

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

10:00 AM

1122 Lady Street, Suite 500
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Present: Robert Bolchoz, Chairman; Ms. JoAnne Day; Mr. Scott Moseley; Ms. Angela Stringer

Others Present: Jenny Wooten, Interim Director; Thomas Nicholson, General Counsel; Elizabeth Harrell, Executive Assistant; TJ Lundeen, Director of Public Information

Chairman Bolchoz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and advised all notices of the meeting had been posted as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Approval of Minutes:

January 21, 2026, State Election Commission Meeting

Chairman Bolchoz introduced the first item of business as approval of the January 21, 2026 meeting minutes. Upon motion by Commissioner Moseley and seconded by Commissioner Day, the minutes were approved unanimously.

New member introductions

Chairman Bolchoz welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Angela Stringer to the Commission. Commissioner Stringer introduced herself and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

2026 election calendar

Interim Director Wooten provided an overview of the 2026 election calendar, noting that the calendar has been published on the agency's website and provided to Commissioners.

She reported that candidate filing will open at noon on March 16 and close at noon on March 30. Statewide primaries will be held June 9, with runoff elections scheduled for June 23. The general election will be held November 3, 2026.

Wooten also noted that the State Election Commission serves as the State Board of Canvassers and will notify members when meetings are required to certify election results.

Legislative update

Wooten reported that staff continues to work with members of the General Assembly regarding pending election legislation.

Discussion included Senate Bill S.922, addressing matters such as closed primaries, citizenship verification, and candidate filing provisions scheduled to take effect in the following year.

Chairman Bolchoz inquired whether provisions of the bill, if enacted, would apply to current Commission members. General Counsel Nicholson stated that staff would review the legislation and provide additional guidance.

COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT BOLCHOZ
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

SCOTT MOSELEY

ANGELA STRINGER

Jenny Wooten
Interim Director

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FY 2026-2027 Agency Budget Hearings

Wooten reported that the agency has presented its budget request to the Governor's Office and the House Ways and Means Subcommittee and will present to the Senate budget subcommittee the following week.

She noted that a significant portion of the request relates to election equipment. The Senate hearing is scheduled for February 24 and will be livestreamed.

2026 candidate filing

Wooten provided an update on preparations for the upcoming candidate filing period.

Candidate filing will open at noon on March 16 and close at noon on March 30. Offices appearing on the ballot this year include constitutional offices and seats for the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives.

Staff have been conducting training sessions for county election officials and preparing informational packets for candidates. Additional training has been offered to counties as needed due to turnover among county staff.

Chairman Bolchoz asked whether statewide candidates are required to file with the State Election Commission. Interim Director Wooten explained that constitutional officers file with the Commission, while candidates for other offices may file either with the Commission or at the county level depending on the office sought.

State Ethics Commission Statement of Economic Interest filings

Wooten reminded Commissioners that Statements of Economic Interest must be filed electronically with the State Ethics Commission by the March 30 deadline. Executive Assistant Elizabeth Harrell assists agency staff with the filing process as needed.

Legislative Audit Council procurement actions

Interim Director Wooten provided an update regarding the Legislative Audit Council's 2024 audit of the agency.

She reported that the audit contained approximately 71 recommendations. Staff are currently reviewing the recommendations and preparing responses for submission to the Legislative Audit Council by March 6. Many of the agency's responses and corrective actions relate to procurement procedures.

South Carolina Homeland Security Advisory Council

Wooten reported that she was invited by SLED Chief Mark Keel to serve on the South Carolina Homeland Security Advisory Council as a representative for election security.

She stated that the council works in coordination with SLED and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to assess and strengthen critical infrastructure, including election systems. The group recently met to discuss physical security assessments and information-sharing efforts with counties.

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 Commissioner Moseley and seconded by Commissioner Stringer, the Commission entered executive session unanimously.

Chairman Bolchoz opened the floor for any additional discussion.

With no further business before the Commission, upon motion by Commissioner Day and seconded by Commissioner Stringer, the meeting adjourned.