

## 2026 MEMORANDUM 2

To: County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections  
From: State Election Commission  
Date: February 9, 2026  
Subject: Statewide Primaries and Runoffs: Early Voting Centers

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County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections (BVREs) must establish early voting centers by March 10 with approval from the Executive Director of the State Election Commission (SEC) for Statewide Primaries, and any changes require SEC approval (§ 7-13-25(G)(3)).

S.C. Code Ann. § 7-13-25 does not authorize an automatic reduction in the number of early voting centers for runoff elections compared to primary elections. Accordingly, BVREs should not reduce the number of early voting centers solely because an election is a runoff.

The early voting statute requires that the BVREs must distribute the locations throughout the county to maximize accessibility for all voters in the county to the greatest extent possible. (§ 7-13-25(G)(1)). This will be true for all elections as well as runoffs. Title 7 requires that runoff elections follow the same rules as for primaries. (§ 7-13-50).

- **If an emergency situation arises requiring a change to the number of early voting centers for a runoff election, the county board must notify the SEC Executive Director as soon as reasonably possible and obtain SEC approval before implementing any changes or reductions to the early voting centers.**

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