

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

10:00 AM

1122 Lady Street, Suite 500
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

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

Others Present: Conway Belangia, Executive Director; Jenny Wooten, Chief of Staff; Thomas Nicholson, General Counsel; Elizabeth Harrell, Executive Assistant; Courtney Phillips, Director of Audit

Call to Order

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

Adoption of Proposed Agenda

The Chairman asked if there were any additions to the proposed agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was approved.

COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT BOLCHOZ
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

SCOTT MOSELEY

ANGELA STRINGER

Approval of Minutes:

March 18, 2026, State Election Commission Regular Meeting

March 25, 2026, State Election Commission Special Meeting

Chairman Bolchoz introduced the first item of business as approval of the March 18, 2026, and March 25, 2026, meeting minutes. Chief of Staff, Jenny Wooten, noted a scrivener's error in the March 18, 2026, minutes. Upon motion by Commissioner Edler and seconded by Commissioner Day, the minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Election infrastructure security update

Conway Belangia
Executive Director

Executive Director Conway Belangia advised that the agency is reviewing a current security contract that duplicates services already being provided by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). He noted the contract is not expected to be renewed, resulting in anticipated cost savings to the agency.

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2026 ballot proofing update

Belangia provided an update on ballot proofing and election preparation activities for the June 2026 elections. He advised that staff are working with counties to meet UOCAVA absentee ballot deadlines and finalize ballot databases. At the time of the meeting, 36 counties had been approved, with 10 counties still pending review.

Agency vehicle fleet and fuel card update & agency procurement card update

Belangia spoke regarding the agency vehicle fleet, fuel cards, and procurement cards. They advised that the agency is reviewing policies and usage procedures, including stricter approval and usage requirements implemented in October 2025, with additional policy updates anticipated following the June primaries.

2026 Primary Training Workshops for county election directors and board members

Executive Director Belangia discussed the upcoming 2026 Primary Training Workshops for county election directors, staff, and board members and noted county participation levels. Chairman Bolchoz asked whether a virtual option was available, and Belangia advised that attendance is required in person. Commissioner Moseley asked whether counties conduct local training, and Belangia advised that counties utilize SEC training materials and procedures.

2024 Legislative Audit Council follow up response

Executive Director Belangia advised that staff are preparing the agency's follow-up response to the 2024 Legislative Audit Council review, including implemented corrective actions and policy changes.

Audit division update

Courtney Phillips, Director of Audit, provided an overview of the Audit Division and its responsibilities related to post-election and county compliance audits. Ms. Phillips discussed the procurement process for the agency's results verification audit contract and advised that the audit independently verifies ballot tabulation accuracy through ballot image review. She further noted that the proposed contract is anticipated to provide cost savings over the current agreement.

Chairman Bolchoz asked whether such audits are required by law, and Ms. Phillips confirmed that state law requires multiple forms of audits. Executive Director Belangia noted that the audit process is open to public observation. Ms. Phillips also discussed county compliance audits and their role in reviewing county election procedures for compliance with state law.

Chairman Bolchoz opened the floor for further discussion.

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

Executive Session:

Discussion of negotiations incident to agency contracts and proposed contractual arrangements, receipt of legal advice regarding intergovernmental data requests, receipt of legal advice regarding procurement-related matters, receipt of legal advice regarding investigations and investigative proceedings pertaining to allegations of criminal misconduct and receipt of legal advice regarding pending or anticipated litigation, including Public Interest Legal Foundation, Inc. v. Belangia, NAACP v. Alan Wilson et al., and Reel v. S.C. Election Commission, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-70(a)(1), (2) and S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-70(a)(4).

Upon coming out of executive session, the Chairman noted that no action was taken.

Chairman Bolchoz opened the floor for any additional discussion.

With no further discussion before the Commission, upon motion by Chairman Bolchoz, seconded by Commissioner Day, the meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote.