

Overview

State Election Commission

April 18, 2017

Agency Mission

To ensure every eligible citizen in South Carolina has the opportunity to register to vote, to participate in fair and impartial elections, and have the assurance that their vote will count.

Agency Responsibilities

- **Supervises** county boards of registration & elections to ensure compliance with state and federal law
 - Performs audits and post election analysis
 - Advises county boards with day to day operations
- Maintains **statewide voter registration system**
 - Database contains information on all registered voters in the state
 - Used to produce voter registration lists and jury rolls
 - Approximately 250 elections held every year

Agency Responsibilities

- Supports county boards in the use of the **statewide voting system**, creates election databases used to produce electronic and paper ballots
 - Eliminates the need to contract with vendor – saves taxpayers over \$1.5M per year
- Administers **training and certification program** for county registration and election officials and municipal election commissioners
 - Approximately 30 classes held each year for county certification in various locations statewide
- Conducts **candidate filing**

Responsibility for Elections



State
Election
Commission

County
Boards of
Voter
Registration
and
Elections

1. Agency Successes

- Conduct of statewide elections/security
 - 5 statewide elections
 - Partnered with federal/state agencies to enhance security
- Voting system audits, county compliance audits and supervision of counties
- Implementation of candidate filing and photo ID

2. Current Challenges or Issues

- Voting system refresh
 - Aging voting equipment
- Election security
 - Take all reasonable measures
 - Field of cyber security ever changing
- Meeting the demands of voters
 - More opportunities to vote prior to election day
 - Improve accessibility of polling places

3. Emerging Issues Next 5 Years

- Voting system replacement
 - New voting system standards/technologies
- Cyber security
 - Constantly changing environment/threats
- Funding
 - Special elections

4. History of Agency

- 1968 Independent agency created
- 1986 Implemented registration by mail
- 1992 State began running primaries
- 1995 Training and certification program
- 2004 Statewide voting system
- 2006 Instant runoff voting
- 2014 Candidate filing
- 2014 Supervisory/audit responsibilities over counties

5. Governing Body

- 5 members
- Appointed by the Governor
- Serves four year term or until successor is appointed
- At least one member of the majority political party
- At least one member of the largest minority political party

Commission Members

- Billy Way, Jr., Chairperson, Richland
- Marilyn Bowers, Pickens
- Mark A. Benson, Beaufort
- E. Allen Dawson, Charleston
- Nicole Spain White, Richland

Questions 7, 8 and 9

- Excel Spreadsheets:
 - Laws Chart
 - Deliverables Chart
 - Organizational Units Chart

Questions

