

**Berkeley County Board of Elections & Voter Registration**  
**Minutes- September 8, 2022**

**Call to order**

The meeting of the Berkeley County Board of Elections & Voter Registration was held in the Conference Room of the Berkeley County Voter Registration & Election office on Thursday, September 8, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Saturday

**Commissioners Present:**

Don Rose, Truman Metts, Frances Taylor, Leon Brown, Darel Trout, Ralph Rohrsen, Pam Lamb and Don Saturday. So let the record show we do have a quorum.

**Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion made to accept minutes as submitted, seconded.

**Director's Report**

Good morning, a lot of information today. Of course, we know we're in the general election cycle. The election notices have been published for this election. They ran on yesterday, Wednesday, September the 7th and will run again on Wednesday, September the 21st. As per law, the notices must be published in the newspaper of general circulation in the county and then published again two weeks later. Notices are published in the Post and Courier newspaper and posted on the Berkeley County website. There are two constitutional amendment questions on the November ballot along with Berkeley County Sales and Use Tax Referendum and the Berkeley County School District Capital Improvement Referendum when voters visit our site to see their sample ballot, they may also print that information.

Filing for Berkeley County School Board and three municipalities opened on August 1st through August the 15<sup>th</sup>. This year for school board, eight districts will run for office. Districts numbers 2, 4, 6 and 8 will run for a term of 4 years. Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7 will run for a term of 2 years. In two years, these districts will then return to 4-year terms and resume the rotation of four years per term. The Ninth School Board District is at large. This position is appointed at this time through the 2024 election cycle. At that time, this position (at large) will then run for a four-year term.

City of Hanahan offices for election: Mayor and three City Council seats. 1 candidate filed for Mayor; 3 candidates filed for City Council.

City of Goose Creek offices for election: Mayor and three City Council Seats. 2 candidates filed for Mayor; 5 candidates filed for City Council.

Town of St. Stephen offices for election: Mayor and three Town Council seats. 3 candidates filed for Mayor and 4 candidates filed for Town Council.

School Board Districts 1 through 8 all have two candidates. Three candidates filed for School Board District 8; however, that individual officially withdrew, and their name will not be placed on the ballot. School Board district lines became official at the end of May while we were conducting early voting. We did not receive official notification until approximately July 7<sup>th</sup>. Street files were then update in VREMS to the current district lines. School Board lines and County Council are now the same district numbers. If you reside in CC District 1 you are now in SB district 1 and so on.

Due to the many district changes, it was requested that county council fund the printing and mailing of voter registration cards to all registered voters. This request was approved by Berkeley County Council. I have requested the State Election Commission to print and mail new voter registration cards to all voters. The name of few polling locations have changed and the voters will receive a new card indicating this change. Example: Berkeley Intermediate School is now Moncks Corner Elementary.

The State Election Commission has given us a deadline of the September 16th for any candidate withdrawals as they are building the databases for the General Election. If a candidate withdraws prior to this date their name will not appear on the ballot. However, if a candidate chooses to withdraw after the ballot has been created, we will place a notice on each ballot marking device, as we did in the primary election, that the candidate withdrew.

Early voting will begin on Monday, October 24th through Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Daily hours of operation are from 8:30 AM until 6 PM Monday through Saturday. This is a correction of the number of days, we are required to be open two Saturdays for Early Voting. There are no hours on Sundays. Early Voting Locations will be the Berkeley County Voter Registration Office, St. Stephen Library and Hanahan Library.

We also have training scheduled for all election workers. You have a copy of the schedule at the end of your packet there that informs you of the dates and times of training. All trainings will be held in the county assembly room. You all are welcome to attend any of those trainings that you're available to attend.

You also have a listing today of poll workers that have worked in the past, one list is clerks the other list is of managers. The third set is a listing of new poll workers that have completed their paperwork with Human Resources. Board members do have the authority to remove any worker that has not performed well.

Absentee ballot envelopes have been updated. Envelopes are smaller and now each counties logo is printed on this piece of election mail. SEC provides these envelopes to all counties.

## **Old Business**

### **New Business**

Rose, you want to talk about the Elector challenge situation. In April, Ms. Tara Palubicki mailed us two sets of letters challenging voters that participated in the 2020 general election stating that this was not their legal residence at the time that they cast their vote. I have mailed letters to all of those individuals she challenged, along with a letter from myself explaining that Ms. Palubicki has challenged their residency for the 2020 general election under Section 7-5-230. Did not receive much response from the first set of letters. One person called and stated this is, in fact, his legal residence. He has lived there for a period of time, and he does not claim any other place as his legal residence. Many of the letters were returned as the voters have moved since 2020 because this was the beginning of 2022. Berkeley County Attorney John O. Williams attended one meeting to discuss this matter. County Attorney stated that we should mail these letters certified to the electors, we did, and three persons responded. Hearing will be scheduled after conferring with county attorney. Board members will be notified by email of the date and time.

Don Saturday, read an article where a voting machine was found to have been sold on eBay from a county in the state of Michigan. This was a Dominion voting machine that should have

been an inventory and doing the research, it was discovered the county found out that they were in fact missing that machine and was not aware of that. My recommendation is that this office establish a monthly inventory checklist. Take the inventory, account for each ballot marking device, every DS 200 and EPB, verifying that we have every machine in our possession. When equipment is sent out for repairs, it's recorded that it is leaving and the reason. It is also recorded when returned.

Getting back to our training poll managers and clerks. Everybody's encouraged to be there to make a more concerted effort to do that, particularly clerks. Setting up polling locations, have the clerks to place ballot marking devices on 8 feet tables to provide privacy to voters. Present that to the clerks at training sessions so they can visually see how we want them to set up BMD's. Investigate larger privacy screens for Ballot Marking Devices. Rosie pointed out the screens do not provide adequate privacy, and we knew this from day one, when the new ballot marking devices were delivered with the privacy screens to us, Adam and I talked about it. It was inadequate to begin with, but it's what the state sent us. They would not spend any more money on it at that time. At the very least, we can set them up on the table to where even with the smaller privacy screens, can be better able to afford privacy.

Addressing the training, I don't know whether it would be possible if we have a step by step from the handbook, to simplify the instructions from the poll managers handbook. So, we may have more people voting in the correct location failsafe and provisional? If poll workers can't locate a person, they must call the office. We must then research the voter and provide the proper information to the poll worker, so they may assist the voter. You must process the voter as per the law states for their situation.

One correction, we discussed earlier in the year having our certifications in the assembly room because we do lack space here in this conference room in order to be properly set up. However, for the general election certification is Friday, November 11th, which is Veterans Day. The county is closed, can we hold certification in our office space up front? Yes. 10:00 AM for certification.

**Public comments.** If you'd like to make comments, stand up, please. And tell us your name. Okay? My name is Ann Conyers. I have a couple of questions. Who does the training for your poll workers and your poll Clerks. Who is responsible for doing that training? Director, Precinct Coordinator and Election Services Coordinator. Questions how different polling locations give a different answer to the same question. Well, I was asking for how many Republicans voted on the DS 200. It gives the total number of votes that have been voted in that precinct. It doesn't tell them Republican or Democrat on the DS 200. But there was a way that they found it in one of the precincts on the poll book. Ms. Lamb and Ms. Conyers continued conversation. This information I was trying to look at as a poll watcher, all right, and before they would come in and they would sign, Sign the ledgers and you could get a count of those ledgers who votes in the Republican primary and who votes in the Democratic primary. You can get a count of signatures on the machine now, so it's on the machine and I get that. It's probably not, but it was presented to me in that form. And you have, with the time you have for training again once every two years with a workforce that works once every two years for \$2 an hour. This is a very, very important election. Not that none of them are unimportant, but this one is going to be more closely monitored. We're going to have a plethora of poll watchers coming into the precincts, and they're going to be expecting answers. Chairman and Ms. Conyers continue conversation: If it's an easy access information, I don't see any problem providing it. But if it's a lengthy process of pulling out that data information, as Pam pointed out, the precinct is busy. I don't know that we have the time to accommodate a poll watcher for every little thing that you want. We'll do our

best, and you will get a consistent answer at every precinct you go to. If not, we'll find out why, and if it's a training issue; we will go back to that clerk, and we will retrain. There's a lot of questions you could ask that are valid and reasonable we will do everything we can to accommodate watchers. We will address and we will make sure if it's convenient to accommodate you at that moment, we will. If it isn't, you'll have to step back as you said and wait patiently. Any other comments? We went well beyond five minutes, but it was important for you to bring up. Thank you. Anything else? Okay. Thank you.

#### **Executive Session**

Motion to go into executive session, seconded.

No action was taken in executive session.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion for adjournment, seconded.

Meeting adjourned.