

SOUTH CAROLINA
ELECTION COMMISSION

Municipal Election Law Update

Recent Changes to Training, Photo ID & Candidate Filing Rules

Chris Whitmire
Director of Public Information & Training
S.C. State Election Commission

EVERY **votE** MATTERS
EVERY **votE** COUNTS.

SOUTH CAROLINA
ELECTION COMMISSION

Training & Certification

- S.C. Code of Laws §5-15-90
- Commissioners & “staff”
- Must complete certification program within 18 months of appointment
- 3 classes required
 - Duties of MEC (online) **NEW**
 - Poll Manager Training (online)
 - Protests (in person)

EVERY **votE** MATTERS
EVERY **votE** COUNTS.

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Training & Certification

Clerk should email for usernames & passwords:

- elections@elections.sc.gov

MEC Resources at scVOTES.org

- Site menu, under “General”

EVERY **votE** MATTERS
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Photo ID

- Effective January 1, 2013, voters must provide Photo ID to vote in person:
 - S.C. Driver's License
 - S.C. ID Card issued by DMV
 - S.C. Voter Registration Card **with photo**
 - Military ID issued by the Federal Government, including VA Benefits Card
 - U.S. Passport

EVERY **vote** MATTERS
EVERY **vote** COUNTS.

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If voter has qualifying Photo ID

- They are ready to vote
- They do not need to obtain a voter registration card with a photo
- They should remember to bring one of the photo IDs to their polling place
- Also applies to in-person absentee voting

EVERY **vote** MATTERS
EVERY **vote** COUNTS.

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If voter does not have qualifying Photo ID

- Should get one before going to the polls to vote
- DMV IDs are now free
- Photo VR Cards are free from county voter registration office
 - “Verbal” ID required
 - Name, DOB, Last four digits of SSN

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Paper VR Card with Photo

You are now registered to vote in the state of South Carolina. Your official notification of registration is attached. To vote at your polling place, you must present one of the following types of photo identification:

- S.C. Driver's License
- ID card issued by S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles
- S.C. Voter Registration Card with Photo
- Federal Military ID
- U.S. Passport

STATE OF S.C. VOTER REGISTRATION NOTIFICATION
 COUNTY: Aiken
 PRECINCT: Columbia 010
 REG. NO: 02409518 REG. DATE: 11/2012
 District: Yolande S
 1016 Todd Ave
 North Augusta, SC 29641

Congr	Senate	House	County	School
02	24	084	04	03

SEX: Female RACE: Black/African American DOB: 9/19/78

VOTE AT:
 Aikenwood Legion Post 122
 6070 Broadwood Drive

COUNTY/STATE ELECTION OFFICIAL

EVERY VOTE MATTERS. EVERY VOTE COUNTS.


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Plastic VR Card with Photo

S.C. Voter Identification Card

NAME: Allison Jones

REG. NO: 321234567



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If Voter Forgets Photo ID

- If a voter has a Photo ID but forgets to bring it to the polls, he has two options:
 - Retrieve their Photo ID and return to vote
 - Vote a provisional ballot that will NOT count UNLESS they show their photo ID to the election commission by the time of the provisional ballot hearing
- **MEC must have system in place to record who has provided Photo ID**

EVERY VOTE MATTERS. EVERY VOTE COUNTS.

If Voter Does Not Have Photo ID

- If a voter does not have a photo ID due to some obstacle, they may vote a provisional ballot after:
 - Showing their paper voter registration card without a photo (old card), and
 - Signing an affidavit attesting to their identity and impediment

Who Determines Reasonableness?

- Voter may claim any obstacle he finds reasonable, as long as it is true.
- Only the voter determines what is reasonable.
- Poll Managers and other election officials do not determine the reasonableness of the claimed impediment.

Provisional Ballot Hearing

- Ballot will count if voter provides Photo ID prior to Election Day
- Reasonable Impediment ballots will count unless someone proves the affidavit is false
- Would have to prove voter lied about:
 - His identity, or
 - About having the impediment

Poll Manager Training

- MEC must ensure poll managers are trained on new Photo ID procedures
- MEC must ensure poll managers are provided with updated materials:
 - PM Handbook
 - Provisional Ballot Envelope
 - Notice of Provisional Ballot Hearing
 - Photo ID Posters

Candidate Filing

- Municipalities may determine method of filing by ordinance
 - Statement of Candidacy (SIC), or
 - Petition
- Municipalities may set filing fee by ordinance
- Most file with clerk

Candidate Filing

Deadlines:

- SIC: No candidate may file later than 60 days prior to GE
 - Municipality can set earlier deadline or filing period by ordinance
- Petitions due 75 days prior to GE
- Special Election deadlines are 45 days (SIC), 60 days (petition)

Candidate Filing

NEW

- Clerk no longer required to collect Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) or confirm filing of SEI
- Clerk should remind candidates of requirement to file online with State Ethics Commission
- <http://ethics.sc.gov>

Candidate Qualifications

- Entity with which candidate filed responsible for determining qualifications
- Candidate must be qualified on election day
- Must reside in municipality for 30 days
- Must be registered voter, Age 18
- Age 18
- Persons convicted of felony or specific offenses against elections laws not qualified until:
 - 15 years after completion of sentence, or pardoned

Contact Information

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