

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

1122 Lady Street, 5th Floor
Columbia, SC 29201

Present: Mr. John Wells, Chairman; Ms. JoAnne Day, Mr. Scott Moseley, Ms. Linda McCall, and Mr. Cliff Edler (via teleconference)

Others Present: Howard Knapp, Interim Executive Director; Barbara Pittelli, Administrative Coordinator

Chairman Wells called the meeting to order. Mr. Knapp advised all notices of the meeting had been posted as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

COMMISSIONERS

JOHN WELLS
Chairperson

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

Approval of Minutes

The first item of business was the approval of minutes for the meeting of October 20, 2021 (SEC). A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. McCall, seconded by Ms. Day. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

The S.C. Attorney General opinion regarding special precinct/polling assignments was the first item under new business. Mr. Knapp informed the Commission the Attorney General's opinion states that, short of emergency provisions provided for in the code, no county office may establish special precincts for certain elections.

The next item under new business was the 2021 municipal election day review. Mr. Knapp advised that, although it is up to municipalities when they want to hold their elections, the SEC has been encouraging them to move their elections to municipal election day. He further advised that, currently, sixty percent of municipal elections are held on that day. Mr. Knapp informed the Commission that the agency played a larger role in municipal election day this year by having agency representatives in the county offices to support the staff, and for the first time, the agency offered election night reporting to all municipalities.

Agency preparations for 2022 was the last item under new business. Mr. Knapp stated the agency is preparing for a special election for Senate District 31 due to the passing of Hugh K Leatherman Sr. Mr. Knapp advised that he was informed the General Assembly may not be returning until after Christmas, so the agency and the counties have yet to begin the redistricting process. He further advised the delay could affect candidate filing and the statewide primary, which, after review of the 2022 election calendar, can only be moved back one month, respectively.

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Interim Executive Director

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Old Business

The legal update of *S.C. NAACP, et al v. Governor Henry McMaster, et al* was the first item under old business. Mr. Knapp advised the Commission received proper service and that Judge Childs has stayed the case until January 18, 2022.

Reapportionment was the next item under old business. Mr. Knapp stated there is no update, as he was informed the General Assembly may not return until after Christmas.

The House and Senate Legislative Oversight Committee(s) (HLOC) and (SLOC) reviews were the next item under old business. Mr. Knapp stated the agency submitted answers to the HLOC's latest letter and met with the committee staff to draft various charts. He further stated that the agency continues to answer any additional questions from the SLOC.

Mr. Knapp advised there was no new update on the FY2022/23 budget request, but that budget request to the House of Representatives would be due within the next two months.

The next item was the update on agency goals for 2021. Mr. Knapp said the agency had accomplished almost all goals and that the agency was meeting with consultants to develop standardized statewide election procedures. Mr. Knapp further stated he would be soliciting input from counties and that, based on documented best practices received, he would be inviting counties to join county advisory groups for the project. The first segment of the project would focus on Voter Registration procedures.

The election infrastructure security update was the next item of old business. Mr. Knapp advised that Department of Homeland Security physical security assessment letters, which included the SEC's remediation recommendations, were sent to all the county offices.

The last item of old business was the executive director vacancy. Chairman Wells asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Ms. McCall made said motion, seconded by Mr. Moseley. The motion passed by unanimous vote and the board went into executive session. No votes were taken during executive session.

Upon returning to open session, Chairman Wells reminded the Commission members the next meeting will be held on December 15, 2021.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Day made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Moseley. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Pittelli