



BERKELEY COUNTY
Voter Registration and
Elections

Board Meeting

Board of Voter Registration and Elections Meeting Minutes from Thursday, February 29, 2024. The next meeting of Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Berkeley County will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2024, in the Berkeley County Assembly Room at 6:00PM.

Berkeley County Board of Voter Registration Elections was established in accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, Sec. 7-5-10 consists of 9 members appointed by the S.C. Governor upon recommendation from the Berkeley County Legislative Delegation.

1. Call to Order

a. The Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Berkeley County was established in accordance with Section 7-5-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and is made up of nine members appointed by the Governor of the State of South Carolina upon recommendation of the Berkeley County Legislative Delegation. The Director serves at pleasure of the Board.
Rosie Brown, Director

Don Saturday: Okay is everybody ready? Just before we convene the meeting just remind Board Members if you want to speak, please ask to be recognized and I will for the purpose of helping the secretary out so if you would please do that it would be helpful. Good evening everyone today is February the 29th we are here to convene the meeting for the Berkeley County Board of Registration and Elections of Berkeley County.

2. Roll Call

Those present are Truman Metts, Richard Dean, Frances Taylor, Lee Dixon, Darel Trout, Chris Davenport, and Don Saturday. Let the record show we do have a quorum today.

3. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

Don Saturday: First on the agenda is the accepting the minutes from the previous meeting. Everyone has had an opportunity to review that. It was the meeting of January 11th. Also, we have the Board of Canvassers on February the 8th. At the appropriate time if I can have someone motion to accept the minutes as presented.

Chris Davenport: Make a motion to accept the minutes.

Don Saturday: Davenport who has made a motion to accept the minutes may I have a second on that?

Darel Trout: I second.

Don Saturday: Any discussion on the minutes?

Lee Dixon: Mr. Saturday on the final page there are two references to myself and it says Leon Dixon instead of Lee Dixon. If we can make those two changes.

Don Saturday: If the secretary would make those corrections on. Anything else?

Truman Metts: For the Canvassing of February the 8th it shows that I was in attendance I was at a doctor's appointment, and I wasn't here.

Don Saturday: So, correction on the Board of Canvassers meeting on February the 8th striking Mr. Metts as being in attendance. Would there be any other changes to the minutes presented? We have a motion to accept and a second those in favor say aye.

Aye was unanimous.

Don Saturday: Minutes have been approved. At this time, we are going to go into our directors' report. Director Brown if you would.

4. Director's Report

a. Presidential Preference Primaries (Democratic & Republican)

Director: Brown: Good evening, everyone we have just concluded the Democratic and Republican Presidential Preference Primaries. The Democratic Primary was held on February 3rd and a total of 5363 Berkeley County voters participated in that election. On the Republican Primary on the 24th of February there were 30277 voters that participated in that election. We used the same three early voting centers for both elections. The Hanahan library, St. Stephens library along with the county office. The grand total of people voting in early voting center during the Democratic Primary was 2168, Republican Primary was 8473 voters during the Democratic Primary early voting primary there were 419 people that used the Hanahan location 1350 at Voter Registration office and 399 at the St. Stephan's library. During the Republican Primary there were 3412 voters that utilized the Hanahan library, 4656 used the Voter Registration office, and 405 voters voted at the St. Stephan's library. The early voting center's location for June and November 2024 we need approval from the Board to use 4 locations for the Primary in November Election those locations being the Hanahan, St. Stephan's library, Voters Registration Office and also the Daniel Island library. I have already spoken with the Library Board and those locations have been approved for use for the June and November elections.

Don Saturday: Would you like a motion to approve those 4 sites now?

Director Brown: Yes, sir if possible.

Don Saturday: May I have a motion please on that?

Darel Trout: So, moved.

Don Saturday: Board Member Trout made a motion to accept those 4 locations do I have a second on that?

Frances Taylor: I second.

Don Saturday: We have Ms. Taylor that has seconded that motion.

Don Saturday: Any further discussion on that?

Chris Davenport: Mr. Saturday, Chris Davenport quick question, you said that was for the November and June primaries?

Director Brown: November and June.

Chris Davenport: November and June Primaries.

Don Saturday: The motion is to accept those 4 locations for Primary June and the General Election in November.

Chris Davenport: The additional 4th office from the standard 3 early voting locations obviously that's new, is that do we feel is sufficient and is that funded by County Council for the additional cost there? I don't believe the State covers that cost, do they?

Director Brown: The County Council has approved that as a location we have not used that before because there was not adequate parking at the Daniel Island library since 2022 that additional parking has been placed in use for the City of Charleston Election this past November that was an early voting location, so it does have adequate parking at that location now in order to be utilized.

Chris Davenport: So, who is funding it?

Director Brown: The State.

Chris Davenport: Thank you.

Don Saturday: Alright, any other discussion? Those in favor of approving those for locations say, aye.

Aye was unanimous.

Don Saturday: Motion carried. Director Brown, continue.

Director Brown: This coming week the 48th annual S.C.A.R.E conference will be held in Myrtle Beach at Doubletree Resort. I only have one Board Member that has verified that they are going to attend the conference which is Mr. Dixon. We do not have an actual agenda of

the events during the conference we only have the tentative agenda that was sent out back in January.

Chris Davenport: Is it too late for that I know I was behind the ball on that, and I was supposed to get back with you on that and I failed to do so I apologize.

Director Brown: The deadline was February 4th.

Don Saturday: There's not an opportunity to get in later?

Director Brown: The hotel where the conference is has been sold out prior to that deadline as well. I forwarded all that information to Mr. Davenport.

Chris Davenport: She did. If reservations are accommodated by myself is there still the availability to attend the conference?

Director Brown: There is availability for the conference you would need to get registered so I would need to have that definite registration from you.

Chris Davenport: I will come see you Ms. Brown and give you whatever you need for it.

Director Brown: Thank you.

Director Brown: There have not been any new poll workers approved through the HR department since your last meeting in January.

Don Saturday: Do we have any adequate number of poll workers available?

Director Brown: Yes, sir we do according to the list that we have. We have some people that worked the Republican Primary that did not work the Democratic or vice versa some became ill and were unable to work or others had already had plans for one of the other Saturdays where they would not be available, but they did work one of the two Saturdays of which they were trained. Everyone that worked the election was trained to either be a clerk, a worker, or a polling location technician.

Richard Dean: Could I ask a question?

Don Saturday: Mr. Dean you may ask a question.

Richard Dean: In the poll the Hanahan precincts that I was the one monitoring it seemed like on both Democratic or the Republican either people didn't show up or they got sick or whatever is there a pool that can be called kind of like a last-minute thing to fill in?

Director Brown: Unfortunately, not you must be trained prior to each election worker cannot work an election without training. Of the people that were trained it did happen in some locations that they were either sick or unavailable to attend for some reason or another. You cannot be paid for training unless you actually work the election also.

Richard Dean: So, there couldn't be a pool of back up so to speak?

Director Brown: I've asked the same question of the state and they do not allow you to train workers that are backups so to speak. You have to train the number of people that are allowed to work at the locations.

Richard Dean: Thank you.

Director Brown: Yes sir. That concludes my directors report do you have any other questions?

Don Saturday: Any other questions regarding her report?

Lee Dixon: Mr. Saturday, I do have one question about the new locations for the Huger fire department and I think there was one other location we were going to move. Do we have an update on that?

Director Brown: I have no update on the Huger fire department to the New Hope United Methodist church and Hanahan #3 fire station to Bowens Corner elementary school. These must be approved by the Berkeley County Delegation before we can move those locations.

Lee Dixon: Just to confirm they have been submitted to the delegation?

Director Brown: They have been submitted to the delegation yes sir.

Lee Dixon: Thank you.

Don Saturday: Any other questions? Okay I see that there is no old business to discuss at this meeting. Now do I see any new business to be discussed at this meeting? We do need to go into executive session to discuss a couple of matters mentioned on the agenda so I would like a motion to recess and go into executive session. Someone please, make that motion.

Chris Davenport: So, moved.

Don Saturday: Mr. Davenport has made a motion to go into executive session.

Lee Dixon: I second.

Don Saturday: Mr. Dixon has seconded that all in favor say aye.

Aye was unanimous.

Don Saturday: Okay so we are going into executive session we are going to have a brief recess so stick around if you will we will be back.

Don Saturday: We are calling this meeting back to order. There was no action with votes taken during the executive session as a matter of record. Let's move now to next meeting scheduled. There was an error it was posted originally in the agenda as April 25th. We do have a meeting for March 28th. That will be our next Board meeting that will be a 6pm meeting. Make a note of it. It will be posted as well on our website as a reminder to you. At this time let's get into any public comments. If someone would like to step up and speak. Please state your name.

Charles Schuster: 1125 Belvedere Dr. Hanahan South Carolina

Don Saturday: Mr. Schuster if you don't mind, please let's try to keep our comments down to I think 3 minutes would hopefully be enough time to get your point across.

Charles Schuster: Hanahan precinct where I worked at is going to remodeling this coming year, we need to get down to talk to the superintendent they are talking about moving the students off and not even using that campus next year so we need to be proactive and find out exactly can we still use that polling place. We had an incident in which thank goodness Commissioner Richard Dean was present to talk about it. A person wanted to test the system and didn't want to show his ID and two people wanted to have their ballots photographed. Hanahan school is going to be remodeled we want to make sure we can still use that and have ample time to move the poll and then the incident in which Richard Dean he took notes of it. It surprised me at how hard it was to get poll workers oh my gosh that's a challenge. Thank you very much.

Heather Hickman: Heather Hickman Berkeley County resident. I came here to mainly ask you help with something. I had a brief conversation with the director very recently when we did the ballot testing, I forget what it was to make sure the machines would read the ballots. I think they ran about 25 ballots through, and she and I both agreed what everyone wants is to make sure we are all in accordance with the law. I think that is a pretty reasonable thing. So, I discovered something in the law, and I wanted to point it out and ask if whoever maybe you all get together or one of you that looks into the law and see we are in compliance. One point of the law would be that a ballot test be done for every candidate for every race or something like that and when I asked at the time for a time metrics or how do we know we are doing the right test it was unclear that we had a guideline on how to do that test. I later saw that in the law just wanted to ask to check with that, so we are prepared for June. Another issue I became aware of the last day of early voting title 7 which is the elections law chapter 13 article 11 has a couple of paragraphs that talk about counting the ballots. 11:10 says that election managers and clerks shall immediately proceed publicly to open the ballot box and count the ballots there in. It looks like we are relying on the machines to do that, but the law seems to say otherwise. So, it is 7-13-11-10 further down 7-13-14-10 duties of officials include removing the voted ballots containers and assorting them according to types I know it was the last day of early voting so I wanted to show this information to poll clerks just so they had some information to go by and as I did the poll clerks looked at me every one of them there were 3 for early voting and I think I did it again on Saturday. I think I talked to 11 poll clerks everyone of them looked at me frightened and said we are not allowed to touch the ballots. We can't touch the ballots we can't that would break the rules and I don't know why they were frightened but it hurt my heart that they were frightened. If the law says we should do it, we should look into that. So, I am asking for your help to help them please. Finally, a couple more fun things in the law book is they can use volunteers to help count them so I know before when I mentioned using certain people and there was an objection and now we are going to have to pay workers not necessarily because 7-13-11-10 says they may use volunteers you say maybe there is going to be the training issue maybe work with the SCC to get people for training so that. I know a lot of people who would volunteer on election day I don't know how the training would work but they would volunteer to work for free because they understand the law and they want to help. One final thing be a slight correction

in January I received approval to work as a poll worker or whatever it would be, and I think we just heard a report that there has been no one new approved since the last meeting. My approval came January 30th I don't know if there are others but that might be a correction. Thank You

Don Saturday: To answer a couple of your points we are going to have a workshop where we will talk about poll workers and clerks. We will be having that I think we decided March 25th is when we will have a workshop so anyone who submitted an application to work as a poll worker, I'm sure they will be discussed during that meeting, and we do want good workers, so that's a given. In respect to opening the ballot the DS 200 counting ballots there at the precinct immediately following the election if you read further down in that statute it does no longer require that we do that in fact we have to use the DS 200 information to count ballots so just wanted to make a point about that.

Director Brown: Our bylaw states except in counties where vote records are used every county in South Carolina uses the DS 200 that is the vote recorder so there for there is no hand counting of the ballots at the polling location because of that same State law that Ms. Hickman referenced.

Don Saturday: That is part of the statutes anyone else would like to come up and speak.

Barbara Bates: 132 Harold Place Goose Creek with the passing of Pam Lamb is there going to be a replacement?

Don Saturday: Yes

Barbara Bates: How is that going to be handled?

Don Saturday: Well, the Legislative Delegation that's their responsibility. I understand there are some candidates for that to be nominated for that position but nothing official has come down to me other than they are working on it. Absolutely, we want 9 Board Members we need one. I believe they post that it is a matter of public record. Any other comments? Okay well thank you all for coming and appreciate it at this time if there is no other business to be brought before the Board a motion to adjourn.

Don Saturday: Mr. Davenport motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Trout seconded it. All in favor of adjournment say aye.

Aye was unanimous.

Submitted by Christine Swanson