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SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION COMMISSION



ANNUAL REPORT 1985-1986

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State Budget And Control Board

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STATE DOCUMENTS

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION COMMISSION MEMBERS

Approved by the Governor

C. TYRONE GILMORE, Chairman (1985)
Spartanburg, S.C.

3049

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Columbia, S.C., June 1986

To His Excellency, Richard W. Riley, and the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

In accordance with law, we are privileged to submit to you the thirteenth Annual Report of the State Election Commission. This report includes information and data concerning the activities and operation of the Commission for the period of July 1, 1985 - June 30, 1986.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman
Sylvia Schwartz
Neal D. Thigpen
Margaret S. Townsend
C. D. Sexton
Commissioners

JAMES F. HENDRIX
Assistant Director
Staff Development and Training

CONWAY BELANGIA
Public Information Officer

NANCY FOSTER
Administrative Specialist C

BLONDELL M. MONTAGUE
Data Coordinator II

BARBARA GIBSON
Accounting Technician II

WANDA Q. MILLS
Data Entry Supervisor I

JOYCE D. BENJAMIN
Data Entry Operator II

EMMIT DOUGLAS RILEY
Postal Clerk

DONNA GIUGLIANO
Executive Support Specialist

FAYE L. CARTER
Administrative Assistant I

DONNA RUMPH
Administrative Specialist A

KATHLEEN PATTERSON
Administrative Specialist A

KAREN HODGES
Data Entry Operator II

C. STANLEY HARRIS
Postal Center Supervisor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Letter of Transmittal	1
Names and Title of Commission Members	3
Commission Staff	3
History of the Agency	4
Statutory Authority of the Agency	4
Organization of the Agency	4
Organizational Chart	6
Summary of Expenditures	7
Minutes of the Meetings of the State Board of Canvassers	8
Certification By Board of Canvassers	26
Returns by District, County and Precinct for Special Elections:	
House of Representatives, District 13 Held on June 25, 1985	28
House of Representatives, District 99 Held on June 25, 1985	28
State Senate, District 19 Held on November 5, 1985	29
House of Representatives, District 73 Held on March 11, 1986	30
Publications and Training Aids of the State Election Commission	31

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION COMMISSION MEMBERS

Appointed by the Governor

C. TYRONE GILMORE, Chairman (1988)
Spartanburg, S.C.

SYLVIA SCHWARTZ (1988)
Aiken, S.C.

NEAL D. THIGPEN (1986)
Florence, S.C.

MARGARET S. TOWNSEND (1986)
Charleston, S.C.

C. D. SEXTON (1986)
Columbia, S.C.

STAFF

JAMES B. ELLISOR
Executive Director

JAMES F. HENDRIX
Assistant Director
Staff Development and Training

CONWAY BELANGIA
Public Information Officer

NANCY FOSTER
Administrative Specialist C

BLONDELL M. MONTAGUE
Data Coordinator II

BARBARA GIBSON
Accounting Technician II

WANDA Q. MILLS
Data Entry Supervisor I

JOYCE D. BENJAMIN
Data Entry Operator II

EMMIT DOUGLAS RILEY
Postal Clerk

ANN C. WOLFE
Senior Accountant

MARCIA ANDINO
Programmer-Analyst

DONNA GIUGLIANO
Executive Support Specialist

FAYE L. CARTER
Administrative Assistant I

DONNA RUMPH
Administrative Specialist A

KATHLEEN PATTERSON
Administrative Specialist A

KAREN HODGES
Data Entry Operator II

C. STANLEY HARRIS
Postal Center Supervisor

HISTORY OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

The State Election Commission became a separate state agency on January 1, 1969. It had formerly functioned as a division of the office of Secretary of State. It was the feeling of the General Assembly that voter registration and the administration of elections were matters that should be removed from possible influence of partisan, elected officials and placed under the custody of a nonelected bipartisan board or commission. By the law which created the Election Commission, it was required that the Commission be composed of at least one member of the majority political party represented in the General Assembly and at least one member of the largest minority political party represented in the General Assembly.

The State Election Commission operates under authority granted by 1968 Act No. 955, which is codified as Title 7, Section 3-10 et.seq., of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

I. ADMINISTRATION

The functions of the Election Commission are administered as a five-member commission, which meets monthly in Columbia, and by an executive director who is the chief administrative officer of the agency. Policy, procedures and rules governing the various functions of the Commission are set by the election commissioners and carried out by the executive director. The executive director employs and maintains a competent working staff to assist him in carrying out his duties. During statewide general election years, it is necessary to employ additional personnel in order to carry out the increased responsibilities of the Election Commission at that time.

The Election Commission also considers and recommends changes in the Registration and Election laws to the General Assembly.

II. CENTRAL VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM

The Election Commission is the coordinating center of South Carolina's computerized system of voter registration. All forty-six (46) counties report new registrations and registration changes to the Central Office, where a computer file is built and from which are printed new lists of registered voters for every election that is held in the State: statewide, countywide, municipal or other. This system is responsible for removing from the rolls of voters those persons who have died, moved, been convicted of certain crimes or otherwise become ineligible as electors.

In this regard, reports must be obtained from other federal, state and local agencies and compared with the computer files. Detailed records and statistics are maintained on the number of registered voters in each county and precinct of South Carolina. Biannually, voters who have failed to vote in at least one election in a two year period are removed from the list of active voters and placed in an inactive file.

Twelve counties have direct access to the Central Registration files to allow for input of new voters and also to allow status checks for voters who could have registered in another county. This process has performed well during the short time of use. The counties have found the direct link useful and time saving in the printing and distributing of voter registration notification material.

All forms and materials used for voter registration by the Central Office and the County Boards of Registration are printed and paid for by the Election Commission. The Central Office also provides, as a public service, the sale of precinct lists of registered voters at a reasonable cost to any registered elector.

III. AID TO COUNTIES

The Election Commission is charged by law with the responsibility of disbursing, to all counties, a state supplemental appropriation to aid in keeping the Board of Registration office open during normal courthouse hours. The amount received by the counties is based upon their respective populations.

IV. ELECTIONS

A. Office of Elections

The State Election Commission is the chief election officer for the conduct of general and special elections.

This office prints and distributes for statewide general election and countywide special elections all ballots, forms and other materials necessary to conduct such elections for Presidential Electors, State Officers, United States Senators, Members of Congress and Constitutional Amendments.

B. State Board of Canvassers

After the conclusion of state and county general elections, the five commissioners of the Election Commission act as the State Board of Canvassers. The Board certifies the results of elections and hears appeals and protests arising in such elections.

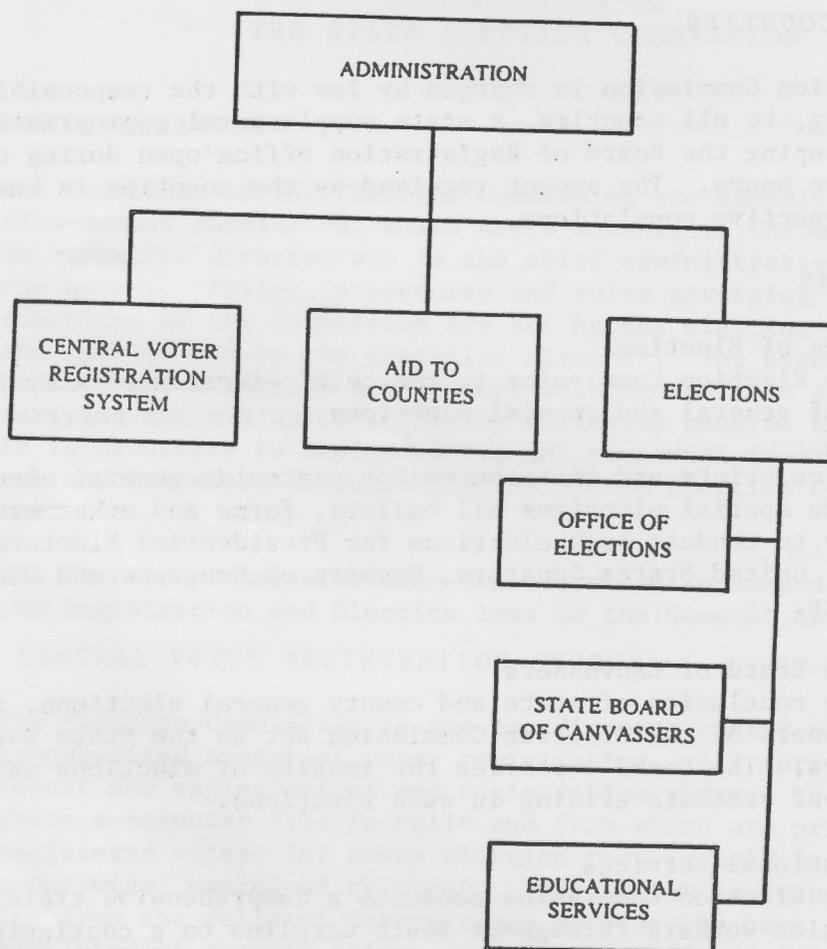
C. Educational Services

The State Election Commission conducts a comprehensive training program for election workers throughout South Carolina on a continuing basis and provides needed information to members of the public concerning election procedures in their State. A variety of election statistics regarding South Carolina's elections are also compiled and available upon request of interested individuals.

Educational Services conducted a statewide training program for poll Managers working in the General Election. This program was aired to the Managers at selected sites throughout the State via the Educational Television Network's closed circuit lines. Special telephone lines and talkback facilities provided by ETV were utilized to answer any manager's questions on the air. Almost all of the managers working in the General Election took part in this training program.

Charleston, Cherokee, Horry, Richland, Spartanburg, Beaufort, Aiken, Anderson, Greenville and Sumter counties continue to implement their in-county poll manager training programs. It is hoped that other counties will begin year round training in the near future.

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION



STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

Meeting - July 2, 1985

MINUTES

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mrs. Sylvia Schwartz;
Mr. C.D. Sexton; Dr. Neal Thigpen; and Mr. James
B. Ellisor, Executive Director

Mr. Gilmore called the meeting of the State Election Commission
to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections
to the Minutes of the last meeting. There being no changes,
the Minutes were approved.

There being no present business to discuss the Commission
set the next meeting for August 13, 1985 at 12:00 and adjourned
the meeting to resolve themselves into the State Board of
Canvassers.

Meeting - August 13, 1985

MINUTES

Present: C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mrs. Sylvia
Schwartz; Mr. C.D. Sexton

Mr. Gilmore called the meeting of the State Election
Commission to order and asked if there were any corrections
or additions to the Minutes of the last meeting. No changes
were made to the Minutes and they were approved as
submitted.

The first item on the agenda was to discuss the 1986-1987
pre-budget request. Mrs. Ann Wolfe, Senior Accountant, was
present and presented the budget request which was approved
by the commissioners.

Mr. Gilmore requested that a list of all positions within
the State Election Commission and the functions of those
positions be available for the next Commission meeting. Mr.
Gilmore also requested a list of positions, with
descriptions, that are needed within the State Election
Commission.

The next item on the agenda was the Agency Head Performance Appraisal for the year 1984-1985. Mr. Gilmore met with Mr. Ellisor on July 30, 1985 to fill out the appraisal form as requested by the Commission at it's meeting in July. The appraisal was presented to the Commission today and approved with few changes.

The Commissioners were given a copy of the 1985-1986 Agency Head Performance Appraisal Planning Document, also prepared by Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Ellisor on July 30, 1985, to work with during the upcoming year and assist with the 1985-1986 appraisal due in August 1986.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the State Election Commission was set for September 17, 1985, at 12:00 noon.

Meeting - September 17, 1985

MINUTES

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mrs. Margaret Townsend; Mr. C. D. Sexton; Dr. Neal Thigpen; Mr. James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

Mr. Gilmore called the meeting of the State Election Commission to order and asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Minutes of the last meeting. There being no objections, the Minutes were accepted as submitted.

Mr. Gilmore advised that he had submitted the executive director's evaluation and had received a response from the Budget and Control Board which he would discuss with the members at the close of the meeting.

Mr. Gilmore told the Commissioners that Mr. Jack Casey, who represents Shouptronic Voting Equipment, was visiting with them today and would like to speak with the Commissioners.

Mr. Ellisor advised that we had appeared before the State Budget and Control Board and presented our budget request for additional increases as previously approved by the Commission, one of which was to create a fund to purchase a statewide unified system of voting. He advised that, while we were favorably received by the Board, they were non-committal to our requests for other than election expense funds. The Budget and Control Board discussed the possibility of computer run elections and asked numerous questions concerning the pros and cons of such a system.

Mr. Casey said basically that he came today to find out if the Commission had pinpointed a particular voting system for statewide use in South Carolina.

Mr. Gilmore advised that what the Commission has tried to do is to give all companies the opportunity to present their equipment to the Commission. No official decision has been made by the commission toward any particular piece of equipment that would be recommended for statewide use.

Mr. Casey and the Commission discussed the problems we face in getting the concept of computer run elections and the necessary financial backing to institute such a system statewide approved by the legislature.

Mr. Casey advised that his company is conducting an election in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and invited the members of the Commission to view the election.

Mr. Gilmore thanked Mr. Casey for coming and for his invitation to view the Harrisburg election; however, due to budgetary limitations, the Commission would have to decline his invitation. Mr. Gilmore assured Mr. Casey that whenever the time comes for the commission to select a system, he will be given an opportunity to present his equipment again to the Commission.

Mr. Ellisor brought the Commissioners up-to-date on the progress being made toward getting legislation passed. He advised that the first step will be to get the organization in place to institute such a system. The second step will be to get the county boards of registration and county election commissions combined and to obtain funds to provide adequate office space, which would be designed to provide security and storage space, for the combined boards. It would be a mistake to proceed any further with legislation for state run primaries or computer run elections until we have the necessary expertise in place. After the boards are combined, the next steps would be registration by mail, state run primaries, and then proceed with legislation to provide a unified system of voting statewide.

Mr. Ellisor advised that the Election Law Study Committee is reconstituted and operating. The members of the Committee are:

Governor Appointees:	Ed Poliaokoff
	Betty Moore, Spartanburg
	Mickey Miller, Charleston
	Adelle Adams, NAACP

Senate Appointees: Don Holland, Kershaw
John Matthews, Orangeburg
Liz Patterson, Spartanburg
Joe Wilson, Lexington

House Appointees: Palmer Freeman, York
Dan Martin, Charleston
Tim Brett, Greenville
T. W. Edwards, Spartanburg

Mr. Ellisor said that the Election Law Study Committee as a whole is in unanimous agreement that the strategy outlined above is the best way to proceed. The next meeting of the Election Law Study Committee will be held on Tuesday,

September 24, 1985 at 3:00 pm. Any member of the Election Commission is welcome to attend.

The next meeting of the State Election Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 1985 at 12:00 noon.

Meeting - October 21, 1985

MINUTES

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mrs. Sylvia Schwartz; Dr. Neal Thigpen; Mr. James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

Mr. Gilmore called the meeting of the State Election Commission to order and asked if there were any corrections to be made to the Minutes of the last meeting. No changes were made and the Minutes were approved as submitted.

Mr. Ellisor read aloud a report submitted by Captain Leon Gasque of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division concerning an investigation by SLED into allegations made by a witness in the House District 95 protest held on November 27, 1984. During the hearing Joanne Black testified that voters in Orangeburg Suburban No.2, a split precinct, were intentionally given the wrong ballot and, therefore, voted in the wrong house district. In the Order for this protest, handed down by the State Board of Canvassers, SLED was requested to conduct an investigation into this matter and bring charges against anyone if guilty of this allegation. The report submitted by SLED showed that an investigation had been conducted and no prosecutions were justified.

Mr. Gilmore made a motion that this report be placed in the House District 95 protest file and that the records reflect that the investigation requested in the Order has been completed with no prosecutions made. The motion was seconded and approved by those present.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commission that there would be an Election Law Study Committee meeting on October 22 which he and Mr. Hendrix would attend. He said that he believes the Committee will make recommendations to combine the state run primary bill with the combination of boards bill and push for passage of this bill along with the bill on registration by mail.

Mr. Ellisor told the Commission that the election for Senate District 19 would be held on November 5, 1985 and the State Board of Canvassers would need to meet as soon as possible after that date in order to certify the results of the election. The Commission agreed to meet on November 12 at 12:00 noon to canvass these results and also hold the monthly Commission meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting - November 12, 1985

M I N U T E S

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mrs. Sylvia Schwartz; Mr. James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

Mr. Gilmore called the meeting of the State Election Commission to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made to the Minutes of the last meeting. There were no changes to be made and the Minutes were approved as submitted.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commissioners that even though only two Commissioners were present they could still officially hold the monthly meeting but could not vote on any matters.

Mr. Ellisor gave each Commissioner a copy of a letter from Governor Riley and also one from the Budget and Control Board concerning State employees pay proposals for 1986-87. Governor Riley submitted an incentive pay plan to the Budget and Control Board which they slightly altered and approved for recommendation to the General Assembly this year.

The plan states that all employees should receive an average annual increase of 4 to 5 percent with the possibility of up to an additional 8 to 10 percent based on the employee's actual performance. Agency heads have been recommended to receive an across the board increase of 6 percent with an additional 1 to 8 percent increase depending upon the recommendations of the Agency Head Performance Appraisal Commission.

Mr. Ellisor told the Commission that he would be attending a meeting on November 20 with the Ways and Means Subcommittee concerning approval of the budget for the Election Commission. The budget has been approved by the Budget and Control Board and an additional \$100,000 was put in the budget for the Election Commission to use as needed for the 1986 general election. Mr. Ellisor also plans to talk to the members of the subcommittee about creating a fund for an automated statewide voting system. Mr. Ellisor's suggestion is that they create this fund and put as much money as possible into it every year until there is enough to purchase a statewide voting system.

The Commissioners agreed with Mr. Ellisor's suggestion and fully support the idea.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned and the next meeting for the State Election was set for December 17, 1985 at 12:00 noon.

M I N U T E S

Meeting - December 17, 1985

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mrs. Sylvia Schwartz; Dr. Neal Thigpen; and James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

Mr. Gilmore called the meeting of the State Election Commission to order and asked if there were any additions or deletions to be made to the Minutes of the last meeting. There being no changes, the Minutes were approved as submitted.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commission that the Election Law Study Committee would be meeting on January 7, 1986 at 10:30 in room 209 of the Blatt building. He said that the Committee will be discussing the legislation concerning state run primaries and the combination of boards.

Mr. Ellisor reminded the Commissioners that there will be a S.C.A.R.E. convention at Hilton Head Island on January 19 - 22, 1986 and all Commissioners are invited to come.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned and the next meeting was scheduled for January 14, 1986 at 12:00 noon.

MINUTES

Meeting - January 14, 1986

Present: Mrs. Margaret Townsend; Dr. Neal Thigpen; Mr. C. D. Sexton;
and James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

Mrs. Townsend brought the meeting of the State Election Commission to order and asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the Minutes of the last meeting. No changes were made and the Minutes were approved as submitted.

Mr. Ellisor had several items to discuss with the Commission, the first of which concerned two articles published in a Columbia newspaper concerning the race for Secretary of State. In the articles Mr. James E. Clyburn, a Democratic candidate for this race, states that the constitution gives the Secretary of State authority over elections but that an Election Commission was established by the former Secretary of State because he did not want to handle the duties relating to elections. Mr. Ellisor expressed his concern because these statements are very untrue and may cause some problems for the Commission, as well as the candidate, during the upcoming campaign process.

Mrs. Townsend suggested that the Commission write Mr. Clyburn as soon as possible and inform him that the Secretary of State has no authority over elections.

The Commissioners discussed this matter and agreed that Mr. Ellisor should call Mr. Gilmore, who was unable to attend the meeting, and ask him if he would either write Mr. Clyburn or call him personally concerning this matter. Mr. Ellisor agreed and said that he would call Mr. Gilmore after the meeting and discuss the matter with him.

The second item Mr. Ellisor mentioned concerned a state employee performance pay plan discussed at the agency director's conference in December which Mr. Ellisor attended. The pay plan would increase the salaries of all agency heads by six percent, not to exceed the maximum of the salary range; provide an additional increase of zero to eight percent to be given to agency heads to be determined by the Executive Salary and Performance Evaluation Commission; and increase the minimum for any agency head whose salary is still below the minimum. The plan will also allow agencies to give their employees raises from zero to eight percent based on the employee's performance appraisal; position of his salary on his current salary range; and other considerations of equitable and fair compensation.

Mr. Ellisor expressed his support of this plan and feels it will give the employees an incentive to do a better job. The Commissioners agreed with Mr. Ellisor and expressed their support also.

The third item Mr. Ellisor mentioned was concerning the Budget and Control Board's decision this past week to reduce every state agency's budget by 2%. Two agencies were excluded from this reduction. The budget of the State Election Commission was reduced by \$24,656. Mr. Ellisor told the Commission that he and Mrs. Wolfe reviewed the budget and found several areas which could be cut to total the 2% without interfering with the operation of the Election Commission.

The fourth item introduced was a copy of a bill drafted by Senator Lourie, Richland County, which he plans to introduce in the General Assembly which convenes today. This legislation would provide for a code of fair campaign practices. Mr. Ellisor said that if this bill becomes law it will put a great deal of responsibility on the State Election Commission and additional employees may be needed. Mr. Ellisor supports this legislation fully and hopes that the Commission will also. Mr. Ellisor said he would like to write Senator Lourie and give him the Commission's comments about this legislation.

Mrs. Townsend asked that the Commissioners take the draft home and review it which would give them time to think it over and give their comments.

Mr. Ellisor told the Commission that the Election Law Study Committee met last week and unanimously approved the state run primary bill. They did not, however, amend the bill to add in the combination of boards but Senator Holland promised that he would ask that the combination of boards bill be merged with the state run primary bill when it is brought up. Mr. Ellisor is quite concerned about the legislature approving one bill without approving the other because it will be hard for the Commission to conduct the primaries without additional personnel and money. It will take a great deal of time to train personnel, change programs in the computer, create new forms, etc., in order to run a smooth election. Mr. Ellisor would like for the General Assembly to approve the state run primary and combination of boards legislation and make it effective July 1, 1987. This would allow plenty of time for preparation of the 1988 primaries and the additional money would not have to be budgeted until the 1987-88 budget is prepared.

Mr. Ellisor presented a letter from the Human Service Employees Registration and Voter Education Campaign, which was forwarded to the Commission by the Secretary of State, asking that an Executive Order be issued to all state agencies to provide voter registration services to members of the public who receive their services. After discussing the subject the Commissioners agreed not to support the idea because it would probably cause too many problems for other state agencies and South Carolina already has a great deal of deputy registrars working outside of the voter registration office. Mr. Ellisor also mentioned that the registration by mail bill should pass the General Assembly this year and this would help considerably in registering voters.

A letter from Safety Belts for South Carolina was received by Mr. Ellisor asking that the State Election Commission join it's organization. The mission of this organization is to increase public awareness of the effectiveness of safety belts as a lifesaving device, and support legislation which would require everyone in South Carolina to wear their seat belts. The Commissioners discussed this matter and unanimously agreed not to support this organization but to complete and return the questionnaire which was mailed with the letter. It was felt that a mandatory seat belt law was highly controversial and not a part of the responsibilities of the agency.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned and the next meeting for the State Election Commission was scheduled for February 18, 1986 at 12:00 noon.

Meeting - February 18, 1986

MINUTES

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mrs. Margaret Townsend; Dr. Neal Thigpen; Mrs. Sylvia Schwartz; and Mr. James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

Mr. Gilmore called the meeting of the State Election Commission to order and asked if there were any corrections to be made to the Minutes of the last meeting. No corrections were made to the Minutes and they were approved as submitted.

Mr. Gilmore said that he had talked to Mr. James Clyburn pursuant to a discussion by the Commission at the last meeting concerning Mr. Clyburn's campaign to run for Secretary of State in the upcoming primary. Mr. Gilmore told Mr. Clyburn that certain statements he has been making concerning the responsibilities of the Secretary of State's office concerning elections are not accurate but Mr. Clyburn continues to believe that he is correct in his understanding of this position.

Mr. Ellisor said that in an article in the Palmetto Post Mr. Clyburn is quoted as saying that the Secretary of State has certain constitutional responsibilities concerning the conduct of elections and the previous Secretary of State did not exercise these responsibilities which is why the State Election Commission was created. Mr. Ellisor was working for the Secretary of State at the time the State Election Commission was created and knows for a fact that that is not what happened. The State Election Commission was created by the Legislature in order to have a by-partisan Commission that would oversee the election laws which are established by the Legislature. When the Commission was created, the former Secretary of State tried to become a member of the Commission because he did not want the responsibilities taken from his office.

Mrs. Schwartz asked what constitutional responsibilities the Secretary of State's office has over elections and Mr. Ellisor informed her that the Secretary of State has never had any constitutional responsibilities concerning elections. With this in mind, along with other discussion, the Commission agreed that Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Ellisor together should meet with Mr. Clyburn concerning the situation. Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Ellisor agreed and said that they would set up a meeting after the Commission meeting was over.

At the last Commission meeting the Commissioners were given a copy of a bill introduced by Senator Lourie which would establish a Code of Fair Campaign Practices. The bill would provide that any individual who wishes to make a complaint against a candidate concerning alleged violations by that candidate, or his organization, during the election process, would make that complaint to the State Election Commission who would investigate the complaint and conduct a hearing on the matter, if needed, to determine if the Code had been violated.

The Commissioners discussed the bill and decided to follow it's progress in the General Assembly very closely.

Mr. Ellisor said that at the last Senate Judiciary Committee meeting a number of bills were voted out favorably. The registration by mail bill was on the agenda but was carried over and not discussed. Mr. Ellisor spoke to the chairman of the Election Law Study Committee and asked to have a special day set aside to vote on the three major election bills - registration by mail, combination of boards and state run primaries. The chairman agreed and will attempt to have a day set aside for these bills before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Mr. Ellisor said that these bills need to be passed as soon as possible because if they fail during this legislative session they will die and will have to be started over again next year in the House.

A few of the minor bills that were voted out were de-certification of political parties - which would allow the State to de-certify any political party that discontinues all duties for the period of two general elections, curbside voting - to bring us into compliance with the Federal Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, permanent absentee registration and administrative challenge of a vote - which would allow the boards of registration to notify the election commissions if a person who voted a challenged ballot actually lived at another address and is not otherwise disqualified.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commission of a project that he has been working on which may enable several counties to obtain automated voting equipment for use in the 1986 general election. Partial funding for a pilot project would come from the State and the county would be responsible for the balance. Mr. Ellisor has talked with Comptroller General Earle Morris and he is very enthusiastic and supportive of this project. The two counties being discussed for the project are Anderson and Abbeville. Mr. Ellisor feels that it would be a good idea to have one large county (Anderson) and one small county (Abbeville) considered for such a project. Mr. Ellisor has met with the Anderson County Council concerning this project and they are very enthusiastic about it.

Senator Powell is also enthusiastic about it and is working toward getting Abbeville County involved also. Mr. Ellisor told the Commission that if they approve he will set up a meeting with the Budget and Control Board and present this pilot project to them for their approval.

The Commission gave their full support of this idea and agreed that Mr. Ellisor should pursue this project further.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commission that he was planning a series of meetings with the county registration boards during the month of April. In the past, all members of the county registration boards have come to Columbia for a Spring meeting where new legislation and problems concerning elections were discussed. This year Mr. Ellisor would like to hold several regional meetings throughout the State and involve several counties in each meeting. He feels that this will be more effective and also cut down costs. There will also be an in-house training seminar in the Columbia office in March for recently appointed clerks and members of the county registration boards to help them learn responsibilities of the board and answer any questions they might have.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the State Election Commission was set for March 18, 1986 at 12:00 noon at which time the State Board of Canvassers will also meet to certify the results of the House District 73 election to be held on March 11, 1986.

Meeting - March 18, 1986

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Margaret Townsend; Mrs. Sylvia Schwartz; Dr. Neal Thigpen; Mr. C. D. Sexton; and James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

Mrs. Townsend brought the meeting of the State Election Commission to order and asked if any corrections or additions needed to be made to the Minutes of the last meeting. Other than one typographical error, no corrections were made and the Minutes were approved as submitted.

Mrs. Townsend asked Mr. Ellisor to inform the Commission of the outcome of a meeting that he and Mr. Gilmore had with Mr. James Clyburn pursuant to a request by the Commission at it's last meeting.

Mr. Ellisor told the Commission that the meeting went very well and Mr. Clyburn informed them that it was not his intention to make the State Election Commission an issue in his campaign for Secretary of State. He does not intend to try and bring the responsibilities of the State Election Commission under the office of the Secretary of State if he is elected to that office in November. Mr. Clyburn told Mr. Ellisor and Mr. Gilmore that he feels there is a lack of leadership by the present Secretary of State in election matters and his intention is to make the public aware of this.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commission of a meeting he had with the State Budget and Control Board on February 28 concerning the pilot project discussed at the last meeting which would enable several counties to obtain electronic voting equipment for use in the 1986 general election. The Budget and Control Board did not approve this project at the meeting; it referred the matter to the Election Law Study Committee for approval or disapproval of this pilot project. Since the meeting with the Budget and Control Board, Mr. Ellisor has met with the Election Law Study Committee and the Committee approved the project and forwarded notification of their approval to the Budget and Control Board. Mr. Ellisor told the Commission that he plans to work very hard toward getting this project approved.

Mr. Ellisor told the Commission that the Governor signed several bills concerning elections this week; 1) decertification of political parties; 2) a bill which requires candidates for all offices, including less than countywide to submit petitions on August 1 for certification; 3) a bill which would revise the application for voter registration to remove the section that says a person has to be able to read and write; 4) permit political parties to reorganize the year before the general election; and 5) change the voting hours to 7:00 am until 7:00 pm rather than the present 8:00 am until 7:00 pm.

Mr. Ellisor told the Commission that the Senate Judiciary Committee has agreed to put the state run primary bill, and the combination of boards bill at the top of the agenda for it's meeting on April 1, 1986.

Mr. Sexton asked that Mr. Ellisor provide the Commissioners with a copy of the list of members on the Senate Judiciary Committee in order that they might contact these members and speak to them about the importance of these bills.

Mr. Ellisor said that the pay raise for State employees and agency heads does not look very encouraging this year. The House of Representatives has recently agreed to a 3% overall raise for all employees; however, this figure could change before the budget is approved by the General Assembly.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned and the next meeting of the State Election Commission was set for April 22, 1986 at 12:00 noon.

Meeting - April 22, 1986

MINUTES

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mr. C. D. Sexton; Mrs. Sylvia Schwartz; and James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

Mr. Gilmore brought the meeting of the State Election Commission to order and asked if there were any corrections to be made to the Minutes of the last meeting. There were no changes and the Minutes were approved as submitted.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commission that the state run primary bill is still in the Senate Judiciary Committee which meets today and hopefully this bill will be voted out at that time.

Mr. Gilmore asked Mr. Ellisor to inform the Commission of the progress and outcome of the regional seminars which the Election Commission is conducting throughout the State for county registration boards in order to make them aware of changes in legislation and election procedures. Mr. Ellisor informed them that two meetings have been held, one in Clinton and one in Columbia, and two more meetings would be held on April 23 and 24 respectively. Of the two meetings held so far the response has been excellent. The groups are smaller which allows those in attendance to participate more and receive better individual attention as opposed to the seminars in the past when all counties in the State would meet at one time.

Mr. Gilmore also asked Mr. Ellisor if the Election Commission was doing anything to help the counties alleviate some of the problems incurred in the past when printing ballots for the general election. Mr. Ellisor told him that a meeting was held in Columbia several weeks ago for the counties to meet with representatives from the different voting machine companies. At this meeting each county was able to speak with the representatives for the company which manufactures the type of voting equipment used in their county and work with them on solving problems. A users group was also formed at the meeting and the Election Commission plans to work closely with them on preparing ballots for the general election.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting for the State Election Commission was set for May 20, 1986 at 12:00 noon.

Meeting - May 20, 1986

MINUTES

Present: Mrs. Margaret Townsend; Mrs. Sylvia Schwartz; Dr. Neal Thigpen; Mr. C. D. Sexton; and James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

Mrs. Townsend brought the meeting of the State Election Commission to order and asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the Minutes of the last meeting. There being no changes, the Minutes were approved as submitted.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commission that the Senate was in the process of debating the appropriations bill and has recommended that agency heads receive a 6% across the board pay raise and other State employees receive a 3% across the board pay raise. The Senate also recommended that merit raises for agency heads be reinstated which would allow for as much as a 13% raise for agency heads based upon their performance and present salaries.

Mr. Ellisor told the Commission that he feels the state run primary bill will not pass during this legislative session but plans to start the process over again of getting this bill passed during the next session.

The registration by mail bill has been sent to a conference committee in order to work out problems concerning the bill in hopes that it can be passed before the end of the legislative session.

Mr. Ellisor said that he does not know of any issues that will be on the ballot for the November 4, 1986 general election.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commission that last year the U. S. Congress passed the Elderly and Handicapped Accessibility Act which requires all voting places and registration sites to be accessible by the physically handicapped and elderly. If the registration by mail bill passes it will alleviate the problem of making the registration sites accessible and a bill has been proposed which would call for permanent absentee ballot registration. This bill would allow curbside voting by the elderly and handicapped. The House attached an amendment to this bill which would provide for a special blank absentee ballot whereby a person can apply for a ballot as early as 90 days prior to an election for Federal, Senate, House of Representatives, and statewide offices and receive a blank ballot to fill in and return in time for the election. This will be very valuable for military and overseas citizens.

The Justice Department has given it's approval to remove the sentence on the registration form which states that a person has to read and write to vote. They also gave approval for the polls to be open from 7 am until 7pm during any election.

Mr. Ellisor told the Commission he is still working very hard on the statewide electronic voting system. He received a letter from the Budget and Control Board stating that the project was a good idea and worthwhile for the State but the funds were not available. However, Mr. Ellisor has asked Senators on the Senate Finance Committee to offer an amendment to the capital improvement bond bill which would request one million dollars for use in getting started on this program. Florence County is very interested in the project and they, along with several other counties, have gotten approval from their county councils to participate in the project and contribute to it's expense. Charleston County has already purchased 45 of these machines which they plan to use in the general election in November.

Mr. Ellisor said that the best and most efficient thing to do would be to get the same type of system in every county throughout the State and have each county tied in with a central system in Columbia in the State Election Commission office. This would enable us to have correct results of the election within a few hours after the polls close.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the State Election Commission was set for June 17, 1986 at 12:00 noon.

MINUTES

Meeting - June 17, 1986

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mrs. Margaret Townsend, Dr. Neal Thigpen; and Mr. James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

Mr. Gilmore brought the meeting of the State Election Commission to order and asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the Minutes of the last meeting. There being no changes, the Minutes were approved as submitted.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commissioners that \$984,810.00 was appropriated in the Capital Improvement Bond Bill for use in the automated voting machine pilot project which was proposed to the Budget and Control Board earlier in the year. At that time the Budget and Control Board replied that the pilot project was worthwhile but there was not enough money for funding of the project. This project would involve seven counties who would be responsible for funding 30% of the cost of the voting equipment in their county. The seven proposed counties are: Florence, Chesterfield, Lancaster, Greenwood, Abbeville, Colleton and Dorchester. These counties have agreed to pay their share in purchasing the equipment and the State will pay the remaining 70% of the costs involved.

In the long run this automated system would save the State a great deal of money because the only cost involved is the initial cost. It is the intent of the State Election Commission to eventually have this uniform system in every county throughout the State. Mr. Ellisor estimates that this system will pay for itself in five years due to the savings realized in printing ballots, poll workers and various other expenditures. The only such system certified in the State of South Carolina at this time is the Shouptronic manufactured by R. F. Shoup, Inc. Charleston county recently purchased 45 of these machines for use in the general election on November 4, 1986. With this automated system it would cost the State less than \$200 to print the statewide ballots for a general election as opposed to the one million it costs the State with the present systems of voting in each county. One other automated system, which has not been certified for use in the State, is the V2000 manufactured by Computer Election Systems. This system should be demonstrated for certification sometime within the next several months.

The next step with the project is to prepare a program and present it to the Budget and Control Board and the Joint Bond Review Committee for approval. All bonds are issued over a period of three or four years on a quarterly basis. Mr. Ellisor plans to present this program at the next meeting of the Budget and Control Board and the Joint Bond Review Committee in hopes to have the bonds issued during the first quarter of this year and possibly implement the project before the general election in November.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commission that the state run primary bill did not pass in the General Assembly but hopefully this can be accomplished during the next legislative session.

The registration by mail bill passed in the House before adjournment but not in the Senate. The Senate will return on June 19, 1986 to take up Governor's vetoes and registration by mail. This bill may pass at that time but if not it will die and the process will have to be started over during the next session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commission that he received a letter from Mr. Phil Noble with the Palmetto Project in Charleston County requesting to meet with the State Election Commission to discuss obtaining a statewide list of the names of registered voters purged from the rolls for non-voting. The Palmetto Project would like to print these names in various newspapers throughout the State notifying these voters how they can be reinstated as a registered voter. After some discussion the Commissioners all agreed that they were not in favor of this idea due to the sensitivity of the matter, such as a person becoming offended or embarrassed by seeing their name printed in the newspaper for everyone to see; however, the State Election Commission is required by law to furnish this list at a cost to any registered voter within the State.

The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Ellisor should write Mr. Noble and inform him of the cost of such a list and let him know their feelings on this subject. If Mr. Noble wishes to pursue the matter and speak with the Commission in person he will have that opportunity at the next monthly Commission meeting.

Mr. Ellisor informed the Commission of a letter he received concerning the Agency Head Performance Appraisal. This appraisal is due on August 15, 1986 and will need to be prepared and approved prior to that time.

Mr. Gilmore suggested that he and Mr. Ellisor prepare the appraisal and present it to the Commission at it's next meeting for approval. The Commissioners agreed to this and decided to discuss the appraisal at the July meeting.

Mr. Gilmore told the Commission that he would like to start the process of reclassification for Mr. Ellisor's position. This process takes approximately one year. The Commission agreed to this suggestion and asked Mr. Gilmore to go ahead with his plans.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the State Election Commission was set for July 15, 1986 at 12:00 noon.

Meeting - July 15, 1986

MINUTES

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mr. C. D. Sexton, Dr. Neal Thigpen

Mr. Gilmore brought the meeting of the State Election Commission to order and asked if there were any corrections to be made to the Minutes of the last meeting. There being no changes, the Minutes were approved as submitted.

Mr. Gilmore presented the Commissioners with a copy of Mr. Ellisor's 1986-87 performance appraisal containing programmatic objectives for the coming year. These objectives will be followed by Mr. Ellisor throughout the year and used by the Commission when completing his appraisal in August of 1987. The Commission accepted these objectives and approved them as submitted.

Mr. Gilmore presented the Commissioners with a copy of Mr. Ellisor's 1985-86 performance appraisal completed by he and Mr. Ellisor on July 9, 1986. The Commissioners reviewed the appraisal and agreed that it was in order and requested that Mr. Gilmore prepare the overall assessment expressing their feelings. Mr. Gilmore agreed to prepare the statement and was given several points to consider by the Commissioners. The appraisal was approved by the Commissioners as presented.

At the last meeting Mr. Ellisor was asked to write a letter to Mr. Phil Noble with the Palmetto Project expressing the Commission's views on his request to print, in newspapers across the State, the names of all voters who have been taken off of the active registration rolls for non-voting. A copy of this letter was presented to the Commission showing them that Mr. Ellisor informed Mr. Noble that the cost of such a list would be \$2,124.00 and that the Commission was strongly against such a list being printed in the newspaper. As of this date Mr. Ellisor had not heard from Mr. Noble concerning this matter.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the State Election Commission was scheduled for August 1, 1986 at 12:00 noon. The State Board of Canvassers will meet at this time also to canvass the results of the Charleston County House District 109 election to be held on August 5, 1986.

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
STATE BOARD OF CANVASSERS
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman, Mrs. Sylvia
Schwartz, Mr. James B. Ellisor, Executive
Director

The State Board of Canvassers met in the office of the
State Election Commission on November 11, 1985 for the
purpose of canvassing the results from the special election
held in Richland County on November 5, 1985 for Senate
District 19.
Finding the results to be in order with Mr. Kay Harrison as
winner, the Commissioners signed them and they were
forwarded to the office of the Secretary of State and Office
of the Senate immediately following the close of the meeting.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) STATE BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mrs. Sylvia Schwartz; Mr. C.D. Sexton; Dr. Neal Thigpen, and Mr. James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

On July 2, 1985 the State Board of Canvassers met in the office of the State Election Commission to certify the results of the June 25 special election held in Greenwood County for House District 13 and the June 25 special election held in Berkeley County for House District 99.

The members canvassed the results and finding them in order, signed a letter of certification addressed to the Secretary of State reflecting that Mr. Jim Johnson had been elected to fill the vacancy of House District 13 in Greenwood County and Mr. Henry E. Brown had been elected to fill the vacancy of House District 99 in Berkeley County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION)
)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND) STATE BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Present: Mr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Chairman; Mrs. Sylvia Schwartz; Mr. James B. Ellisor, Executive Director

The State Board of Canvassers met in the offices of the State Election Commission on November 12, 1985 for the purpose of canvassing the results from the special election held in Richland County on November 5, 1985 for Senate District 19.

Finding the results to be in order with Mr. Kay Patterson as winner, the Commissioners signed them and they were forwarded to the office of the Secretary of State and Office of the Senate immediate following the close of the meeting.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) STATE BOARD OF CANVASSERS
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

Present: Mrs. Margaret Townsend; Mrs. Sylvia Schwartz; Dr. Neal Thigpen; Mr. C. D. Sexton; and James B. Ellis, Executive Director

On March 18, 1986 the State Board of Canvassers met in the office of the State Election Commission to certify the results of the March 11, 1986 special election held in Richland County for House District 73.

The members canvassed the results and finding them in order, signed a letter of certification addressed to the Secretary of State reflecting that Mr. Joe E. Brown had been elected to fill the vacancy of House District 73 in Richland County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

SPECIAL ELECTION
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 13
 JUNE 25, 1985
 GREENWOOD COUNTY

PRECINCT	David G. Lightsey (R)	Jim Johnson (D)	Misc. (Write-In)
Greenwood 1	91	186	
Greenwood 2	31	202	
Greenwood 3	234	178	
Greenwood 4	42	60	
Greenwood 5	42	72	
Greenwood 6	43	176	3
Cokesbury	5	5	
Stoney Point	4	2	
Greenwood Mill	37	90	
Blakedale	224	195	
Fairgrounds	90	92	2
Absentee	46	39	
COUNTY TOTALS	889	1,297	5

SPECIAL ELECTION
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 99
 JUNE 25, 1985
 BERKELEY COUNTY

PRECINCT	Henry E. Brown (R)	Roy E. Strickland (D)	Misc. (Write-In)
Hannah	942	321	6
Goose Creek 1	0	0	0
Goose Creek 2	223	158	2
Goose Creek 3	68	38	
Absentee	17	10	
COUNTY TOTALS	1,250	527	8

SPECIAL ELECTION
 STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 19
 NOVEMBER 5, 1985
 RICHLAND COUNTY

PRECINCT	Frank Washington (R)	Kay Patterson (D)	Misc. Write-I
Ward 4	55	85	
Ward 7	32	361	
Ward 19	137	374	
Ward 20	92	106	
Ward 21	78	377	
Ward 22	58	163	
Ward 28	10	73	
Ward 29	105	162	
Ward 30	9	7	
Ardincaple	0	0	
Ballentine	203	21	
Blythewood	196	177	
College Place	83	300	
Dennyside	161	202	
Edgewood	4	53	
Fairlawn	89	106	
Fairwold	33	397	
Friarsgate	196	40	1
Greenview	42	831	
Harbison	123	85	
Killian	15	43	
Kingswood	46	20	
Lincolnshire	36	346	
Meadowlake	86	536	
Ridgewood	29	325	
Springville	187	16	
Whitewell	27	93	
Absentee	3	14	
COUNTY TOTALS	2,135	5,313	1

SPECIAL ELECTION
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 73
 MARCH 11, 1986
 RICHLAND COUNTY

PRECINCT	Joe E. Brown (D)	Misc. (Write-In)
Ward 7	4	1
Ward 21	64	1
Ward 29	38	
Ward 31	10	
College Place	46	4
Dennyside	12	
Edgewood	10	
Fairwold	81	9
Greenview	123	1
Keenan	35	
Absentee	0	
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COUNTY TOTALS	423	16

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS
AND TRAINING AIDS

1. Registration and Election Laws of South Carolina.
2. Booklet entitled "Poll Manager's Handbook for Conduct for General Elections" (published each even-numbered election year in September or October.)
3. Annual Report
4. Periodic brochures, pamphlets and statistical data for the public on voter registration and election procedures and the number of registered voters in the State.
5. Statistical data on voter turnout for every election held in South Carolina is available for public inspection at the office of the State Election Commission. This data includes the number of registered voters and the number who actually voted broken down by race and sex.
6. "Manual of instruction for Voter Registration" was prepared for all members of the County Boards of Voter Registration. It outlines all clerical procedures to be followed for voter registration. This booklet will be updated periodically.
7. Training films, video and audio productions used to instruct election officials and provide information to the public concerning voter registration and election procedures.
8. Booklet entitled "What To Do If..." prepared to be used by poll workers and other election officials in helping to answer common election day problems.

