

2026 MEMORANDUM 3

To: County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections
 From: State Election Commission
 Date: March 4, 2026
 Subject: Clarification Holiday Closures during Early Voting

In 2024, the question was posed as to whether early voting should be conducted on Wednesday, June 19th in counties closed for the Juneteenth holiday. The State Election Commission (SEC) provided guidance to counties stating County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections (BVRE’s) must be open for the purpose of Early Voting on Juneteenth as it was not a holiday recognized by the State.

After reviewing this issue, the SEC now withdraws the prior guidance and provides the following in its place:

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S.C. Code § 7-13-25(F)(4) states “[t]he county board of voter registration and elections shall provide the hours of operation for the early voting center or centers in accordance with the following (4) for any election, the early voting centers must not be open on Sundays or on legal holidays.”

S.C. Code § 7-1-20(13) defines “legal holiday” as “a holiday recognized by state or federal law”.

Based on the above language, counties must not be open for early voting on Juneteenth, nor any other state or federally recognized holiday irrespective of the County’s recognized holidays. With this said, the county BVRE may be open to conduct other business on a federal holiday but may not be open for early voting. The following state and federal holidays apply.

| Holiday | 2026 | Federal | State |
|--|-------------|---------|-------|
| New Year's Day | January 1 | x | x |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | January 19 | x | x |
| Washington's Birthday / Presidents Day | February 16 | x | x |
| Confederate Memorial Day | May 11 | | x |
| National Memorial Day | May 25 | x | x |
| Juneteenth National Independence Day | June 19 | x | |
| Independence Day | July 3 | x | x |
| Labor Day | September 7 | x | x |
| Columbus Day | October 12 | x | |
| Veterans Day | November 11 | x | x |
| Thanksgiving Day | November 26 | x | x |
| Day after Thanksgiving Day | November 27 | | x |
| Christmas Eve | December 24 | | x |
| Christmas Day | December 25 | x | x |
| Day after Christmas | December 28 | | x |

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