



BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION and ELECTIONS OF BEAUFORT COUNTY



Matthew Sweeney
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James Backer
Vice Chairman

Wendell Roberson, Sr.
Deputy 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 Hotwash Discussion of the August 11 and 25 US Senate Republican Primary and RUNOFF 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, Sr, Deputy Director
Tiara Glover, Training and Outreach Coordinator
Kristina Weitz, Office Manager
Vernon Kemp, Election Systems Manager
Jammie Moore, Election Specialist
Mychael Gibbs, Election Systems Specialist

Public Present

None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Matthew Sweeney at 12:33 pm.

Lessons Learned List

- 1.1 Clerk Pickup Checklist: Clerks supplies pickup checklist had mixed compliance
 - o **Solution:** Staff will consider revisions to the distribution process
- 1.2 Seals worksheet not pre-populated: At a previous election, the seals worksheet was provided with as-delivered seal numbers pre-populated
 - o **Solution:** The seals will be pre-populated for the November election
- 1.3 Clerk Pickup Process: Clerks currently have four steps at supply pickup
 - See staff to obtain pickup checklist
 - Verify supplies in location pile
 - Return pickup checklist and receive small red pouch and MIFI
 - Set up emergency tag
 - o **Solution:** Staff will work on streamlining distribution process
- 1.4 Single supply bin for pooled precincts: Change from one supply bin per precinct to one supply bin per location appreciated by multi-precinct clerks, however some maps were missing for collocated precincts. (also a June issue)
 - o **Solution:** Staff will ensure that multi-precinct locations have all supplies relevant to their precinct
- 1.5 Coordination with schools: Changes in voting room
 - o **Solution:** Schools were in session, so changes in voting rooms were necessary. Staff will communicate with the district about better communicating those changes.
- 1.6 Parking at open schools: Parking at open schools is limited. Difficult placement for curbside voters.
 - o **Solution:** School is in session. This should not be an issue for the November General Election.
- 1.7 Signs for location changes: Voters were not happy when they arrived to their regular polling location and had to go to a temporary location.
 - o **Solution:** Larger signs will be provided for polling locations where it is necessary.
- 1.8 Clerk Drop-off: Hilton Head Library drop-off was efficient. One EPB not shut down properly.
 - o **Solution:** Staff will continue to train poll workers to use the opening and closing checklist provided to them.
- 2.1 Confirming the empty ballot box: SEC PW Handbook does not address showing the first voter an empty ballot box. Page 10 of the Beaufort. Open/close checklist "If a voter is present, make sure the voter sees the blue ballot bin is empty." In-person training implies showing the empty ballot box is required.
 - o **Solution:** Staff will come up with one clear message to tell poll workers in training.
- 2.2 Dealing with power outages: Quizzed poll clerks did not know how to deal with power outage scenario
 - o **Solution:** Staff will train poll workers on what to do if they lose power.
- 2.3 Report all equipment issues: During August 11 election, clerk did not report equipment issue because there was a surplus of extra capacity (due to low turnout)
 - o **Solution:** Staff will reinforce training to poll clerks to call about equipment issues

- 2.4 Notifications through EasyVote: Poll worker responded unavailable for 8/25 but was scheduled anyway.
 - **Solution:** This was a staff oversight that has been corrected.
- 3.1 Scanner Issues: Scanners in two locations would only accept ballot cards face down, St. Gregory and River Ridge (8/11)
 - **Solution:** This was a statewide issue. Will discuss with the SEC about maintenance issues
- 3.2 Scanner Issue: Upon power up, scanner showed date in 2001 and wrong time (Christ Lutheran 8/25)
 - **Solution:** The internal battery died and staff will work with the SEC on a replacement schedule.
- 3.3 Reissue ballot options: EPB presents options for reissue of spoiled ballot: PW error, voter error and wrong ballot; consider adding 4th option of “equipment issue”
 - **Solution:** This is an ESS design. The SEC is working with them to change it.
- 3.4 Checkbox image in BMD selection screen: Voters trying to poke the image of a small checkbox in the upper left corner of a candidate box sometimes results in no selection being made, or selection of the candidate in the box above the desired selection
 - **Solution:** This is an ESS design. SEC is working with them to change it.
- 4.1 One clerk per location: 7-13-72 Managers of Elections says “...appoint from among the an the managers a clerk for each polling place in the county.
 - **Solution:** Directives from the SEC say that this is under the assumption that there is only one precinct per location. One concern about decreasing clerks is that the supplies will be too numerous and too heavy for one clerk. Staff will look into the logistics of delivering supply bag with equipment.
- 4.2 Poll Worker Comments
 - Several poll workers thought they should be paid or given a gas card for pick up and dropping off their election equipment and setting up the polling location
 - Hours too long on election day especially for seniors. Try offering two shifts to attract more poll workers.
 - Pay is insufficient and the payment timeline is too long.
 - Poll workers not showing up the day prior
 - Have Beaufort schools run a contest to design a new I VOTED sticker, like in Florida
 - All calls to election central were answered promptly
 - The procedure and check lists created by our office were better written and easier to follow than those developed by the SEC
 - Supply boxes were carefully packed without missing information or charts

- **Solution:** Clerks are already paid extra and set up the day before is optional. Staff will continue to provide check lists and carefully pack supply bags.
- 4.3 Other feedback:
 - Many voters asked where their polling place will be in November
 - Hoorah! To Beaufort County employee Nikia Mouzon. Great job today in support for all workers. She was attentive and on the spot when called.
 - Recruitment ideas for workers: Institute shifts for poll workers (I have no clue what that would look like...) advertise that poll workers get paid (nothing motivates like money), get the recruiting poster out to all POA's, churches, local media, socials (I'm sure this is on staff's radar), get the school district, colleges to help recruit also...students can get community hours
 - **Solution:** Polling locations will go back to normal in November, with a few exceptions. Poll worker recruitment is in full swing.

Adjournment

Motion:	To adjourn
Moved by:	Ms. Mitchell
Second by:	Ms. Dore

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.