

**Berkeley County Board of Elections & Voter Registration
Minutes — January 13, 2022 Meeting**

Call to Order

The meeting of the Berkeley County Board of Elections & Voter Registration was held in the office of Berkeley County Elections and Voter Registration on Thursday, January 13, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Saturday.

Commissioners Present

Don Saturday, Don Rose, Judy Moody, Jerry Roberts, Wade Arnette, Darel Trout, Frances Taylor, Leon Brown and Pam Lamb. Let the record show there is a quorum.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the November 4, 2021, meeting were approved.

Director's Report

1. Upcoming special election HD- 97, (Mandy Kimmons) filing is open until Saturday, January 15th at noon. Dorchester and Colleton counties are the predominate counties for this House Seat but Berkeley has 1 precinct in this district, Wassamasaw 2 with 101 registered voters. Ms. Brown notes these voters were originally in Dorchester County until a writ was sent from the state and the county line redrew them into Berkeley County. If there is a primary election it would be held March 8, 2022, with certification on March 10, 2022. If runoff is necessary it would be held March 22nd with certification March 24th. General election is May 17th with certification Friday, May 20th.
2. Town Of Bonneau will hold town election on May 10. They have a Municipal Election Commission and will certify their results.
3. City of Charleston held special city council race for District 1 Tuesday, January 11th. Charleston County will certify that election today at noon in the Berkeley County Office. Over 95% of the voters for that District live in Berkeley county since it is the Daniel Island, Clements Ferry Rd area. Berkeley Commissioners are welcome to attend their meeting today but it is not necessary. There will be a runoff election January 25th and will certify with that certification on January 27th.
4. There have been several bills pre-filed in the State House and State Senate. Senator Davis and Rep. Newton, both from Beaufort have filed:
 - a. S895 and HR4621 would determine who may conduct voter registration drives and what criteria the SEC will make for those persons or groups conducting those drives.
 - b. S893 which is same as HR 4622 states that a witness to an absentee ballot cannot witness more than 5 ballots. Chairman Saturday asks if there is a system in place to enforce and Ms. Brown says they do not check witness signatures because there is no system in place to check that. It is unclear how it can be enforced if passed.
 - c. S892 would have SEC purchase all ballot cards for each election instead of the counties paying that costs which is substantial. Hopefully that would improve some of the supply chain delays as well.
5. Candidates' filing for the Primaries opens March 16th at noon and will go thru March 30th at noon. In addition to the statewide offices, Berkeley County Council districts 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 and County officials are up for re-election with the exception of the Auditor and the Treasurer.
6. A survey was sent to members near the end of the year to determine if there should be a mid-year SCARE conference in Beaufort for 2 days perhaps in April. Berkeley budget currently has no funds to allow for anyone to attend a SCARE conference.
7. New poll managers' handbooks will be available near the end of April. There will be many changes to the manual, including the use of the electronic poll books. The SEC will be conducting training sessions in February on the electronic poll books.

8. Unanswered questions from our last meeting included the new way that the result tapes are printing and the amount of time it takes to generate the information. Ms. Brown has called the SEC to ask about the programing but so far has no response from them. Ms. Brown had a copy of the DMV question pertaining to Voter Registration which had been a problem for a Moncks Corner voter in November municipal election. At the certification we could not count the ballots in question but we were unsure if the wording was adequate for voters. After seeing the actual question concerning voter registration on the DMV form, it does seem that it is adequate.

9. State ethics forms are due March 31st. Check email to make sure you received the links.

Old Business:

Reminder cell phones should be turned off during meetings

New Business:

1. Proposed meeting Schedule: Thursday, March 10th, Friday, May 20th, Thursday, June 16th, Canvassers meetings for certification of elections at 10am followed by the Commissioners meetings at 10:30am. If a runoff is necessary following the statewide Primary, Canvassers will meet for certification on June 30th at 10am.
2. We will meet prior to the General Election, a date TBD, probably in October.

Public Comments

1. Ralph Rohrssen: announced that he has been appointed as a new Election Commissioner, awaiting for the Governor's office to complete the process. He hopes to be serving by next meeting and is looking forward to serving.
2. League of Women Voters - Laurie Steinke, asked with Mr. Rohrssen's impending appointment if someone was leaving the board or if a seat is being added. Mr. Saturday acknowledged that there are 2 replacements that he is aware of, the second will be Truman Metts. Mr. Rohrssen and Mr. Metts are replacing Mrs. Moody and Mr. Arnette.
3. Bill Sealand: attending because he is interested in the Elections and the work that the Board does.
4. Barry Rickards: asks that the minutes from the meetings be posted online and that it is difficult to find information on the County website.
5. Laurie Steinke: pointed out that the section with information about Board members and schedules wasn't working until just prior to this meeting and was only available as a download. Also, the section about polling precincts were non-functioning until this morning. Ms. Brown will speak with county IT on these issues. Laurie was also concerned that Daniel Island School was still listed as polling location on SC Votes. Ms. Brown noted that City of Charleston chose their location for their recent special election, but the default for Berkeley County remains Daniel Island School unless it is officially changed.

Next Meeting

Thursday March 10, 2022 at 10:00 for certification of the special election followed by a meeting at 10:30.

Adjournment - A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.