

# STATE ELECTION COMMISSION QUARTERLY

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STATE DOCUMENTS  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA



Jim Ellisor addresses the media at a press conference in Columbia announcing the statewide registration drive.

## BUSINESSES PUSH VOTER REGISTRATION

Bojangle's, Bi-Lo, and C&S Bank teamed up with the Palmetto Project to increase voter registration. The largest corporate voter registration drive in our State took place during the month of September using mail-in registration forms.

A combined 270 offices, branches & stores carried the forms in an attempt to encourage

large political participation. The three companies spent about \$150,000 to advertise the project through radio, television, newspapers and billboards. Approximately 7,000 citizens registered during the drive. Unfortunately, the effort began late and there was not a long enough time for greater response. Still, this is a sign that businesses are beginning to take a learning interest in the voting process. An excellent way to increase voter registration is through the employees in the businesses of your county.



From left to right, Albert McAlister, chairman of the S.C. Democratic Party, Jim Ellisor, Executive Director of the S.C. Election Commission; and Jim Lientz, president and CEO of C&S, South Carolina.

## NEW STATE COMMISSIONERS

Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. has appointed William B. "Rusty" DePass, Jr. of Columbia chairman for a two year term. Dr. Neal D. Thigpen of Florence was reappointed for a four year term. New commissioners are Mamie Nicholson of Greenwood and Philip T. Bradley of Greenville. Temporarily replacing Roger Leaks, Jr. is Sam Howell of Columbia. Mr. Leaks was activated for duty in Saudi Arabia. He is a Lieutenant Colonel in the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade of the Army Reserves.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ADS HIT AIRWAYS

Two large national public service organizations put together commercials to try to overcome voter apathy and lack of motivation in the voting process by convincing Americans that voting can make a difference in their lives. The Ad Council and the Vote America Foundation distributed radio and television spots throughout the State.

The Ad Council campaign focused on recent events in Eastern Europe to capitalize on the awareness people currently have about their human rights and privileges. The Vote America Foundation emphasized absentee voting and the youth vote.

The State Election Commission committed \$1,000 toward the Ad Council's voter education project. This money was combined with the other 49 states' donations to help pay for production and distribution of the commercials.

## STATE ACT REQUIREMENT FOR MEETINGS

Courtesy: S.C. Press Association



From the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, including 1987 revisions:

Chapter 9: Notice Requirements (Section 30-4-80).

This section is on the books to ensure that the public knows when its elected and appointed officials are going to be meeting. Its language is clear. "All public bodies shall give written public notice of their regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar year. The notice shall include the dates, times, and places of such meetings." Where the problems

usually arise are with the posting of agendas, committee meetings and emergency meetings. Agendas are supposed to be posted at least 24 hours before the meeting at the office or meeting place of the public body. Public bodies, when they must hold "special" or "rescheduled" meetings, have to post notices as soon as "practicable" but not later than 24 hours before the meetings. That notice has got to include an agenda, date, time and place of the meeting. "Special" meetings usually deal with unforeseen or emergency matters.

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A 1987 amendment added that a public body is required to notify any news media that request notification of time, date, place and agenda of any public meeting. The revisions also require that the public body make a "reasonable and timely" effort to provide notice. Another new requirement under the 1987 changes is that the public body must also notify "persons or organizations" known to have an interest in the upcoming meeting.

## PEOPLE LIKE US

Courtesy: The Citizen News  
Edgefield, SC  
By Steve Parham

The following are excerpts from a newspaper article that informed its readers about that county's voter registration office and the people that run it.

"When it comes to voting, there are two ladies in Edgefield County who can tell you a few things. **Mary Ellen Painter** and **Elizabeth Greene** are the clerks for the county Board of Elections and run the Voter Registration office in the basement of the county courthouse.

The two ladies have a lot of experience in their work. Mrs. Painter worked her first election in 1947. Mrs. Greene came aboard in the early 1970's.

... Another of the major changes the ladies cite is the change from paper ballots to electronic voting machines. "It sure had made our job a lot faster," Mrs. Greene said. Both ladies vividly recall counting paper bal-

lots until the wee hours of the morning. Other memories include the crowds that gathered in and around the Courthouse on election night as the votes were counted and recorded. "They used to fill the courtroom, the steps outside and out onto the streets," Mrs. Painter said. "There doesn't seem to be as many now days."

Mrs. Greene, a native of Edgefield, is married to Frank (Happy) Greene. She is the mother of three and now enjoys camping, fishing and visiting with her nine grandchildren. Mrs. Painter, a native of Waynesville, N.C., was married to the late Charles Painter who worked many years at the Kendall Mill. She has two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. When she's not working, she enjoys "just keeping up" with her grandchildren.



Mary Ellen Painter, left and Sis Greene enjoy working together at the office.

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

**Clarendon County . . .** The newest employee is **Rosa Dingle**, clerk. Rosa



is married to Joe Dingle, Deputy with the Sheriff's department. Rosa gave birth to a baby daughter, **La'Rita Lynn**, born June 28th. La'Rita was thoughtful enough to wait until after the primaries so as not to disrupt the office work. Direct **Emilee Hemingway** became a grandmother on June 12, primary election day, making it her second grandchild that has decided to pick a busy election day to be born!



**Calhoun County . . . Mrs. Kay McKie** is the new registration clerk, replacing **Ms. Bettie Brown**, who resigned after five years. Mrs. McKie and her husband, **Hugh**, were residents of North Augusta before moving to St. Matthews a year and a half ago.



**Marlboro County . . .** Best wishes for a speedy recovery of an accident to **Mr. A.A. Piglowski**, chairman of the Board of Registration. If you get a chance, please contact him.



**Barnwell County . . .** Congratulations! to **Nancy E. Davis** for her appointment to the Voter Registration Board. Since that time, the board has chosen her as chairperson.



**Allendale County . . .** combined with the Barnwell County registration office for a voter registration drive at the Barnwell Wal-Mart.



**Newberry County . . .** Sympathy is expressed to **Ed Rollins**, County Election Commission, in the recent death of his daughter.

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