



AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION
1930 University Pkwy
March 2, 2026 5:30 pm
MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Gerry Owen Chairman, Tara Reeder Vice Chairman, Lori Boddy Secretary, Terri Dickert, David Nix, Linda Austell, Tricia Butler, Steve Amatangelo

Staff: Dana Burden, Rob Sims, Nathan Garner, Anthony Hicks, Kim Day, Sharon Shields

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Aiken County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was called to order by Mr Owen. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM. The invocation was given by Ms Terri Dickert and all joined in for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr Owen announced the newest appointed board member, Mr Steve Amatangelo and performed the swearing in. Mr Amatangelo provided a few words about himself and his background. Mr Amatangelo is the appointee of Mr Hartz.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented

Made by: L. Boddy

Seconded b: T. Reeder

Vote: Unanimous – all in favor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms Boddy stated that a typo was corrected and the N. Augusta section had a few wording changes with an updated version being sent out.

Motion: to approve the January February 2, 2026 meeting minutes

Made by: T. Butler

Seconded by: T. Reeder

Vote: Unanimous – all in favor

OLD BUSINESS

POLL WORKER PROCESS

Director Burden stated she currently had no updates for the month but would for next month.

2026 EARLY VOTING CENTERS

Director Burden confirmed the four Early Voting Centers for the June Primaries as: Couchton Baptist Church, Odell Weeks, North August Community Center and the Aiken County Voter Registration and Elections Office. Ms Boddy made some supportive comments about having an EVC in District 1 and asked people attending the meeting to help get the word out about these locations.

Mr Sims confirmed for the November election additionally the Jackson Town Hall, Mt Anna Baptist Church and the Langley Church of God would be EVCs making a total of 7.

The board agreed that 7 EVCs in November provided good coverage across the county. Director Burden stated the EVCs would need to be submitted to the SEC by 3/10/26 for approval. The following motion was made:

Motion: To accept the EVCs that have been presented by Director Burden so they may be submitted to the SEC.

Made by: D. Nix

Seconded by: T. Butler

Vote: Unanimous – all in favor

Director Burden responded to a request from the board regarding the general costs associated with EVCs. She clarified that the costs for the Primaries are paid for by the parties and for the General that some of the poll worker costs were reimbursable by the state. Costs for November EVCs include pay for 1 Poll Clerk and up to 10 Poll Managers, training, the PLT, truck rental and loaders/delivery. Director Burden has discussed the county EVC expenses with Mr Sanders and will be including the additional non-reimbursable expenses for 7 EVC in the upcoming budget request.

POLICY DOCUMENT

Two policy areas for audits and denied poll workers were discussed. Director Burden and the board engaged in conversations about SEC audit policies and approved examiners lists. The following audit policy was agreed upon.

Motion: To adopt a policy that in the future no board members, staff members or paid poll workers shall be allowed to be examiners in the Hand Count Audit process.

Made by: L. Boddy

Seconded by: D. Nix

Vote: Unanimous – all in favor

Director Burden brought up the topic of poll worker management, specifically the topic of handling denied poll workers and requested that Nathan be responsible for the day-to-day decisions with reporting or escalations to the board. She also requested all poll worker topics be discussed as personal matters in the future. Other related topics were discussed including an appeal process and whether personal records for poll workers could be stored in Integra. The board discussed this topic and agreed the Policy document should be updated. Ms Boddy suggested that she work with Director Burden to get

the Managers of Elections policies updated in the next version of the document prior to the next meeting.

Additionally, Mr Garner explained how poll worker applications were received through Integra and SCvotes.gov and being processed. Most applications were accepted.

VOTER EDUCATION

Director Burden provided details for how the elections department would be utilizing the county social platforms for June and November. Additionally, Mr Garner will be contacting location radio stations for public service announcements.

Ms Boddy inquired whether a small handout card could be created which could be brought to churches, functions, educational institutions, etc. that had information like the Integra recruitment QR code, "check your registration", EVC locations & dates, information on the county website and social media. Mr Garner stated he would look into this suggestion.

NORTH AUGUSTA ORDINANCE UPDATE

Director Burden provided an update and a lengthy conversation amongst the board followed. The conclusion is that whilst the second reading would be on 3/3, they would proceed with a municipal primary on June 9, 2026 and the municipal would be on November 3 2026. Aiken County legal council confirmed that the total authority for the election was transferred to the county board of voter registration for 2026, abolishing the MEC but this was only a temporary measure and would need to be readdressed in for future elections. Director Burden indicated she would be receiving the final versions of the N. Augusta ordinance, the Aiken County Agreement and the N. Augusta agreement and would forward them to the board.

NEW POLLING LOCATION FOR PRECINCTS 62 & 74

Director Burden stated a letter had been sent to the Legislative Delegation to officially move these precincts from the Warren Baptist in N. Augusta to the Belvedere Fire Department. Once she receives the approval, she will notify the board and notify voters and update VREMS. She stated that the cost to mail new cards to the voters is approximately \$1800.

Ms Boddy brought up concerns about Salley ADA non-compliances and concerns about the Courtney Center in Wagener #39, but Ms Burden advised the Delegation would need to approve changes, so the voting will remain as is. Ms Austell mentioned that there were ADA grants available if this could help make improvements to locations with non-compliances.

Ms Boddy indicated that the board member precinct assignments would be sent out to the board for review within 2 days.

NEW BUSINESS

CURBSIDE VOTING

Director Burden reported that the election staff had met with the county and traffic control to discuss improvements for the November election. She mentioned Powell security and Manpower staff will be utilized in the fall to help manage the traffic flow. These would not be uniformed individuals. Additionally, the county will be assisting in figuring out how to better manage changing traffic flows. More details will be shared closer to the election.

The board commented that the hope was that with the additional EVCs, hopefully the county building EVC could be offloaded.

Ms Austell shared comments regarding Emergency Response planning and Director Burden stated she would follow up to see if such a meeting could be set up.

MUNICIPALITY ORDINANCE COUNTY AGREEMENTS

Director Burden apprised the board of the new policy for any new ordinances to be sent to the county attorney so a draft agreement could be drafted and finalized. She also stated that after the General election, the election department would be going back to get draft agreements from all municipalities.

CANDIDATE FILING

Candidate filing opens 3/16 at noon and closes on 3/30 at noon. Mr Garner is managing this process and will be delivering all paperwork and money collected to the state level party headquarters on 3/31/26.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Directors report is attached.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

The board members share positive comments and thanked the election office for all of the great work. The secretary agreed to make policy document updates from the meeting and get that out to the board for a final review and email approval prior to the next meeting. Ms Reeder graciously has offered to print copies of the updated document.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms Shields provided supportive comments about the SCARE conference and that as of recently, the entire department is SEC certified!

Motion: To adjourn into Exec for personal matters

Made by: D. Nix

Seconded by: L. Austell

Vote: Unanimous – all in favor Exec Session started at 6:30 pm

Motion: To return from Exec Session at 7:41 pm

Made by: T. Dickert

Seconded by: L. Austell

Vote: Unanimous – all in favor

No decisions were made and no votes were taken.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: L. Boddy

Seconded by: T. Reeder

Vote: Unanimous – all in favor The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Boddy, Board Secretary: _____

AIKEN COUNTY BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
LOCATION: AIKEN COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING, SANDLAPPER ROOM
March 2, 2026 5:30 PM
BOARD MEETING AGENDA

1) Call to Order

2) Invocation

3) Pledge of Allegiance

4) Swearing in of New Board Member, Steven Amatangelo

5) Approval of Agenda

6) Approval of Minutes 02/02/26

7) Old Business

Poll Worker Process

2026 Early Voting Centers -see handout

Submission of EVC's to SEC, workers, and cost updates

Updates to Policy Document i.e. Audits and poll worker denials

EVC voter education

North Augusta ordinance update

Precincts 62/74 polling location update

8) New Business

Curbside voting planning

Statewide Primary updates/concerns/etc

No RLAs for elections in 2026 per State Election Commission

Municipality Ordinances with County Agreements

Candidate Filing

9) Board Comments

10) Public Comments

11) Executive Session

Employment Matters

12) Adjournment

Director's Report March 2, 2026

Hello everyone!! It's hard to believe that we are already in March! Once filing begins this month, we will be jumping until after the November General!! I'm excited that we have a new board member, Mr. Steven Amatangelo. Welcome, sir!! You will find a bunch of great people here who truly love what we do and aim to not just hit the standard, but be the standard for a great election office. And by the way, I really enjoyed SCARE and getting to spend time with you all outside of our norm. Maybe we should try it here sometime! So here is what we've been working on this month:

1. Rob, Anthony, and I met with Paige Bayne, Director of Code Enforcement for Aiken County. We discussed options for traffic control for curbside voting in June and November. Currently, Aiken County uses Powell Security for all events, meetings, etc. that needs security. We had code enforcement directing traffic in 2024, but had a voter complain so they were pulled from traffic control duty per Brian Sanders. This essentially means that we will have to pay for unarmed, non-uniformed LEO traffic control. I have been talking with Brian Sanders about the cost associated with this due to how many we need, according to the number Paige and my team came up with. I will keep you posted. This cost will have to be put in the FY27 budget.
2. And speaking of budget, Rob and I have been working hard on this. I am teaching him how to come up with amounts for line items. This is a long and tedious process. I will have more for you next month. Our soft date for it to be turned in is March 9.
3. Couchton Baptist Church has agreed to let us use their facility for Early Voting for June and November elections!
4. My team and I have held many meetings this month, trying to make sure we have covered all of the bases for June Primaries. Nathan has begun working on poll worker recruitment, trucks are rented, schedules are in place for early vote delivery and pickup, election day delivery and pickup, number of warehouse workers and their pay has been fine-tuned, and ideas launched for smoother overall election process. One thing we will add this year is giving board members more supplies that clerks typically run out of so that we can use you all to deliver them, which will free up PLT's to do machine work. We are working on a list now for what we would like you to have.
5. North Augusta agreement from the county has had it's first reading. There are some things that Brad Farrar, our County Attorney, wanted changed in the ordinance. I'm waiting on their City Clerk to confirm these changes have been made and that the ordinance passes.
6. 62/74 still has no resolution as of this moment. I have been in constant talks with Bill Hixon and Tom Young, but nothing has been finalized. There aren't a lot of options, but rest assured we are working diligently on this and I will update you as soon as I know something.

7. At one of our office staff meetings, one of my team members suggested maybe having a Board Volunteer Day on a regular basis where any board members can come and help out around the office, or just have a lunch day for everyone. We want to keep this momentum going of the board and the office working together as one team! We are all in this together!

8. I have a list of dates for you that include election and certification dates, as well as primary workshop date. They have not let us start signing up for it yet, but as soon as the State does, I will pass that information along.

9. We had one clerk go in January for the State Certified Poll Clerk Training, and we have one going in March. Nathan has done a fantastic job of organizing this.

10. Sharon and Kim are working hard on getting the front office organized and ready for candidate filing, absentee, and all things voter registration! This will be our first statewide election since bringing absentee inhouse. It will be trial and error but we are off to a great start! Sharon is coming up with a system that works for her, and that works for me!

11. We will have 4 extra employees in the front for the Primary. Two USCA students, and two manpower employees. We will also have 2 warehouse workers helping Anthony program and get all of the voting equipment ready.

12. SCARE was great. I personally felt that we showed up as a team and it was a great bonding experience for all of us. If I had to choose the most important thing I took away from the conference, it was that this county, and this state, are heading in the right direction for elections that are ran with integrity and transparency.

As you can see, we are gearing up and getting ready. I feel as though we are way ahead of the ballgame at this point and confident that we will finish that way. Thank you all for your support!

Dana Burden

Important Dates

04/14/26 Special Election Wagener

04/16/26 9:00 AM Provisional Ballot Hearing and Certification (Elections Office)

04/22/26 TBA Board Member Primary Workshop (Columbia-TBD)

05/12/26 Windsor Municipal General Election

05/14/26 9:00 AM Provisional Ballot Hearing and Certification (Elections Office)

06/09/26 Statewide Primary

06/10/26 9:00 AM Hand Count Audit (Elections Office)

06/11/26 9:00 AM Provisional Ballot Hearing and Certification (Sandlapper)

11/03/26 General Election Day

11/04/26 9:00 AM Hand Count Audit (Elections Office)

11/05/26 9:00 AM Provisional Ballot Hearing and Certification (Sandlapper)