

Berkeley County Board of Elections & Voter Registration
Minutes — November 4, 2021 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 November 4, 2021. The meeting was called to order following the certification meeting of the Board of Canvassers by Chairman Don Saturday.

Commissioners Present

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

Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the August 26, 2021, meeting were approved.

Director's Report

1. A new program, "Connect" has been installed on the electronic poll books enabling the office staff to add voters to the books and to send provisional ballots to the polls for voters. Voters can no longer be added at the polls. Training was completed for staff in September.

2. The SEC has ordered changes in the way elections are managed for multi-jurisdictional elections. The county will now supply everything required for the election, including staffing the polls, providing the equipment and collecting the ballots. The ballots are then turned over to the municipality for certification.

3. The SCARE Conference was held in Myrtle Beach from September 17-21, 2021. Attending for the first time were Commissioners, Don Saturday and Pam Lamb, and staff, Robby Adams and Tracy Mullinax. Director Rose Brown also attended. We had several training classes in addition to many informative sessions during the conference. Don Saturday attended for this year's certification requirements.

4. There was a change of poll location for the City of Charleston November 2nd election on Daniel Island. The Attorney for the City of Charleston helped secure the new facility at the Daniel Island Recreation Center for the polling place location. The City of Charleston paid for the advertisements and voter notifications for those voters affected by the move.

5. The Berkeley IT team worked with the SEC to install updates and provide training for processing absentee voters.

6. At the SCARE Conference the SEC announced that the Director, Marcy Andino was leaving at the end of September. The Director for the legal department was also leaving at the end of September. Howie Knapp, the assistant deputy for legal, will serve as the Interim Director.

7. Updates for the MI-Fi Hot spots have been completed allowing provisional ballots to be cast electronically.

8. Fire Districts are having elections. They requested and received lists of registered voters by precincts by comparing the precinct maps with the maps of the Fire Districts.

9. We received the keys to the storage area at Belt Drive on October 11th and moving some of the equipment has begun and will be completed after the elections on November 2nd.

10. New staff - Santina Goodwin has been hired as the Election Services Coordinator, replacing David Shaw. She comes from Orangeburg County where she has held the same position.

11. Election books did not arrive from the state when they should have and it was found that they were shipped to the old address. New books were prepared and Ms. Goodwin met the area representative in Orangeburg to receive the new ones.

12. There has been training on the Tritek machines but Ms. Brown feels the training was not adequate and plans to request additional training from the vendor.

13. There will be a special election On January 11, 2022, for a Charleston City Council position due to a resignation. Three polling places on Daniel Island will be open for voting – DI Recreation Dept. DI Elementary School and Phillip Simmons Elementary School.

14. Training classes available for the fourth quarter have been assigned and people have been notified individually concerning the class and the location for attendance.

15. Redistricting maps are still being considered. Everyone does believe it will be complete by the March 15th filings.

16. The Legislative Delegation has been notified about the polling places relocations for Daniel Island and Pine Ridge Fire Dept.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. There is some concern over the time that it will take to process the closing numbers at a polling place. The updates to the data base are creating a new way to view the totals. Results will be posted for each precinct and not just for a single polling location. This could increase the closing time significantly during a big election.
2. There were some complaints about the machines being set-up “to close” to one another which caused the feeling of diminished privacy. We will remind poll workers in the training classes to turn the machines in opposite directions when using the same table.

Public Comments

1. League of Women Voters – Nina Hoffman asked who the candidates would be for the City of Charleston Special election in January and if absentee balloting will be available for that election. Filing has just opened and will be open through December 8th and absentee voting will occur beginning 30 days prior to the election with more holidays on the calendar than normal.

Next Meeting

Thursday January 13, 2022 at 10:30. The meeting schedule for the remainder of the year will be set at that time.

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