

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

1122 Lady Street, Suite 500  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Present: Judge Dennis Shedd, Chairman; Ms. JoAnne Day; Mr. Scott Moseley

Others Present: Jenny Wooten, Interim Director; Thomas Nicholson, General Counsel; Elizabeth Harrell, Executive Assistant; TJ Lundeen, Director of Public Information; Finance; Brian Leach, Chief Information Officer; Sara Parrish, External Counsel

Chairman Shedd called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and stated a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes:

November 19, 2025, State Election Commission Meeting  
November 21, 2025, State Board of Canvassers Meeting  
December 2, 2025, State Election Commission Meeting  
December 30, 2025, State Board of Canvassers Meeting  
January 9, 2026, State Board of Canvassers Meeting

**COMMISSIONERS**

HON. DENNIS W. SHEDD  
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

SCOTT MOSELEY

Chairman Shedd introduced the first item of business as approval of the above-listed minutes. Upon motion by Chairman Shedd and second by Commissioner Day, the minutes were approved en masse by unanimous voice vote.

New Business:

Jenny Wooten  
Interim Director

**Legislative Update**

Interim Director Wooten provided an update on current legislative activity. She reported that staff had been working with legislative subcommittees and bill drafters to provide guidance and technical information as requested.

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Topics discussed included closed primaries, voter registration party affiliation, and proof-of-citizenship requirements.

P.O. Box 5987  
Columbia, SC 29250

Chairman Shedd clarified that while the agency provides information and technical assistance to the General Assembly, it does not take positions on proposed legislation. Interim Director Wooten confirmed that the Commission's role is to provide information and expertise when requested.

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**Annual Voter List Maintenance Report**

Interim Director Wooten discussed the annual voter list maintenance report, which is required by statute following legislation enacted after the 2022 election cycle. The report provides the General Assembly with an update regarding voter registration changes and list maintenance activity.

Chairman Shedd inquired as to the Commission's confidence in the accuracy of the voter registration list. Interim Director Wooten stated that the list is as accurate as possible under current processes and that the agency is very confident in its maintenance procedures.

### **Update on Executive Director Senate Confirmation**

Chairman Shedd requested an update regarding the Senate confirmation process for Executive Director Wooten.

Interim Director Wooten reported that her confirmation packet has been submitted to the Senate. The Senate will review the materials, submit any follow-up questions as necessary, and schedule a confirmation hearing at a future date.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Election Infrastructure Security Update**

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.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Chairman Shedd and seconded by Commissioner Moseley, the Commission entered executive session by unanimous voice vote.

#### **Executive Session to receive legal updates and advice:**

Clarendon County draft report

2024 ES&S equipment purchase

DNC Letter of December 1, 2025

Update regarding Department of Justice request for voter data

*Crook v. S.C. Election Commission*

*Public Interest Legal Foundation, Inc. v. Jenny Wooten*

*NAACP v. Alan Wilson, et al*

*Reel v. S.C. Election Commission*

*Salonich v. S.C. Election Commission*

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

#### **Update regarding Department of Justice Request for Voter Data**

Discussion resumed in open session regarding the Department of Justice's request for voter data.

It was noted that staff has been working directly with the Department of Justice regarding a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Commission has not taken action on any proposed agreement. It was stated that the information requested by DOJ is less than the information South Carolina shares with other states under existing agreements and does not require driver's license information. Negotiations remain ongoing.

Chairman Shedd stated that once finalized, any agreement would be presented publicly.

#### **Remarks, Public Comment, Press Questions**

Chairman Shedd made remarks reflecting on the selection of Executive Director Wooten, noting that the Commission considered several highly qualified candidates and unanimously selected her. He commended her leadership, particularly during the ES&S Master Lease matter and other administrative challenges.

Commissioner Day thanked Chairman Shedd for his leadership during a difficult period for the agency and expressed appreciation for his willingness to guide the Commission through complex issues following the general election.

Executive Director Wooten thanked Chairman Shedd for establishing a standard of integrity and accountability and stated that his leadership provided stability during a time of unexpected challenges.

A member of the press asked Chairman Shedd, in light of recent events and his impending departure from the Commission, how important ongoing transparency would be for the agency moving forward.

Chairman Shedd responded that transparency is essential in government and that matters concerning elections are important to the people of South Carolina. He stated that the public deserves access to accurate information and encouraged continued engagement with the press. He noted that he believes periodic public briefings are appropriate and emphasized that transparency is a responsibility shared by both government and the media. He further stated that whistleblowers and members of the press played a role in bringing certain issues to light.

Additional members of the press also asked about the United States Department of Justice request for voter data and correspondence about this request from political parties. Chairman Shedd declined to comment on such communications, and reiterated that staff continues to negotiate the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Justice and that any finalized agreement would be presented publicly.

Questions were also raised regarding an investigation by the Office of the Inspector General related to election equipment procurement. It was stated that the Commission has not received a final report and is not aware of a timeline for its completion.

Chairman Shedd also responded to questions regarding his decision to retire, stating that he had originally anticipated serving a shorter term but remained in his role due to emerging administrative and operational issues. He noted his long tenure in public service and stated that he believes the agency is operating more effectively at this time.

Lee Dixon, Berkeley County Chair, addressed the Commission and thanked Chairman Shedd for the stability he brought to the agency. Chairman Shedd expressed appreciation for the work performed by county election officials statewide.

With no further discussion, meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.