



BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION and ELECTIONS OF BEAUFORT COUNTY



Matthew Sweeney
Chairman

James Backer
Vice Chairman

Jean Felix
Director

Board Members:

Beverly Dore
Herbert Ford
Elizabeth Johnson
Donald Lucas
Allyne Mitchell
Joan Petrucci
Michael Swiecicki

15 John Galt Road • Post Office Drawer 1228 • Beaufort, South Carolina 29901-1228

Minutes from August 27, 2026
Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Beaufort County
Board Meeting
Main Office- Board of Voter Registration and Elections
15 John Galt Rd. Beaufort, SC 29906

The electronic and print media were duly notified in accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

Board Members Present

Matthew Sweeney, Chairman	Elizabeth Johnson
James Backer, Vice Chairman	Donald Lucas
Michael Swiecicki, Secretary	Allyne Mitchell
Beverly Dore	Joan Petrucci
Herbert Ford	

Board Members Absent

None

Staff Members Present

Jean Felix, Director
Wendell Roberson, Deputy Director
Kristina Weitz, Office Manager
Jammie Moore, Election Specialist
Tiara Glover, Training and Outreach Coordinator

Public Present

None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Matthew Sweeney at 11:30 am. He asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

Motion:	To approve the minutes from: June 25, 2026- Hotwash discussion of Primary Election - Include items not discussed as an attachment
Moved by:	Mr. Sweicicki
Second by:	Mrs. Johnson
Decision:	The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously

Motion:	To approve the minutes from: August 13, 2026- Canvass and Certification Hearing
Moved by:	Mrs. Johnson
Second by:	Ms. Mitchell
Decision:	The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously

Motion:	To approve the minutes from: August 13, 2026- Voter Registration Challenge Hearing
Moved by:	Ms. Mitchell
Second by:	Mrs. Johnson
Decision:	The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously

Motion:	To approve the minutes from: - August 17, 2026 – Special Called Board Meeting
Moved by:	Ms. Doe
Second by:	Mrs. Johnson
Decision:	The Board voted and the motion passed 8-0. Mr. Sweeney abstained.

Committee Reports

Committee	Chairperson	Report
Finance	James Backer	- Nothing to Report -Will schedule a meeting in September
Facilities	Michael Swiecicki	- Nothing to Report - A meeting will be scheduled
Legislative Affairs	Matthew Sweeney	- Nothing to Report -A meeting will be scheduled in September

Re-Precincting	Beverly Dore	-Nothing to report.
Rules	Elizabeth Johnson	- Met August 17th at 3 o'clock - Changes were made to the OPS manual to add appendix F - Next meeting is September 21st at 10 o'clock

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

- Poll worker recruitment is needed, and the Board has asked to send out poll worker flyers
- A press release for poll worker recruitment has been sent to counties, media, parties, and election stakeholders
- The Board asked the staff to poll the attendees in the New Poll Worker training to see how they found out about the class.
- The staff was asked to send out poll worker recruitment flyers to all current poll workers
- The Board will ask the SEC at the SCARE conference about equipment replacement timeline
- The Board will work with staff to forecast precinct additions and equipment needs
- A recommendation was made to close the Bluffton Recreation Center and to not use it as a polling location. This was referred to the facilities committee for consideration.
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Director's Report

- August 11 US Senate Republican Special Primary
 - o Registered Voters: 126,013
 - o Early Voting: 3.003
 - o Absentee Sent: 90 (9 UOCAVA)
 - o Absentee Returned: 65
 - o Absentee Returned on Time: 16 (6 UOCAVA)

- Provisional: 7
- Election Day Total: 9,998
- Voter Turnout: 13,016
- Voter Percentage: 10.33%
- Locations: 67
- Poll Workers: 397

- August 25 US Senate Republican Primary Runoff
 - Registered Voters: 126,013
 - Early Voting: 2,835
 - Absentee Sent: 110 (9 UOCAVA)
 - Absentee Returned: 36 (as of 8/26)
 - Absentee Returned on Time: 20 (6 UOCAVA)
 - Provisional: 26
 - Voter Turnout: 11,945
 - Voter Percentage: 11.74%
 - Locations: 66
 - Poll Workers: 389

- New Poll Workers
 - August NPW Training was cancelled due to Special Election and Runoff
 - Upcoming classes
 - September 2
 - September 5
 - September 12
 - September 19
 - 2026 Dates
 - January 24th: Enrolled 22 Attended 19
 - February 18th: Enrolled 27 Attended 21
 - March 11th: Enrolled 16 Attended 12
 - April 15th: Enrolled 14 Attended 15
 - July 15th: Enrolled 15 Attended 15
 - July 18th: Enrolled 5 Attended 5
 - August 19th: Cancelled
 - August 29th: Cancelled
 - New Poll Workers by Board member
 - Backer: 18
 - Petrucci: 16
 - Dore: 7
 - Ford: 13
 - Johnson: 13
 - Mitchell: 8
 - Sweeney: 8
 - Sweicicki: 11
 - Lucas: 12
 - Total: 106

- Voter Qualification Challenges
 - The board created a new process for the board operations manual for the processes and procedures for hearings.
 - A challenge application for has been created
 - New Process
 - Challenger Submits Form and Evidence to the Director
 - Evidence is Reviewed by Director (and Chairman if guidance is needed)
 - Once challenge is accepted, both the challenger and the challenged elector will be notified via email and mail of the meeting date and time as well as the procedures the board will follow
 - Hearing will be 10 days from the challenge acceptance date
 - Witnesses must be presented to the Director at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing
- Upcoming Elections
 - November 3- Statewide General Election:
 - Registration Deadlines
 - In Person- October 2 by 5:00 p.m.
 - Online/Fax/Email- October 4 by 11:59 p.m.
 - Mail- Postmarked by October 5
 - Absentee Request/Application Return Deadline: October 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
 - Early Voting
 - October 19 – 31
 - Monday – Saturday
 - 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 - Supply Pickup: November 2
 - Canvass Hearing: Friday, November 6 at 9:00 a.m.
 - November 3- Statewide General Election Continued:
 - County Wide Referendum
 - 2 Questions
 - Public Notices per SC Code of Laws 4-37-30
 - This is our cost. 4 notices, 1 week apart are required in the 4 weeks leading up to the election
 - October 4
 - October 11
 - October 18
 - October 25
 - Public Hearing- October 6 at 6:00 p.m. at County Council Chambers
 - Town of Hilton Head Runoff is LIKELY: November 17
 - Early Voting: November 12-13 (Thursday and Friday- Wednesday is a Holiday)
 - 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Canvass Hearing: November 19 at 10:00 a.m.

- Miscellaneous
 - SCARE Mid-Year Conference- September 10-11
 - 10/11 Staff, and 2/9 Board Members will attend
 - General Election Workshop
 - Sept 15- Staff- Jean, Kris, Tiara, Xavier
 - Sept 24- Board- Mitchell, Lucas, Backer
 - Upcoming Board Committee Meetings
 - September 21- Rules Committee
 - September 23- Facilities Committee
 - October 23- Finance Committee
 - Please let me know if you would like to change or add to these dates.
 - Warehouse Flooring to be completed in December. Postponed due to August Special Election and Runoff
 - Beaufort County 2028 CIP Meeting is August 27

Closing Comments

- Hilton Head Island Bluffton Chamber of Commerce will arrange SoB poll workers with lunches for the November 3rd election.
- Board and staff to communicate with the NoB chamber for poll worker lunches.
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Announcements

- SCARE Mid- Year Conference
Date: September 10-11, 2026
Location: Charleston, SC
- General Election Workshop for Board
September 24th
- Monthly Board Meeting:
Next Meeting: September 23, 2026 at 12:00

Adjournment

Motion:	To adjourn
Moved by:	Ms. Dore
Second by:	Mr. Lucas
Decision:	The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.