

2026 MEMORANDUM 4

To: County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections
From: State Election Commission
Date: **March 13, 2026**
Subject: Public Notice of Candidate Filing

Primary Public Notice Requirements

State law requires each county board of voter registration and elections to publish public notices of primaries in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. A notice template is attached.

Publication Deadlines

- **First Notice:** Must be published no later than April 10.
- **Second Notice:** Must be published two weeks after the first notice.

You may:

- Run both notices in the same newspaper
- Run each notice in two different qualifying newspapers.

COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT BOLCHOZ
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

SCOTT MOSELEY

ANGELA STRINGER

Before Submitting to the Newspaper

- Replace all highlighted italic text with county-specific information.
- Remove all highlights and italics before printing or submitting.
- Counties may begin the process of examining absentee ballot return envelopes no earlier than 7:00 am on the second day preceding the election (Sunday, June 7)
Counties should specify the time, day, and date this will occur in the notice.

Beginning no earlier than 7:00 am on election day, counties may begin the process of opening “ballot herein” envelopes.

Once finalized, submit the notice to the newspaper in time to meet the required publication deadlines.

Jenny Wooten
Interim Director

Reimbursement Information

The SEC will reimburse your county for the cost of both notices.

1122 Lady Street
Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987
Columbia, SC 29250

803.734.9060
Fax: 803.734.9366
www.scvotes.gov

Formatting Requirements

- If the newspaper supports solid six-point type, the notice must run in six-point type. Reimbursement will be at the six-point rate only.
- If six-point type is not supported, use the next largest available size. Reimbursement will be at that rate.

How to Receive Reimbursement

To ensure reimbursement:

1. Enter the expense in VREMS using Election #22598
2. Send the following to the SEC:
 - Invoice
 - Tear sheets or affidavits of publication

