

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

10:00 AM

1122 Lady Street, Suite 500
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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

Others Present: Jenny Wooten, Interim Director; Thomas Nicholson, General Counsel; Elizabeth Harrell, Executive Assistant; TJ Lundein, Director of Public Information; LaToria Williams, Director of Admin and Finance; Brian Leach, Chief Information Officer

Members of the public present: Lucy Valeski, the State Newspaper; Conway Belangia, Director of the Greenville County Board of Voter Registration and Elections office; Fred Williams, Bettis Law Group

COMMISSIONERS

HON. DENNIS W. SHEDD
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

SCOTT MOSELEY

Jenny Wooten
Interim Director

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Interim Director Wooten confirmed a quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

October 15, 2025, State Election Commission Meeting

October 20, 2025, State Election Commission Meeting

October 24, 2025, State Board of Canvassers Meeting

November 7, 2025, State Board of Canvassers Meeting

Interim Director Wooten called the meeting to order and presented the first order of business, approval of the meeting minutes. The floor was opened for questions. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved en masse upon motion by Chairman Shedd, second by Commissioner Edler. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Shedd commended staff on the increased detail and transparency reflected in the minutes.

New Business:

Campaign material and other electioneering policy discussion

Chairman Shedd introduced discussion regarding enforcement and interpretation of the 500-foot campaign-free zone. Interim Director Wooten reported that staff reviewed applicable law, training materials, and the poll manager handbook and invited county-level feedback. Greenville County Director Conway Belangia was recognized.

Counsel Nicholson summarized the statute, noting ambiguity regarding where the 500-foot measurement begins. Interim Director Wooten cited statutory language referencing entrances

used during polling hours. Counsel Nicholson advised that while the Commission may adopt clarifying policy, such action could be subject to legal challenge and suggested seeking legislative clarification. Interim Director Wooten noted that certain terms in Commission policy, including “candidate representative,” are not expressly included in statute.

Mr. Belangia stated that the 2022 expansion of the campaign-free zone from 200 to 500 feet has not resolved voter concerns. He reported continued complaints regarding voter influence near polling place entrances and emphasized that enforcement is complicated by private property limitations. He recommended statutory clarification, broader interpretation of campaign material, and consistent guidance in the poll worker handbook. He noted this is one of the most frequent issues faced by county election offices.

Commissioners discussed candidate and representative access to polling places, enforcement limitations, and the importance of minimizing voter influence while preserving transparency. The Commission agreed that the issue warrants further policy review and potential legislative engagement.

Employee Bonuses

Interim Director Wooten reported that the agency has historically issued employee bonuses twice annually and has authority to do so. The proposed bonuses would total \$1,500 per eligible employee, consistent with prior practice. Ms. LaToria Williams confirmed that bonus practices vary across agencies and depend on available budget resources.

Commissioners discussed the relationship between bonuses, cost-of-living adjustments, and prior recruitment and retention funding. Chairman Shedd expressed support for the proposed bonuses, citing staff performance and challenges faced during the year. Commissioners expressed appreciation for improved communication and regular updates from agency leadership.

State Board of Canvassers meeting schedule

The Commission discussed scheduling to allow county staff and canvassers to conclude duties earlier in the day. Interim Director Wooten explained that earlier meeting times allow staff sufficient preparation time.

The following meetings were noted:

- November 21, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. – State Board of Canvassers
State House District 98 Special Republican Primary Runoff
- December 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. – State Election Commission
- December 26, 2025 (Election held December 23) –
State Senate District 12; State House Districts 21 and 88 Special Elections
- January 9, 2026 (Election held January 6) –
State House District 98 Special Election

It was noted that statutory timelines require expedited certification.

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.

Municipal Election Day and runoffs

Interim Director Wooten reported that recent municipal runoffs across multiple counties were conducted without significant issues. Enhanced communication protocols, including a centralized response team and direct contact lines, were utilized. Chairman Shedd noted no observed negative impact on election outcomes.

Counsel Nicholson reported that federal budget issues affecting Department of Justice coordination had been resolved. Chairman Shedd suggested providing a public progress update to the court prior to final action.

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

Executive session to receive legal updates and advice:

Process to fill Executive Director vacancy and initial candidate discussion

Crook v. S.C. Election Commission

Salonich v. S.C. Election Commission

The Commissioners exited executive session and noted no votes were taken. The meeting adjourned.