 18, 2025.

Commissioner Moseley asked questions about S. 36.

Chairman Shedd inquired if there were any bills involving campaigning outside of polling places, to which the Chief of Staff, Jenny Wooten, explained the details behind bill H. 3319 (Electioneering).

No further discussion.

2024 Agency Annual Report

Director Knapp gave an overview of the Agency's Annual Report and informed the Commission it is also posted on the website.

2024 State Library Notable Documents Award

Director Knapp informed the Commission that the State Election Commission won the 2024 State Library Notable Documents Award for the revamping of the Poll Manager Handbook that was created by Paige Salonich, Deputy Executive Director.

Commissioner Moseley asked if the handbook was online, which Director Knapp confirmed it was.

2025 Agency Staff Compensation Increase

Chairman Shedd recognized Director Knapp to discuss the recent agency-wide staff pay increases. Director Knapp explained how all staff received pay increases based on tenure with the agency, and how those increases were the fulfillment of the agency's number one budget request priority, which was funded by the General Assembly for the current fiscal year. Chairman Shedd asked questions relating to legislative cost of living increases, performance increases, and staff versus agency head compensation. Director Knapp discussed how the legislative cost of living increases are at the will of the General Assembly and are not guaranteed in any year, that performance increases (if given) are based on the agency's employee performance management system annual reviews conducted each spring, and that agency heads do not receive legislative cost of living increases nor any bonuses. Director Knapp reiterated that the purpose of the increases recently implemented were to raise the pay of all positions to retain the current staff and better recruit prospective employees to come work at the agency.

Commissioners Mosely and Day noted how the staff increase request was different from the request to increase poll manager pay, and asked questions about where raising poll manager pay stood. Director Knapp said that while the General Assembly did fund the agency's recruitment and retention pay increase, it did not fund the agency's request to increase poll manager pay. Director Knapp explained that poll managers are employed and paid by their county board of voter registration and election, and when the agency "requests an increase in poll manager pay," the agency is actually asking the General Assembly to increase the reimbursement rate by which the agency reimburses counties for poll manager pay, and that county governments are free to pay their poll managers whatever they wish. Director Knapp said the agency had asked for an increase in poll manager pay again in its current budget

request and would report the decision of the General Assembly to the Commission once the budget was finalized.

Old Business:

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.

Executive session to receive legal updates and advice:

Public Interest Legal Foundation v. Howard M. Knapp

League of Women Voters v. Alexander, et al

Trudy Grant, et al v. Howard Knapp, et al

Booker v. McMaster, et al.

Curry v. SC State Election Commission

Any other matters, as needed, pursuant to S.C. Code of Laws §30-4-70

On motion of Commissioner Day, seconded by Commissioner McCall, the Commission entered executive session.

Chairman Shedd recused himself from executive session during the discussion of *Public Interest Legal Foundation v. Howard M. Knapp*. Commissioner Day recused herself from executive session during the discussion of *League of Women Voters v. Alexander, et al.*

Chairman Shedd adjourned the meeting.