

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, July 30, 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 (via teleconference); Mr. Scott Moseley

Others Present: Howard Knapp, Executive Director; Paige Salonich, Deputy
Director; Thomas Nicholson, General Counsel; Jenny Wooten, Chief
of Staff; TJ Lundeen, Director of Public Information and Outreach;
Courtney Phillips, Director of Audit

Approval of Minutes:

June 18, 2025, State Election Commission Meeting

Director Knapp introduced the past Commission meeting minutes to be approved. On motion of Commissioner Edler, seconded by Commissioner Day, the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS

HON. DENNIS W. SHEDD
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

New Business:

Clarendon County Audit

Courtney Phillips, Director of Audit, gave an overview of the Clarendon County audit that was requested by Representative Fawn Pedalino, with an expected completion in September. Knapp and Phillips discussed the protocol on accepting audit requests. Director Knapp informed Commissioner Moseley and Chairman Shedd that audits are shared with the legislator who requested it, the county legislative delegation, the Commission, and the County Voter Registration and Elections Board, with our final report posted on the website.

HOWARD M. KNAPP
Executive Director

Outreach Update

TJ Lundeen, Director of Public Information and Outreach, gave an overview of outreach events. Allen University reached out and we did outreach to them last year. Lundeen informed Commissioner Day that counties help with registration for outreach. Lundeen informed the Commission that the estimated total for the proposals was \$136,000, with Clemson University and the University of South Carolina being most beneficial. The goal of outreach this year is to increase voter turnout in local elections. The Commission agreed that while Clemson and USC are beneficial, smaller schools should be included in our outreach events. Director Knapp assured the Commission that staff should have a proposal ready for the next SEC meeting.

Lundeen explained the yearly contracts for the Darlington Raceway and the State Fair were underway and these events had a track record of success.

SAVE Update

Director Knapp gave an overview of staff submitting a second formal request in early 2025 to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), where shortly after this request was made, the federal government announced new enhancements to the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program. The SEC is currently working with USCIS to compare South Carolina's voter registration list against federal immigration records using the SAVE system.

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

Requests For Proposal

Director Knapp informed the Commission that the agency will be publishing three requests for proposals:

- The Election Night Reporting (ENR) website.
- Our scVotes.gov website.
- Paige Salonich, Deputy Executive Director, explained the need to combine the currently separate Training Management System and Learning Management System for ease of use and for reporting data.

Budget Request/Accountability Report

Director Knapp explained the Annual Accountability Report, including how it will require the signature of the Chairman, be posted on the website, and the nature of how it reports items. Director Knapp and Chairman Shedd discussed the amount of manpower that goes into preparing the Accountability Report and how it is required by the state. Director Knapp discussed how this is different from the agency's annual report. Chairman Shedd questioned the usefulness and volume of the report and suggested requesting the General Assembly exempt the SEC from submitting the report, since it publishes its own annual report.

Regarding the Budget Request, SEC staff is currently drafting the agency's FY 2026–2027 annual budget request. Director Knapp explained that the number one priority will be securing funding for the full repayment of the loan for election equipment purchased by the Commission in 2024.

Old Business:

Confirmation Card Update

Director Knapp gave the below listed totals:

- Confirmation Cards Sent: 191,009
- Number Confirmed (Returned by Voter): 25,741
- The remainder (165,268) were made inactive.

Regional Meetings

Jenny Wooten, Chief of Staff, shared the possibility of our October 15 State Election Commission meeting taking place at The Citadel in Charleston. Chairman Shedd requested more venue options and stated we should publicize regional meetings to our social media pages once their dates are finalized to increase public awareness.

Election Infrastructure Security Update

The SEC continues to work with our state and national law enforcement and intelligence partners to ensure that elections are secure and accurate in South Carolina. Discussion included training staff on phishing emails and potential risks.

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

Executive session to receive legal updates and advice:

Curry v. SC State Election Commission

Personnel Review

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

The Commissioners exited executive session.

Chairman Shedd addressed the other commissioners and stated that the question before the Commission is the personnel matter that we have discussed which is what, if any adjustment, should be recommended to the Agency Head Salary Commission regarding Director Knapp's salary. Chairman Shedd asked if there is a motion.

Commissioner Day motioned to recommend a \$25,000 increase to Director Knapp's salary, seconded by Commissioner Edler. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned.