

**Minutes of the Richland County Board of Voter Registration and Elections
Thursday, October 12, 2016
County Council Chambers**

Board Members in Attendance

Ms. Adell Adams, Chair

Ms. Sylvia Holley

Ms. Jane Emerson

Mr. E. Peter Kennedy

Staff in Attendance

Mr. Samuel Selph, Director

Ms. Lillian McBride, Deputy Director

Staff Members – Elections & Voter Registration Department

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

- A motion was made by Commissioner Kennedy to amend the agenda; to allow for an official vote for the election of the new board chair for the Richland County Board of Voter Registration & Elections office. The motion was seconded and adopted to amend the meeting's agenda. Seconded. Approved.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- The Board Members reviewed the minutes from August 10, 2016.
- A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Election of New Chairman

- Commissioner Kennedy proposed an amendment based on the bylaws of the Richland County Board of Elections and Voter Registration to elect Commissioner Adell Adams as the new board chairman. The motion was seconded, adopted and approved. Approved 3-0

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Director's Comments & Updates

A. Update on General Elections-Division Heads

- **Absentee Division-** As of 3:30 pm our office has issued 17,759 applications for Absentee Ballots for the General Election. Beginning Monday we voted 1,027 individuals on the voting machines. If we continue processing applications at the current rate, by Election Day we estimate an absentee total of over 45,000.
- **Voter Registration-** since Labor Day, the department has added 5,359 new voters to register online. Hurricane Matthew caused the deadline for registration to become delayed, the staff encouraged all potential voters to mail all applications and have applications postmarked by October 11th, in order to become eligible to participate in this Election.
- **Election Division-** We have 11,022 operable machines, 1,005 will be in place at the polling locations on Election Day. All flash cards have been burned and half of the PEB's have been burned. The machine delivery will begin on the 26th. Machines must be calibrated on a regular basis.
- **Precinct Division** – We have 22 scheduled trainings for the Poll Workers and Poll Clerks, some classes had to be rescheduled due to the inclement weather. We have a total of 1,440 to work for the General Election. 600 new workers have been enrolled since January.

B. Update on Murphy's Petition

- We were scheduled to go to the Richland County Judicial Center on last Thursday (October 6, 2016), due to the inclement weather, all parties agreed to convene the case in Kershaw County at 9:00 am. We received the decision at 11:56 pm on Friday; Judge Toal made it clear that for all purposes related to this Election, Kim Murphy's name was not allowed on the ballot. Judge Toal elaborated extensively in her 23 page order. On today, I received by certified mail a South Carolina Voter Registration Application from Ms. Kim Murphy. The ruling will be my

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guide and as of now I cannot act on this application and register Ms. Kim Murphy as a resident in Richland County.

C. City of Columbia Special Election

- A special election will need to be held for the City of Columbia, District 4, on January 3, 2017. There will be 24 polling locations including absentee, which includes over 16,000 voters. The city is prompt in reimbursing funds once invoiced for the Election.

Special Tax District Referendum - Lake Dogwood

- A resolution was received by Attorney Larry Flynn on behalf of the Lake Dogwood Special Tax District referendum; we are encouraging them to hold their Election on the same day as the city of Columbia Special Election on January 3, 2017. There are 99 eligible electors in the Lake Dogwood Special Tax District.

Additional Director's Comments

- After observing the budget, it appears that the funds that we are receiving in from reimbursements the county is applying it to our deficit line items. It is currently down from an average of \$300,000 to about \$200,000.

Chairperson's Comments

- Congratulations to Staff- Congratulations to the staff because they do great work.

Board Comments

- Jane Emerson- None
- E. Peter Kennedy- None
- Sylvia Holley- None

Public Comments

Kim Murphy- Thank you to the Board and Director of Richland County Board of Elections & Voter Registration. I intend to appeal the order that was issued by Judge Toal. I would like the office to reconsider the opportunity to allow me to vote in Richland County.

Executive Session-

- Motion to retire in Executive Session, Seconded. Approved

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- The board entered into Executive Session at 4:30 pm.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Submitted by: Yonita Simmons

**Next Meeting
December 14, 2016
4:00 pm**