



Board of Elections and Registration Beaufort County, South Carolina



Candidate Information Seminar

*What you need to know when
running for public office*



Board of Elections and Registration Beaufort County, South Carolina



Disclaimer

This seminar is presented for informational purposes only. It is not inclusive of all requirements for and of candidacy under the law. The objective of the seminar is to assist candidates in providing a general understanding of basic laws and processes required of political candidates in the state of South Carolina. Clarifications and questions regarding ethics requirements should be directed to the South Carolina Ethics Commission. The Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration cannot provide legal advice to candidates or campaign staff. Responsibility for following election laws set forth by the South Carolina Constitution and the South Carolina Code of Laws rests solely with the candidate.



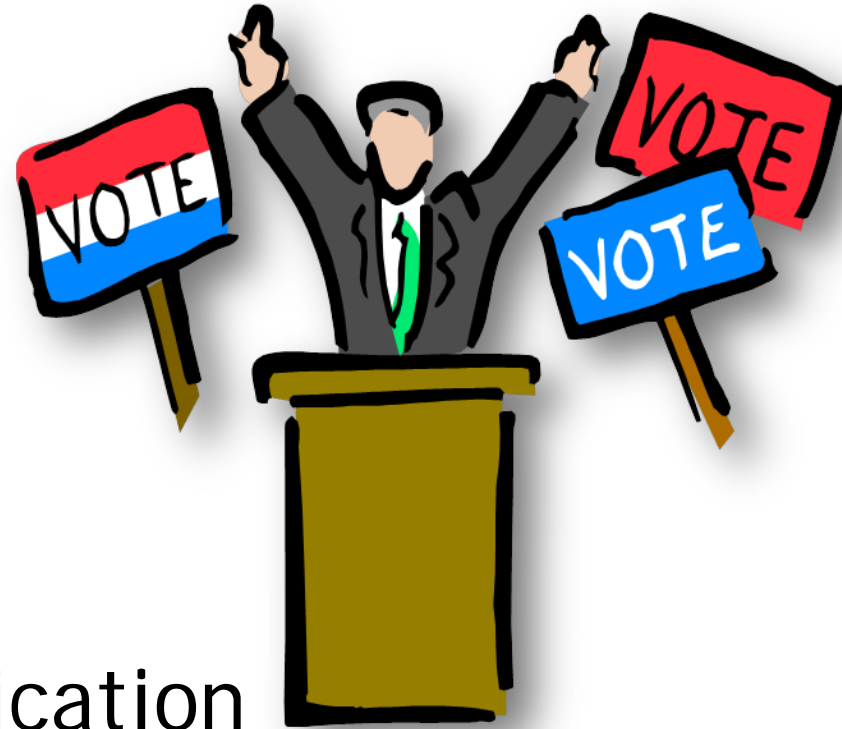
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Topic Areas

- Types of Candidates
- Petitions
- Ethics Requirements
- Election Day
- Absentee Voting
- Election Results Certification
- Protests





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Candidates and Offices

Types of Offices

- **Partisan**
 - Must be endorsed by party to have name on the ballot, or...
 - Must file a successful petition for candidacy
- **Non-partisan**
 - No party endorsement necessary to get name on the ballot

Types of Candidates

- **Partisan**
- **Non-partisan**
 - Petition
 - Statement of Candidacy
 - Write-in





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Primary vs. General Election

Primary

- Partisan contests only
- No write-ins allowed
- Runoff elections may be used to determine winner
- No concurrent elections

- Winners get on November General Election ballot



General Election

- Partisan and non-partisan offices and candidates
- Write-ins allowed
- No runoff elections
- Can be combined with municipal elections and referendums
- Winners elected to office



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Petitions (format)

- Printed on good quality original bond paper sized 8.5" x 14"
- Candidate name and office sought must appear on every page
- Separate columns for:
 - Signature and printed name of voter
 - Address of voter
 - Voter's precinct

PETITION		County _____	
State of South Carolina		<i>Page must contain signatures of voters from only one county.</i>	
P U R P O S E	Candidate	If not candidate petition, enter statement of purpose:	
	Office		
	Election Date		
Signature & Printed Name		Residence Address & Phone #	Precinct
VR# & DOB			
1	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB
2	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB
3	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB
4	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB
5	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB
6	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB
7	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB
8	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB
9	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB
10	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB
11	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB
12	Signature Print Name		Precinct VR# & DOB

SEC FORM 1000-200910 Page _____ SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION COMMISSION



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Petitions (process)

- Must contain signatures of at least 5% of voters in district, not to exceed 10,000 signatures
 - 2.5% for Board of Education
- Official number of signatures required is set 120 days prior to election
- By noon July 16, 2012 submit petitions to...
 - State Election Commission for multi-county offices
 - County Election Commission for countywide, or less than countywide offices, except for municipal offices





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Petitions (verification)

- Petitions requiring 500 or less signatures
 - Every signature checked for validity against voter's original application for registration
- Petitions requiring more than 500 signatures (percentage method)
 - Every one of first 500 signatures checked
 - Over 500...one out of 10 signatures checked
 - If projected number of valid signatures total minimum number required, petition is certified
 - No petition may be rejected using percentage method





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Ethics Requirements (*statements of economic interest*)

- Must file Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) at same time and with same official with whom candidate files statement of intention of candidacy (SIC) or petition
 - Does not apply to a public official who has a current SEI on file (e.g., incumbents)
- SC Supreme Court ruling in *Anderson v. South Carolina Election Commission*
 - Online filing alone is not enough



SC Code of Laws 8-13-1356



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Ethics Requirements (campaign practices)

- Process owner: SC Ethics Commission
- Initial report due w/in 10 days after spending or receiving the first \$500 of campaign funds
- Pre-Election Report must be filed no later than 15 days prior to each election, and no earlier than 20 days prior
- Quarterly Reports
 - January, April, July and October
 - Whether there is activity or not
- Final Report after campaign account closed



SC Code of Laws 8-13-1308

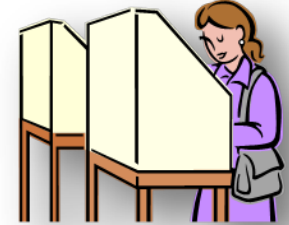


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Election Day (general information)



- Polls open 7 am to 7 pm
- No campaign literature within 200 feet of entrance to polling location [SC Code of Laws 7-25-180(A)]
- Candidates at polling place [SC Code of Laws 7-25-180(B)]
 - Can stand outside to meet and greet voters, and may solicit votes (even within 200 ft)
 - May wear badge no larger than 4.25 x 4.25 inches with name and office sought (no logos)
 - May enter the polling place at any time, but...
 - Name badge must come off
 - Voters must not be disrupted



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Election Day (voter qualifications)

- Must be 18 years of age on or before the date of election
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be South Carolina resident
- Must be resident of the precinct in which applicant is applying to vote
- Register no later than 30 days prior to election





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Election Day (voter disqualifiers)

- A voter may not be
 - Mentally incompetent as adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction
 - Serving a prison term
 - Convicted of felony or offense(s) against election laws
 - Disqualification can be removed by service of sentence or pardon, to include all parole and probation served





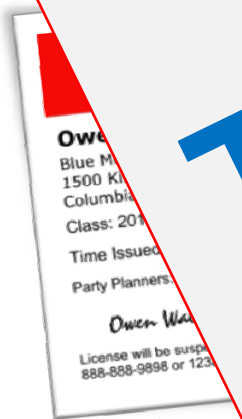
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ID required to vote.

- SC Driver's License
- Voter Registration Card
- Photo ID

**WHAT ABOUT
THE NEW VOTER
PHOTO ID LAW?**



REGISTRATION NOTIFICATION CARD

PRECINCT: _____

REG. NO: _____ REG. DATE: _____

SIGNATURE OF ELECTOR _____

FOLD HERE

SEX: _____ RACE: _____ DOB: _____

VOTE AT: _____

COUNTY / STATE ELECTION OFFICIAL _____

Your current election districts are shown above and your polling place is shown to the right. After detaching your registration notification card save this portion for reference.



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Election Day (poll watchers)

- Poll Watchers
 - Registered voter certified in writing by candidate or party
 - Certification is precinct specific
 - Wear badge no larger than 4.25 by 4.25 inches with name and entity representing
 - Staffing
 - Primary: one watcher per candidate per precinct
 - General Election: candidates of same party jointly represented by no more than 2 watchers per 1,000 registered voters at polling place





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Absentee Voting



- Two methods: 1) in-person and 2) mail
- Applications can be requested on line, or via telephone, email, fax or standard mail
- Applications can be transmitted electronically
- Voter must provide one of 17 reasons on absentee ballot application
- Ballots must be mailed (UOCAVA exception)
- **NO SUCH THING AS "EARLY VOTING" IN SC**

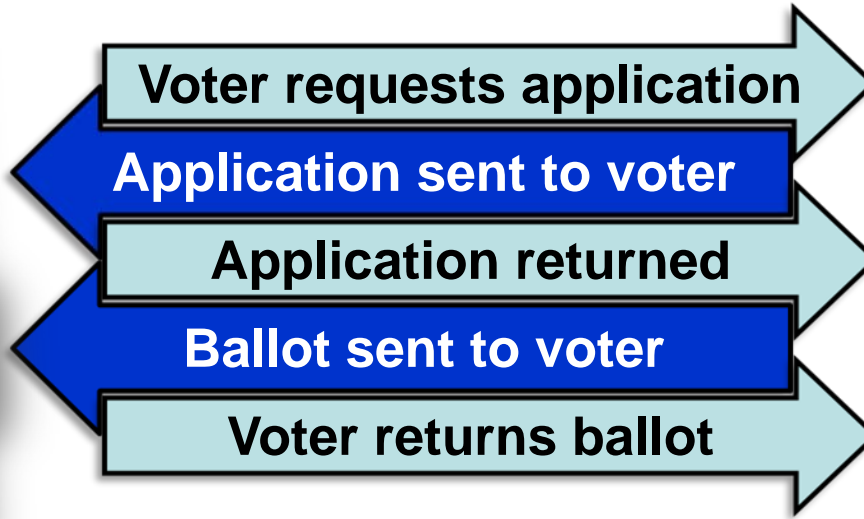


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Absentee process by mail

Registered
Voter



County Election
Commission





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Certification of Results



- Who: Board of Canvassers
- When (no later than):
 - Primary - 1 pm Thursday following primary
 - General Election - 1 pm Friday following election
 - Special Election - 1 pm Friday following election
 - Municipal Election - 3 days following election
- What:
 - Conduct provisional ballot hearing
 - Certify vote totals...from "Unofficial" to "Official"

SC Code of Laws 7-17-10, 7-17-510 and 5-15-100



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Protests

- Primary
 - Deadline for filing protest is Noon Monday following certification
 - File with party, county sheriff or SLED, as applicable
- Election
 - Municipal - 48 hrs post election w/ municipal election commission
 - Countywide and less than
 - Noon Wednesday after certification w/ CEC Chair or Sheriff
 - Multiple counties, state offices and statewide offices
 - Noon 5 days after certification w/ SC Election Commission





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Protests

- Protests must be in writing
 - Each ground on which the protestant wishes to protest must be included
 - Items not included in written protest may not be addressed in hearing
- Only candidates have standing
 - Protests filed by other parties are not accepted as an official protest
- Rules of evidence apply in hearing





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Questions and Answers

