

EXHIBIT 1

STO Remediation Plan in response to State Inspector General Report

Notwithstanding the factual and legal concerns stated previously, the STO is implementing a plan of remediation to address the concerns noted in the Report.

OBJECTIVE	Office Responsible	Anticipated Completion Date
Master Lease Program		
1. The STO negotiated a decrease from a 10% late fee to a 5% late fee for future leases.	Legal	Complete
2. After the General Assembly moved the payment date of the funds from September to February and the issue was identified, the STO worked diligently to mitigate the impact of actions committed by the SEC.	Debt/Legal	Complete
3. Prior to the approval of any future master lease financing request, STO's Office of General Counsel will produce a written legal opinion regarding whether the proposed lease/purchase is "office equipment, telecommunications equipment, energy conservation equipment, medical equipment, data processing equipment, and related software," per S.C. Code Ann. § 1-1-1020.	Debt/Legal	Complete
4. All master lease agreement documents have been reviewed, simplified and clarified for future use.	Debt/Legal	Complete
5. The STO will implement a program review by an outside auditor. We have initiated the process of obtaining an auditor to complete that review and will take action based on their findings and recommendations.	Internal Audit	3/31/27
6. STO will evaluate and improve review processes and procedures regarding the Master Lease Program, including checklists to ensure that the leasing agency has fulfilled all appropriate transactional considerations (such as sales tax), as well as considering implementation of a review process for agency requests that will include obtaining outside approval for any leases requested that reach certain threshold amounts, and reviewing processes used by other states to develop best practices and procedures.	Debt/Legal	8/30/26
7. The STO will conduct an analysis of the impact of borrowing funds from an outside entity versus using general funds to the General Assembly.	STO	Complete

OBJECTIVE	Office Responsible	Anticipated Completion Date
Reporting Statutes		
1. Regarding Section 11-5-120, until further clarification is received through action from the General Assembly on established procedures for the content of the quarterly banking report, the STO will provide an addendum to the report it has historically issued which provides balances “by homogeneous groupings of the amounts of cash held.”	Banking	7/30/2026
2. Regarding Sections 11-13-70 through 90, the STO is coordinating with the Comptroller General (CG) to ensure banks and trust companies provide requested information to the CG on a monthly basis.	Agency	8/30/2026
3. The STO will work with the General Assembly to further review their requirements and amend as necessary S.C Code 11-13-90: e.g. “at once withdraw all state deposits from such depository and close its account.”	Legal/Legislative Affairs	6/30/2027
STO’s Appropriations, Budgeting, and Spending		
1. The STO will eliminate the practice of reclassifying expenses to zero out its general fund appropriation.	Admin Division	Complete
2. The STO will continue to review and improve budget projections and budget authorization needs.	Admin Division	Complete
3. The STO has reviewed, revised, and implemented a clear cost allocation plan and is in the process of developing processes and procedures, accordingly.	Admin Division	8/30/26
Unclaimed Property Program		
The STO revised payment methodologies for UPP contingency-based audits contracts, and has engaged the actuary to assess associated impact to the agency’s UPP budget authorization.	Programs / UPP	Complete
2. The agency includes the Unclaimed Property Program in its audit plan each year through an independent third-party auditor.	Programs / UPP	Complete
Other Observations		
1. The STO will implement additional processes and policies to ensure proper posting of expenses to the function.	Administration	Complete
2. The STO remains committed to working with all entities involved in the validation and remediation of any issues with the state’s financial reporting to ensure it is accurate, timely, and reliable.	Agency	Ongoing

EXHIBIT 2

From: [Gaines, Brian \(CG\)](#)
To: [Barnes, Mark](#)
Cc: [Lamkin, Brian](#); [Eubanks, Shawn](#); [Simmons, Melissa](#); [Maldonado, Robert](#)
Subject: RE: Bank Deposit Monthly Reporting
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 4:07:52 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Good afternoon, Mark.

Thank you for your follow up email.

The banks may provide the CGO a bank statement in the same form it provides the STO. If possible, it can be a PDF of the bank statement saved with appropriate name and G/L reference (i.e., BOA MMIS GL 1013300500).

We appreciate the opportunity to assist the STO in fulfilling its statutory requirements.

Regards,
Brian

Brian J. Gaines | Comptroller General

South Carolina Office of the Comptroller General
1200 Senate Street, 305 Wade Hampton Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 734-2121 | bgaines@cg.sc.gov



From: Barnes, Mark <Mark.Barnes@sto.sc.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 4:36 PM
To: Gaines, Brian (CG) <bgaines@cg.sc.gov>
Cc: Lamkin, Brian <BrianLamkin@oig.sc.gov>; Eubanks, Shawn <Shawn.Eubanks@sto.sc.gov>; Simmons, Melissa <Melissa.Simmons@sto.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: Bank Deposit Monthly Reporting

Brian,

Hope you are doing well. I wanted to follow up on my previous message from May 18, (see below) and the voice mail I left for you on Friday. The Inspector General believes

that we are not in compliance with certain state laws that require banks holding STO deposits to submit information to STO and CGO monthly “on forms furnished by the Comptroller General.”

Currently, STO is not aware of any such CGO form. and our assumption is that the CGO form does not exist. The statute is not specific as to what information the CGO is obtaining in these forms, which we believe means the CGO alone must determine the content.

Because of this, I am again asking that your office provide STO with the form so that we can request the banks to provide you with the needed information in the manner that you would determine.

Please refer to the statutes listed below and let me know if you have any questions. As I mentioned earlier in my email and my voice mail on Friday, we would like to meet with you and your staff in order to accomplish this goal.

We await a response from your office.

Thanks,
Mark



Mark Barnes | Chief of Staff

Office of the State Treasurer

[1200 Senate Street](#)

[Wade Hampton Office Building](#)

[Columbia, SC 29201](#)

Mark.Barnes@sto.sc.gov

O-803-734-2522 | C-843-229-1387

From: Barnes, Mark

Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 8:39 AM

To: Gaines, Brian (CG) <bgaines@cg.sc.gov>

Cc: Lamkin, Brian <BrianLamkin@oig.sc.gov>; Eubanks, Shawn <Shawn.Eubanks@sto.sc.gov>; Simmons, Melissa <Melissa.Simmons@sto.sc.gov>

Subject: FW: Bank Deposit Monthly Reporting

Brian,

Guess we probably won't be working on Memorial Day, so add these two days and times instead.

Wednesday, May 27, 9 am to 10 am or Friday, May 29 from 10 am to 12 pm. Thanks,
Mark



Mark Barnes | Chief of Staff

Office of the State Treasurer

[1200 Senate Street](#)

[Wade Hampton Office Building](#)

[Columbia, SC 29201](#)

Mark.Barnes@sto.sc.gov

O-803-734-2522 | C-843-229-1387

From: Barnes, Mark

Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 5:12 PM

To: Gaines, Brian (CG) <bgaines@cg.sc.gov>

Cc: Lamkin, Brian <BrianLamkin@oig.sc.gov>; Eubanks, Shawn <Shawn.Eubanks@sto.sc.gov>;
Simmons, Melissa <Melissa.Simmons@sto.sc.gov>

Subject: Bank Deposit Monthly Reporting

Brian,

Per S.C. Code 11-13-70 and 11-13-80, we are requesting that your office establish a form and the content necessary that can be provided to "Banks or trust companies having deposits made by the State Treasurer" so they may file a report with the State Treasurer's office the first day of each calendar month and then transmit monthly to your office a copy of that report independently of the process for the State Treasurer.

Once we receive that form and content along with the method of transmittal, we will notify the banks to inform them of their requirements. Our agreements with the banks require they comply with state laws, so they won't need to be modified. We will also provide you with contact and other information on all of the banks that hold these deposits per the statute.

Please consider all statutory concerns as you decide how you will implement this process.

Please let us know if you need any additional information to begin this process. It may be helpful to hold a meeting to discuss this process and to assist with moving forward. We are available at the following dates and times to discuss.

May 20, between 9 and 11 am.

May 25, between 10 and 12 am, or between 2 and 4 pm.

Thanks,

Mark



Mark Barnes | Chief of Staff

Office of the State Treasurer

[1200 Senate Street](#)

[Wade Hampton Office Building](#)

[Columbia, SC 29201](#)

Mark.Barnes@sto.sc.gov

O-803-734-2522 | C-843-229-1387

EXHIBIT 3

Current Procurement Code Exemptions

Last Revised September 12, 2025

Key to Columns

NAME: This column provides an unofficial, concise descriptive identifier for each exemption. The name does not accurately capture the scope of the exemption.

DATE: [year / month / day] This column gives the dates when action was taken regarding the exemption. For exemptions created by statute, a date represents the date that a law was enacted. For exemptions granted by the Board, a date represents the date the Board voted to approve the exemptions. Unless otherwise noted, these dates are also the effective dates of the exemption. When multiple dates are listed, each date represents an instance in which the exemption was acted upon, either by the General Assembly, the former Budget and Control Board, or the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA) (hereinafter the “Board” or “Authority”).

EXEMPTION TEXT: This column contains the operative text of the exemption. Depending on its source, the text is taken either from a statute, the minutes of a Board meeting, or an agenda item approved by the Board at a meeting.

NOTES: This column contains assorted information useful in understanding or applying the exemption.

General Notes

1. This list, including explanatory notes, is intended as a reference tool only. This list is not the agency’s official record of the exemptions granted by the Board or the General Assembly. This list has not been approved by the SFAA. A copy of this list is posted on the internet at www.procurementlaw.sc.gov. It has been posted as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and in portable document format (PDF).
2. As exemptions were created, MMO’s auditing office maintained an internal, chronological, numbered list of exemptions. By long usage, these numbers became a short hand reference for the exemptions. The previously used chronological numbering system has been abandoned in favor of descriptive names.
3. Generally, unless it expressly references the Procurement Code, a proviso regarding a procurement’s terms, process, or approval does not create an exemption. “[T]here must be an ‘irreconcilable conflict’ between the appropriations act and the permanent statute” before a permanent statute’s operation is suspended. *Amisub of South Carolina, Inc. v. South Carolina Dept. of Mental Health and Environment Control*, 407 S.C. 583, 598, 757 S.E.2d 408, 416 (2014)

NAME	DATE	EXEMPTION TEXT	NOTES
Timber Sales (Natural Resources)	1955	S.C. Code Ann. § 50-3-510 authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to “contract for the selective cutting and sale of timber on any lands held by the department on behalf of its Wildlife and Freshwater Fish Division,” subject to the State Forester’s approval. Section 50-3-520 requires such contracts to be entered pursuant to a public bid. Section 50-3-550 dictates the disposition of the proceeds.	This statutory scheme dates back to 1955. Moreover, this statutory scheme was expressly addressed by Act 148, the act that established the Procurement Code. Accordingly, timber sales by the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 3, Title 50 are not governed by the Procurement Code. <i>See generally</i> Section 11-35-3810 (“Subject to existing provisions of law, the board shall promulgate regulations governing [disposal of personal property] . . .”).
Treasurer - Bond Issues	1982.08.24	“The Board exempted the following items from the requirements of the Consolidated Procurement Code...: (3) expenditures of funds by the Office of State Treasurer in the issuance of bonds to include printing costs and any fees associated with any bond issuance.” ¹	
Treasurer - Debt & Banking Functions; Financing of Lease / Purchase	1986.03.25	“The Board exempted the financing provisions of lease/purchase contracts and other debt and banking functions of the State Treasurer’s Office from the procurement procedures of the Procurement Code, upon the recommendation of the Division of General Services, pursuant to Code §11-35-710.”	[1] “The General Assembly finds that in order to provide greater efficient and effective service to the various state agencies and institutions, all lease financing activities should be administered by one agency. The General Assembly recognizes that the Office of State Treasurer currently administers capital leases and third-party lease purchase financings.” 1994 Act No. 497, Part II, §10A [2] “The Office of State Treasurer is authorized to provide financing arrangements under the master lease program on behalf of boards, commissions, institutions, and agencies of state government for the purpose of renting, leasing, or purchasing office equipment, telecommunications equipment, energy conservation equipment, medical equipment, data processing equipment, and related software in accordance with procurement statutes and regulations.” S.C. Code Ann. § 1-1-1020(A) (2005).
Trident Technical College Enterprise Campus Authority	2006.06.12	“(A) The authority and its permanent improvements and the financing of them are exempt from the provisions of Chapter 47 of Title 2, and the leasing of property and the granting of easements and rights of way by the authority are exempt from the provisions of Sections 1-11-55, 1-11-56, 1-11-57(1), and 10-1-130. (B) For all matters associated with the enterprise campus, the authority is exempt from the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code; except that, the authority shall adopt a procurement policy requiring competitive solicitations, and the policy must be filed with and approved by the State Budget and Control Board. The policy must include provisions for audit and recertification. (C) The authority is exempt from all regulations and general laws governing disposal of surplus government property.”	[1] Quoted from Section 59-53-480. [2] On September 19, 2006, the Board approved a policy pursuant to 59-53-480. The approved policy contains the following statement regarding their applicability: “The TTCECA Procurement Policy is authorized by Section 59-53-480(B) and applies to every procurement of supplies, services, or construction by Trident Technical College Enterprise Campus Authority for matters associated with the Enterprise Campus as that term is defined in Section 59-53-465.” [3] By its own terms, the approved policy expires unless reauthorized: “The TTCECA Procurement Policy shall be resubmitted to the State Budget and Control Board for re-approval during the first quarter of the fifth calendar year following initial approval. The TTCECA Procurement Policy expires at the end of the second quarter of the fifth calendar year following initial approval unless re-approved by the State Budget and Control Board.” [4] On September 20, 2016, the Authority “[r]eauthorized the Trident Technical College Enterprise Campus Authority’s Procurement Policy.”

EXHIBIT 4

From: [Knapp, Howard](#)
To: [REDACTED]@sc.rr.com; [Cliff Edler](#); [Scott Moseley](#); [Linda McCall](#); [REDACTED]@yahoo.com
Cc: [McGill, Jenny](#)
Subject: Statewide Voting System Upgrade Option
Date: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:00:05 PM
Attachments: [Briefing Memorandum - Voting System Upgrade - 2024 Jun 11.pdf](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Senate Fin Hearing Attachment for Priority 7.pdf](#)
[State of South Carolina - 06.06.2024 \(1\).pdf](#)

Commissioners,

Forgive the long email, but below is an item for the Commission's consideration.

As you may recall, after the agency's budget hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee, but before the hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, I was approached by our statewide voting system vendor, ES&S, about replacing all precinct ballot scanners (the DS200s) with the newer scanner with audit capabilities (the DS300). The company had also been approached by some counties that need additional voting equipment.

The total cost for the company to come to South Carolina and swap out/buy back all our existing DS200s with DS300s (including the price of the additional equipment) is \$24.5M. The attachment titled "State of South Carolina – 06.06.2024" outlines all the costs associated with this transaction.

The biggest difference between the DS200 and the DS300 is shown in attachment "Senate Fin Hearing Attachment for Priority 7." The DS300 tabulators print an audit number on every single ballot as that ballot is scanned at the polling place. While the SEC currently manages the hand-count audits in every county after each state level election, this audit number allows our agency to conduct Risk Limiting Audits in each election and pull a report showing that each ballot was scanned and that each individual vote on each ballot was counted.

The Senate's budget funded half of the cost of this at \$12.5M and the House of Representatives countered at \$1. The budget conference committee took the House number, and the project was not funded. During budget negotiations, several members of the Senate leadership expressed a strong desire to have this system in place for the November 2024 election, as they felt it would add a layer of confidence for voters. That was when Senate leadership asked Senate staff to draft the attached memo "Briefing Memorandum – Voting System Upgrade – 2024 June 11." To summarize the memo, there is a mechanism by which the state could purchase this equipment through a lease to purchase option where the state would pay back the total cost within three fiscal years. This is under two assumptions: 1) the General Assembly does not fund the total purchase in the budget this year (which it did not) and 2) the General Assembly chooses to appropriate money for the purchase after we already get the new equipment. I will say that this is not an unusual arrangement and is a funding mechanism used by other state agencies for similarly sized projects.

As the memo states, the Commission has the authority to decide whether to enter the lease to purchase option without any further approval from the General Assembly. All it requires is a meeting of the Commission (can be a conference call) where a vote is taken. If the Commission desires to meet, discuss, and vote, I'm happy to facilitate such a meeting and I would strongly recommend

holding the meeting next week due to the timing of the possible implementation.

Please reply with whether you are open to a meeting next week and, if so, what days/times work best for you. Please also feel free to call if you have any questions.

All the best,
Howie

Howard M. Knapp, J.D., CERA
Executive Director

South Carolina State Election Commission

1122 Lady St., 5th Floor, Columbia, S.C. 29201

P.O. Box 5987, Columbia, S.C. 29250

Office: 803.734.9060

Fax: 803.734.9366

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every vote matters.
every vote counts.

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EXHIBIT 5

From: [Knapp, Howard](#)
To: [McGill, Jenny](#)
Subject: FW: [External] FW: Election Commission
Date: Monday, June 17, 2024 12:34:10 PM
Attachments: [Briefing Memorandum - Voting System Upgrade - 2024 Jun 11.pdf](#)

From: Rick Harmon <RickHarmon@scsenate.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 12:32 PM
To: Knapp, Howard <hknapp@elections.sc.gov>
Subject: [External] FW: Election Commission

Rick Harmon

Director of Research
Joint Bond Review Committee
312 Gressette Senate Office Building
Capitol Complex
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Office 803-212-6682 **Mobile** [REDACTED]
Email RickHarmon@SCSenate.gov

From: Rick Harmon
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 7:48 AM
To: Knapp, Howard <hknapp@elections.sc.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Election Commission

Attached is the analysis for alternative funding.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rick Harmon <rickharmon@scsenate.gov>
Date: June 12, 2024 at 8:59:00 AM EDT
To: Quentin Hawkins <QHawkins@scsenate.gov>
Cc: Jake Scoggins <JakeScoggins@scsenate.gov>, Jessica Wigington <JessicaWigington@scsenate.gov>, Morgan O'Donnell <MorganODonnell@scsenate.gov>
Subject: RE: Election Commission

Final version attached.

From: Rick Harmon

Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:27 AM
To: Quentin Hawkins <QHawkins@scsenate.gov>
Subject: Election Commission

I need to proof this again tomorrow, but wanted you to have this as you enter into negotiations tomorrow.

If the \$12.5 million is not going to survive the conference committee, then I suggest a 3-year master lease to finance the software acquisition.

Annual payments will be about \$8.873 million, and the first payment can be delayed until FY 2025-26. The payments will have to be made from recurring funds on the line.

It can be structured to include a pre-payment in the event an appropriation is made available next or any subsequent year.

Howie has the authority to do this under the Election Commission statute, subject to approval of the Election Commission – no further approvals are required from JBRC or SFAA.

Hope this gives you some flexibility and relief.

Rick

Rick Harmon

Director of Research
Joint Bond Review Committee
312 Gressette Senate Office Building
Capitol Complex
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Office 803-212-6682 **Mobile** [REDACTED]
Email RickHarmon@SCSenate.gov

EXHIBIT 6

From: [Knapp, Howard](#)
To: [REDACTED]@sc.rr.com; [Cliff Edler](#); [Scott Moseley](#); [Linda McCall](#); [REDACTED]@yahoo.com
Cc: [McGill, Jenny](#)
Subject: Statewide Voting System Upgrade Option
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As the memo states, the Commission has the authority to decide whether to enter the lease to purchase option without any further approval from the General Assembly. All it requires is a meeting of the Commission (can be a conference call) where a vote is taken. If the Commission desires to meet, discuss, and vote, I'm happy to facilitate such a meeting and I would strongly recommend

holding the meeting next week due to the timing of the possible implementation.

Please reply with whether you are open to a meeting next week and, if so, what days/times work best for you. Please also feel free to call if you have any questions.

All the best,
Howie

Howard M. Knapp, J.D., CERA
Executive Director

South Carolina State Election Commission

1122 Lady St., 5th Floor, Columbia, S.C. 29201

P.O. Box 5987, Columbia, S.C. 29250

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EXHIBIT 7

From: [McGill, Jenny](#)
To: [Nicholson, Thomas](#)
Subject: Fwd: [External] RE: Call this week?
Date: Friday, August 16, 2024 11:43:08 AM
Attachments: [LeaseStatusReport-2009.pdf](#)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Rick Harmon <RickHarmon@scsenate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 7:59:50 AM
To: McGill, Jenny <jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>
Cc: Knapp, Howard <hknapp@elections.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] RE: Call this week?

Jenny –

The attached list is the last report I had from my days at the Treasurer's Office, but dates back to 2009. Nevertheless, it is indicative of the agencies and amounts we had outstanding back then. If you need a more current list, call Jackie Hipes in the State Treasurer's Office and I'm sure she can get you something like this. Her contact information from the Treasurer's website is:

Jackie D. Hipes
Interim Director of Debt Management
803.734.1391
jackie.hipes@sto.sc.gov

I'd contact her anyway to touch base and let her know something is coming when you are ready.

While approvals are not automatic, I don't know of any instance of an equipment and software proposal being declined.

Hope that's helpful.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Rick

Rick Harmon

Director of Research
Joint Bond Review Committee
312 Gressette Senate Office Building
Capitol Complex
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

EXHIBIT 8

From: [Kim Jackson](#)
To: [Knapp, Howard](#); [Hobart Trotter](#)
Subject: [External] State Election Commission and New Voting Machines
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 4:27:43 PM

Mr. Knapp,

Please accept this email as my support for the State Election Commission to utilize the state master lease program as specified in Section 1-1-1020 of the SC Code of Laws as a funding mechanism to acquire new voting machines that allow risk limiting audits to be conducted. As you know, the integrity of our elections is of paramount importance to the House of Representatives, and the acquisition of these machines before the November General Elections would be considered a great benefit.

Additionally, please know that the staff of the Ways & Means Committee are happy to assist should you have any questions or need assistance.

Thanks,

Bruce Bannister, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
South Carolina House of Representatives
P. O. Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29211
803.734.3144
brucebannister@schouse.gov

EXHIBIT 9

From: [McGill, Jenny](#)
To: [Dennis Shedd](#)
Cc: [Knapp, Howard](#); [Harrell, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: Letter from Bruce Bannister re: equipment
Date: Monday, August 19, 2024 5:04:04 PM
Attachments: [20240819165430915.pdf](#)

Judge Shedd,

Attached is the email that Howie received from Bruce Bannister, the Chairman of House Ways and Means, supporting the use of the state master lease program to purchase the voting equipment.

Thank you,

Jenny McGill

From: Jenny McGill <Jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 4:54:31 PM
To: McGill, Jenny <Jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>
Subject: Message from "RNP58387960C85E"

This E-mail was sent from "RNP58387960C85E" (IM C6000).

Scan Date: 08.19.2024 16:54:30 (-0400)

EXHIBIT 10

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION MINUTES

August 21, 2024

10:00 AM

1122 Lady Street, Suite 500
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Present: Hon. Dennis W. Shedd, Chairman; Ms. JoAnne Day; Mr. Clifford Edler; Ms. Linda McCall; Mr. Scott Moseley.

Others Present: Howard Knapp, Executive Director; Jenny Wooten McGill, Director of Government Affairs and Policy; Thomas Nicholson, General Counsel; Madelyn Chavis, Senior Paralegal; Elizabeth Harrell, Executive Assistant; Paige Salonich, Director of Training and County Support Services; TJ Lundeen, Director of Public Information

Chairman Shedd called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Shedd asked Director Knapp if a quorum was present. Director Knapp affirmed it was and advised all notices of the meeting had been posted as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

COMMISSIONERS

HON. DENNIS W. SHEDD
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

Approval of Minutes:

July 17, 2024, South Carolina Election Commission Meeting

August 2, 2024, South Carolina Election Commission Meeting

Chairman Shedd introduced both minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chairman Shedd and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Day. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Statewide Market Survey

HOWARD M. KNAPP
Executive Director

Director Knapp explained that the SEC commissioned a statewide market survey of a sample of voters asking various questions related to voter registration and elections. The survey results indicate South Carolina voters are confident in their state's elections. Voter fraud fears are extremely low. Polling places in SC have ranked highly for ADA-accessibility and cleanliness.

Chairman Shedd and Director Knapp discussed the general public's opinions and the language behind this survey's phrasing for questions.

General Election Training Workshop Update

Director Knapp introduced Training and Support Services Division Director, Paige Salonich, and described the general overview of her job duties and employees.

Salonich went into detail on her workshops and how they have transformed from "sit and get" PowerPoints to hands-on workshops. Encouragement of hands-on training was discussed, as well as the difficulties faced. Salonich discussed the piloting of the State Certified Clerk Training Program ahead of the November election, which would help bolster the competency and confidence of the poll clerks, who are responsible for what happens in a polling place.

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Chairman Shedd added emphasis to training turnout of poll workers of polling places and asked about efficiency. Salonich talked about the training division that was funded last year. Chairman Shedd asked about how poll workers are allocated for each precinct. Salonich explained it is under State statute. Chairman Shedd and Salonich entered a discussion about poll workers not showing up and potential back up plans. Director Knapp mentioned the SEC staff working as an ultimate back up plan, and that some counties do have backups – however, they want to be paid for being a backup. Director Knapp mentioned he requested funds for “on call” poll managers in the current fiscal year’s budget, but that was not funded by the General Assembly. The overall conclusion to best solve this problem is to ensure the Training and Support Services’ Division workshops go smoothly. Director Knapp explained the workshop and the counties and directors’ roles in it.

Chairman Shedd stated he wants the commission to be able to say we have done everything possible.

NVRA Declination Form

Chairman Shedd commented about how other state agencies have taken it upon themselves to put this agency’s letterhead on their declination forms and that he has concerns about forcing people to sign their name that they don’t want to register to vote and that such a question may raise constitutional issues. Director Knapp agreed and presented two new NVRA form options.

Chairman Shedd and Director Knapp discussed initialing forms. Commissioner Moseley asked if they get this form every time they go to the office. Director Knapp explained the intricacies of filling out the form and that NVRA “motor voter” agencies must include this form when interacting with customers. Commissioner McCall asked if this is a federal law? Director Knapp stated yes and provided further information. Chairman Shedd motioned to adopt the NVRA Declination form without the signature requirement with the box being removed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCall. The new form was adopted unanimously.

Revised Statewide Voting System Upgrade Option

Director Knapp gave a summary of the Revised Statewide Voting System Upgrade Option. Chairman Shedd explained to the commission members their prior no action taken. Director Knapp gave a brief summary of the new offer from ES&S and the negotiations that followed between himself and the vendor that resulted in nearly a \$2M cost savings to the state.

Director Knapp also stressed how the existing precinct standards will no longer meet federal standards in a few years and that the vendor is no longer making these scanners. Director Knapp emphasized that this proposal is the best and final offer and, in his opinion, is in the best interest of the of South Carolina. Director Knapp also mentioned how most counties were getting additional ballot marking devices to meet anticipated increases in voter turnout, which is important considering a statewide constitutional amendment referendum, as well as an unprecedented number of local tax and bond referendums. Director Knapp stressed that this means most voters will be spending more time at the ballot marking device, which is where the “bottleneck” will be, thus the need for more ballot marking devices.

Commissioner Moseley asked if the ballot would be double sided, and Director Knapp said many would be and that the agency was doing all it could to ensure ballots would not be on two separate pages. Chairman Shedd discussed with Knapp that the SEC may possibly have a press release because we need to help the public perception of voting. Interpreting this as going to be in line for a long time and this slowing down the process. Director Knapp emphasized that this additional

and newer equipment will help these larger counties meet the anticipated increase in voter participation. Chairman Shedd asked if this a completely new system and Director Knapp answered that it is an upgrade of an already existing system and it will allow us to meet the forthcoming federal standards.

Chairman Shedd talked with General Counsel, Thomas Nicholson, on the legality of this contract. Nicholson stated he spoke with the State Treasurer's Office, and he was confident that it met all legal requirements. Chairman Shedd asked if this is used in other areas of the state. Nicholson answered in the affirmative, most often by cabinet agencies and colleges. Chairman Shedd asked Director Knapp asked about the support of the General Assembly. Director Knapp indicated the support of the General Assembly, discussed letters received in support of the upgrade, and that there has been no opposition. Chairman Shedd asked if Beaufort would be able to receive additional state funding without this deal, to which Director Knapp answered in the negative. Director Knapp assured that this funding would go throughout the state and not just to Beaufort County. Commissioner Day emphasized and reiterated that, either way, the DS200 precinct scanners will need to be replaced in a few years. Commissioner McCall asked about the details of payment. Director Knapp stated: yes, there would be no payments until the following fiscal year and he had received verbal assurance that the agency will get the appropriations to fund the upgrade loan in the next fiscal year. Commissioner Day asked if the deal was interest free? Director Knapp referenced the master lease agreement, and that it would interest free for a year.

A motion was made by Chairman Shedd to authorize Knapp, as the Executive Director, to sign the master lease agreement on behalf of the agency. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Day. The motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Public Comment Policy

Chairman Shedd read the paragraph of the proposed Public Comment Policy, indicated that the burden of deciding whether the public can present comments to the Commission should not solely rest with the Executive Director and proposed changing the policy to the decision of the Executive Director after consultation with the Chair. The Chairman stated the Commission can change it back if this does not have its intended effect.

A motion was made by Chairman Shedd and he asked for second.

Discussion between Chairman Shedd and Commissioner McCall. Discussion between Chairman Shedd and Commissioner Edler that testimony should be 1-2 minutes.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edler. The motion was passed unanimously.

SEC Revised Logo

Director Knapp gave examples of how the revised logo has been implemented in posters. Chairman Shedd stated should we have another poster that we put up in county offices that displays that more significantly, which Director Knapp assured we already have made and implemented.

No action needs to be taken.

Voter Education/Outreach

Director Knapp explained various new outreach partnerships with ColaToday and putting the agency's Prep for the Polls campaign on 108 billboards statewide. Another partnership with the high school football leagues was discussed. The SEC also has participated in several events. Two examples being: the Midlands Resource Fair and Disability Resource Fair. The Board and Chairman reacted positively to this. Chairman Shedd asked if the agency would spend the whole public information budget? Director Knapp stated that the agency seeks to expend all funds by the end of each fiscal year, including Public Information. Commissioner Moseley asked if the outreach from those communities with the longer voting lines come from the county offices? Director Knapp responded yes, stating larger counties tend to publish their own ads in addition to the ads the SEC publishes. Director Knapp explained that the SEC has more resources and tries to put those resources where the most voters are for maximum return on investment.

October meeting in Charleston

After discussion on the venue for the October Commission meeting, the Chairman stated that, if it was feasible, that staff should pursue organizing the meeting at The Citadel. The time decided on was 11 a.m. on Thursday, October 17.

Election Infrastructure Security Update

Director Knapp explained that the agency was notified this week that six non-citizens were registered to vote in this state in three different counties. They have been removed from the voter list and this matter has been referred to SLED. The agency continues to work with its state and federal law enforcement and intelligence partners to ensure that our elections are secure and accurate. Chairman Shedd stated this proves the system is being monitored and once any problems are found, the action is taken.

On the motion of Chairman Shedd, seconded by Commissioner McCall, the Commission voted to go into executive session to receive legal updates and advice. On the motion of Chairman Shedd, seconded by Commissioner Day, the Commission voted unanimously to leave executive session. Chairman Shedd noted no votes were taken in executive session.

Director Knapp noted the next meeting would be held Wednesday, September 18, at 10am at the SEC.

Chairman Shedd adjourned the meeting.

EXHIBIT 11

From: [McGill, Jenny](#)
To: [Jessica Wigington](#)
Cc: [Rick Harmon](#); [Jake Scoggins](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Master Lease Option
Date: Monday, September 16, 2024 4:18:58 PM

Hi Jessa,

Yes, the commission did approve for the agency to move forward with the master lease program option at that meeting.

I am out of the office this afternoon, but if any other questions come up I'll be back tomorrow morning and happy to answer.

Thank you!



Jenny

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Jessica Wigington <JessicaWigington@scsenate.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 3:20 PM
To: McGill, Jenny <jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>
Cc: Rick Harmon <RickHarmon@scsenate.gov>; Jake Scoggins <JakeScoggins@scsenate.gov>
Subject: [External] Master Lease Option

Good afternoon, Jenny,

I hope you have had a great summer thus far. Whenever you get a moment, did the Commission approve the master lease option during the August 21 meeting? A member has inquired about its status.

Thank you,

Jessa Wigington

Budget Analyst

Senate Finance Committee | South Carolina Senate

Gressette Building, Suite 108 | 1101 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Tel: [803-212-6651](tel:803-212-6651) | Fax: 803-212-6690 | jessicawigington@scsenate.gov

EXHIBIT 12

From: [McGill, Jenny](#)
To: [Harrell, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: for commission meeting FW: State Election Commission Follow Up
Date: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 12:09:44 PM
Attachments: [Master Lease-List of Agencies-Financed Amounts.xlsx](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image012.png](#)

Howie wants the attached spreadsheet printed for the voting equipment section. This is a list of other agencies that have used the state master lease program.

From: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 10:51 AM
To: McGill, Jenny <jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>
Cc: Kelly, Shelly <Shelly.Kelly@sto.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: State Election Commission Follow Up

Hi Jenny,

I've attached a list of agencies who have used the Master Lease Program in the last few years and have included the amount financed as well as the purpose.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything further.

We are looking forward to working with you and excited that the State Treasurer's Office may be able to assist The SC Election Commission in the purchase of election equipment.

Kind Regards,

Jackie D. Hipes | Director Debt Management Division

South Carolina Office of State Treasurer
1200 Senate Street, Suite 214
Columbia, SC 29201
803-734-1391 | jackie.hipes@sto.sc.gov

From: McGill, Jenny <jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 9:43 AM
To: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>
Subject: State Election Commission Follow Up

Hi Jackie,

Thank you so much for giving me a call this morning. My contact information is in my signature

below.

Our Commission is meeting next Wednesday to decide whether not to approve moving forward with a Master Lease Program financing request for election equipment. Before that meeting, it would be helpful to have a list of agencies that have used the Master Lease Program in the last 3-5 years, what their loans were for, and how much they financed to share with our Commission. Any information you could provide would be much appreciated!

Thank you again,

Jenny McGill

Director of Government Affairs & Policy

South Carolina Election Commission

1122 Lady St, 5th Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987, Columbia, SC 29250

Phone: 803.734.4139 | **Fax:** 803-734-9366 | **Website:** scVOTES.gov

EXHIBIT 13

Thanks Jenny---we will review at a high level, but did notice in the Master Lease Program Financing Request that you included \$7,500 for legal and other transactions cost. Our fees for a transaction of this size is not less than \$12,500 (and possibly could be more depending on the ultimate structure and other factors).

Many thanks and look forward to working with you!

Alan M. Lipsitz

Shareholder | Banking & Credit

P: (803) 253-8259

ALipsitz@maynardnexsen.com

1230 Main Street

Suite 700

Columbia, South Carolina 29201



From: McGill, Jenny <jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 11:30 AM

To: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>; Alan M. Lipsitz <alipsitz@maynardnexsen.com>

Cc: Nicholson, Thomas <tnicholson@elections.sc.gov>; Knapp, Howard <hknapp@elections.sc.gov>

Subject: State Election Commission - Master Lease Program Financing Request

Good morning, Jackie,

I am attaching the State Election Commission's Master Lease Program Financing Request along with the following attachments:

1. Analysis of Funding Alternatives memo from Senate Finance staff dated June 11, 2024
2. Vendor price proposal
3. Vendor change order
4. Equipment specification sheet for the DS 300 Scanners

It is our intention to pay the entire loan off before the 3-year term. We would like to include an option to pre-pay before the standard 2-year prepayment that is typically negotiated.

Upon your review, please let me know if you need anything else from us and what the next steps are. We look forward to working with you on this.

Thank you,

Jenny

Jenny McGill
Director of Government Affairs & Policy

South Carolina Election Commission

1122 Lady St, 5th Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987, Columbia, SC 29250

Phone: 803.734.4139 | **Fax:** 803-734-9366 | **Website:** scVOTES.gov



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EXHIBIT 14

From: [Wooten, Jenny](#)
To: [Hipes, Jackie](#)
Cc: [Nicholson, Thomas](#); [Knapp, Howard](#); [Kelly, Shelly](#); ALipsitz@maynardnexsen.com
Subject: RE: Master Lease Request for Proposal-Responses
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2024 2:26:13 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

Hi Jackie,

We are good with you moving forward with making the award to TDEF.

Thank you so much,

Jenny Wooten McGill
Director of Government Affairs & Policy

South Carolina Election Commission

1122 Lady St, 5th Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987, Columbia, SC 29250

Phone: 803.734.4139 | **Fax:** 803-734-9366 | **Website:** scVOTES.gov

From: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2024 11:36 AM
To: McGill, Jenny <jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>
Cc: Nicholson, Thomas <tnicholson@elections.sc.gov>; Knapp, Howard <hknapp@elections.sc.gov>; Kelly, Shelly <Shelly.Kelly@sto.sc.gov>; ALipsitz@maynardnexsen.com
Subject: Master Lease Request for Proposal-Responses
Importance: High

Good morning, Jenny

Attached are the bids received from BOA, TDEF, Truist, US Bank, and Wells Fargo. JP Morgan confirmed that they were not bidding.

TD Equipment Finance has the lowest rates for both the non-prepayment option (3.27%) and the prepayment option (3.29%).

After receiving your agreement, we will move forward with making the award to TDEF.

Please let us know your decision as soon as possible as we need to make the award today (the same day the bids are due).

Thanks,

Jackie D. Hipes | Director Debt Management Division

South Carolina Office of State Treasurer

1200 Senate Street, Suite 214

Columbia, SC 29201

803-734-1391 | jackie.hipes@sto.sc.gov

EXHIBIT 15

ESSENTIAL USE/SOURCE OF FUNDS CERTIFICATE

September 30, 2024

TD Equipment Finance, Inc.
12000 Horizon Way, 4th Floor
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
Attention: Maggie Morris

Re: Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement dated as of even date herewith (the "Lease") between TD Equipment Finance, Inc. ("Lessor") and the State Election Commission ("Lessee")

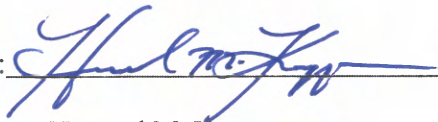
This certificate confirms and affirms that the Equipment described in the Lease referenced above is essential to the functions of Lessee or to the services Lessee provides its citizens. Further, Lessee has an immediate need for, and expects to make immediate use of, substantially all such Equipment, which need is not temporary or expected to diminish in the foreseeable future. Such Equipment will be used by Lessee only for the purpose of performing one or more of Lessee's governmental or proprietary functions consistent with the permissible scope of its authority.

Lessee expects and anticipates adequate funds to be available for all future payments or rent due after the current budgetary period.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

This Certificate is executed and delivered as of the day and year first written above.

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

By: _____

Name: Howard M. Knapp

Title: Executive Director

EXHIBIT 16

September 30, 2024

TD Equipment Finance, Inc.
12000 Horizon Way, 4th Floor
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Re: Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement dated as of September 30, 2024 between TD Equipment Finance, Inc. and the State Election Commission

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The undersigned is general counsel for the State Election Commission ("Lessee"), an instrumentality of the State of South Carolina, and in such capacity has examined counterparts of the documents executed by Lessee in connection with leasing of certain personal property pursuant to the Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement dated as of September 30, 2024 (the "Agreement") between Lessee and TD Equipment Finance, Inc. ("Lessor"). I have examined the Agreement, the certificates of officers and representatives of Lessee and such other documents and papers as I have deemed necessary for the expression of the opinions contained herein. In such examinations I have assumed the authenticity of all documents submitted to me as originals, conformity to the original documents of all documents submitted to me as certified or photostatic copies, and the authenticity of the originals of such latter documents.

COMMISSIONERS

HON. DENNIS W. SHEDD
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

HOWARD M. KNAPP
Executive Director

Based on my examinations mentioned above and relying upon statements of fact contained in the documents I have examined, I am of the opinion that:

- (1) The Agreement has been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by Lessee.
- (2) Lessee has full right, power, and authority to execute and deliver the Agreement and perform its obligations thereunder; and the execution and delivery of the Agreement by Lessee does not, and performance by Lessee thereof will not, contravene any indenture, covenant, instrument, or agreement to which Lessee is a party or by which Lessee or any of its properties is bound or affected.
- (3) The execution and delivery of the Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated thereby complies with all applicable bidding and procurement laws.
- (4) No approval, consent, exemption, authorization, or other action by, or notice to or filing with, any government authority is necessary in connection with the execution, delivery, or performance by Lessee of the Agreement; provided, it being understood that the performance by Lessee of the Agreement is subject to non-appropriation as set forth in Section 5.06 of the Agreement.
- (5) To our knowledge, there is no action, investigation or proceeding pending or threatened against Lessee before any court or administrative agency that might (a) materially adversely affect Lessee's ability to perform any obligations under the Agreement, (b) involve the possibility of any judgment or liability that would result in any material adverse change in Lessee's business, properties or assets, or (c) materially adversely affect the enforceability of the Agreement.

Lessor and its successors and assigns, and any counsel rendering an opinion on the tax-exempt status of the interest components of the Agreement, are entitled to rely on this opinion as of the date it was given.

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Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987
Columbia, SC 29250

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Fax: 803.734.9366
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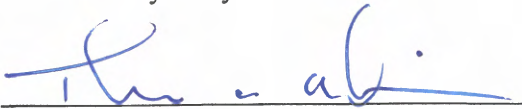
TD Equipment Finance, Inc.
Page 2

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Nicholson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas W. Nicholson
General Counsel

This Certificate is executed and delivered as of the day and year first written above.

By: 

Name: Thomas W. Nicholson

Title: General Counsel

[The signer of this Certificate cannot be listed above as authorized to execute the Lease.]

EXHIBIT 17

Houck, Matthew

From: Morey, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Graham, Angie; Hipes, Jackie
Cc: Miller, Leann; Hill, Tiffany
Subject: RE: Sub fund request E280 SC Elections Commission-Master Lease (46N10000)
Attachments: Fund Validation Request Form - E280 Master Lease-.pdf

Good afternoon,

The cost center on the attached validation request form of E2800000010 is not valid per contact with DOA. If you could please provide an updated cost center that we can use to deposit any interest earnings on fund 46N10000?

Thanks,



Thomas M. Morey | Senior Accountant/Fiscal Analyst

South Carolina Treasurer's Office
1200 Senate Street, Suite 214
Wade Hampton Office Building
Columbia, SC 29201

803-734-2665 | Thomas.Morey@STO.SC.GOV

From: Scott, Keith <kscott@cg.sc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 11:22 AM
To: Graham, Angie <angie.graham@sto.sc.gov>
Cc: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>; Hill, Tiffany <Tiffany.Hill@sto.sc.gov>; Johnson, Kathy <kjohnson@cg.sc.gov>; Miller, Leann <Leann.Miller@sto.sc.gov>; Morey, Thomas <Thomas.Morey@sto.sc.gov>; Scott, Keith <kscott@cg.sc.gov>; Townsend, Sydney <Sydney.Townsend@sto.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: Sub fund request E280 SC Elections Commission-Master Lease (46N10000)

Angie,

Fund 46N10000 has been validated for business area E280.

Leann/Sydney/Tiffany,

This fund will retain interest. The investment information is attached.

Thanks,



KEITH SCOTT

Statewide Accounting Services
Comptroller General's Office

Office: 803-734-2601 | **Email:** kscott@cg.sc.gov | **Web:** <https://cg.sc.gov>
Address: 1200 Senate St., 305 Wade Hampton Bldg., Columbia, SC 29201

From: Graham, Angie <angie.graham@sto.sc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 10:10 AM
To: Johnson, Kathy <kjohnson@cg.sc.gov>; Scott, Keith <kscott@cg.sc.gov>
Cc: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: Sub fund request E280 SC Elections Commission-Master Lease

Thanks Kathy! Here is the updated form. Let us know if you need anything further!

Thank You,

Angie



Angie Graham - Senior Accountant , CGFO

South Carolina Treasurer's Office
Debt Division
116 Wade Hampton Building

Capitol Complex, Columbia, SC 29201
803-734-2114 | angie.graham@sto.sc.gov

From: Johnson, Kathy <kjohnson@cg.sc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 10:05 AM
To: Graham, Angie <angie.graham@sto.sc.gov>; Scott, Keith <kscott@cg.sc.gov>
Cc: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: Sub fund request E280 SC Elections Commission-Master Lease

Good morning,

I believe this is a request to validate the 46N1XXXX fund for E280 and not a new fund request. We recently established fund 41W18000 for this agreement:

BusA	Fund	Name	Description
E280	41W18000	E280 ML PROC-ELEC 24	E280 MASTER LEASE PROC - ELEC EQUIP 24

You are correct that E280 needs access to a master lease proceeds fund but since Elections is not an AFS agency, they will need to use fund 46N10000 instead of fund 46N19000.

If you can please update this validation request to be for fund 46N10000 we can proceed with entering this into the system.

Thank you,



Kathy J. Johnson, CPA | Director of Statewide Accounting

South Carolina Comptroller General's Office

305 Wade Hampton Building | Capital Complex, Columbia, SC 29201

Direct • 803-734-2608 | Office • 803-734-2121

Email • kjohnson@cg.sc.gov | Web • www.cg.sc.gov

From: Graham, Angie <angie.graham@sto.sc.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 9:39 AM

To: Johnson, Kathy <kjohnson@cg.sc.gov>; Scott, Keith <kscott@cg.sc.gov>

Cc: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>

Subject: Sub fund request E280 SC Elections Commission-Master Lease

Good Morning Kathy and Keith,

Please find the attached sub fund request for SC Elections Commission- ML.

The Lease is currently scheduled to close on September 30, 2024 . We apologize for the late ask as we realize they did not had a previous lease and a pass through fund was needed as well as the previously submitted proceeds request. We hope we can get this a soon as possible.

Please confirm receipt, and let me know if you need additional information

Thank You,

Angie



Angie Graham - Senior Accountant , CGFO

South Carolina Treasurer's Office

Debt Division

116 Wade Hampton Building

Capitol Complex, Columbia, SC 29201

803-734-2114 | angie.graham@sto.sc.gov

EXHIBIT 18

From: [Williams, LaToria](#)
To: [Hairston, Jennifer](#)
Subject: FW: Request for Reimbursement - Draw down form on loan
Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:58:00 PM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

FYI

From: Johnson, Kathy <kjohnson@cg.sc.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 9:56 AM
To: Williams, LaToria <lwilliams@elections.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: Request for Reimbursement - Draw down form on loan

Good morning Latoria,

We have some agency guidance posted on our website related to master lease accounting you can take a look at:

<https://cg.sc.gov/guidance-and-forms-state-agencies/cgs-accounting-policies-and-procedures>



And this is a high level summary of the major steps involved for master leases:

1. **STO Receives Cash from Loan Closing**

DR E160 Cash – Fund 41W18000 – E280 MASTER LEASE PROC - ELEC EQUIP 24
CR E160 Liability G/L 2090030000 – MASTER LEASE PROGRAM, Fund 41W18000

2. **Agency Requests Cash Draw from STO to Pay Vendor Invoices**

DR E160 Liability G/L 2090030000 – MASTER LEASE PROGRAM, Fund 41W18000
CR E160 Cash

DR E280 Cash

CR E280 Revenue G/L 4600060000 – MASTER LEASE PROCEEDS, Fund 46N10000 – MASTER LEASE PROCEEDS - GOVERNMENTAL 001 (NOTE: E280 already has access to this fund)

3. **Agency pays vendor via direct pay (PO is not required under master lease financing arrangements)**

DR E280 Expense G/L 5060999996* – MASTER LEASE ASSET CONTRA, Fund 46N10000 – MASTER LEASE PROCEEDS - GOVERNMENTAL 001
CR E280 Cash

** this G/L is statistical meaning it does not consume budget*

4. **Agency records assets via ABZON in the governmental fund that will ultimately be used to pay the debt /loan payments** (using fund 10010000 as an example)

DR E280 Asset G/L 1801XXXXXX – Fixed Asset, Fund 10010000
CR E280 G/L 5060999996* – MASTER LEASE ASSET CONTRA, Fund 10010000

** same G/L as above that does not consume budget*

5. **Agency makes loan payments – using the governmental fund where the budget and cash are located** (this step consumes budget)

DR E280 Principle G/L 5080030000 – PRINCIPAL-MASTER LEASE PGM (consumes 508* budget), Fund 10010000
DR E280 G/L 5080150000 – INTEREST-MASTER LEASE PROGRAM, Fund 10010000
CR E280 Cash

As noted above, E280 already has access to the fund that should be used to receive the master lease draws and to pay the vendor for the equipment: fund 46N10000. Agencies utilizing master leases is not that common so I'm not sure if most would create a new functional area and/or cost center. That will likely depend on the source of funding that will be used for the eventual consumption of budget as the loan payments are recorded.

Please let me know if you have any questions or I'd be happy to discuss further.

Best regards,



Kathy J. Johnson, CPA | Director of Statewide Accounting

South Carolina Comptroller General's Office

305 Wade Hampton Building | Capital Complex, Columbia, SC 29201

Direct • 803-734-2608 | Office • 803-734-2121

Email • kjohnson@cg.sc.gov | Web • www.cg.sc.gov

From: Williams, LaToria <lwilliams@elections.sc.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 1, 2024 12:03 PM
To: Johnson, Kathy <kjohnson@cg.sc.gov>
Subject: FW: Request for Reimbursement - Draw down form on loan

Good afternoon, Kathy.

Will we need to set up a new fund, cost center, and functional area to receive these funds? I'm not familiar with how the master lease program works, so any guidance you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

LaToria Williams, CPM

Director of Administration and Finance



1122 Lady St, Suite 500, Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987, Columbia, SC 29250

Phone: 803.734.9069 | **Fax:** 803.734.9366

Website: scvotes.gov



every vote matters.
every vote counts.

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From: McGill, Jenny <jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 12:00 PM
To: Williams, LaToria <lwilliams@elections.sc.gov>
Subject: FW: Request for Reimbursement - Draw down form on loan

From: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 11:59 AM
To: McGill, Jenny <jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>
Cc: Nicholson, Thomas <tnicholson@elections.sc.gov>; Graham, Angie <angie.graham@sto.sc.gov>;

EXHIBIT 19

Baldwin, Erin

From: Wooten, Jenny
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 1:30 PM
To: Hipes, Jackie
Cc: Nicholson, Thomas; O'Brien, Kevin; ALipsitz@maynardnexsen.com; Knapp, Howard
Subject: From State Election Commission RE: TD Bank and the lease
Attachments: State of South Carolina Invoice - #PR579423 - Excludes BB.pdf; State of South Carolina Invoice - #PR579423a - Taxes Only.pdf; State of South Carolina Invoice - #PR579424 - DS300 Ballot Boxes.pdf; Signed SEC Financing Request No. 2 Dec 2024.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Jackie,

Please let me know if the attached request and documentation is sufficient. As we discussed, the equipment related to this financing request is the same as the first financing request. However, after securing the first financing request, we realized that the quotes our vendor submitted did not include taxes. This has resulted in us needing additional funds to pay for the entire cost of the equipment upgrade which is why we are making a second master lease financing request.

I am attaching the 3 invoices associated with the entire equipment purchase. 2 of the 3 invoices have been paid from the master lease funds received. The status of the 3 invoices associated with the purchase is pasted below:

- Invoice #PR579423 for \$25,836,319.00 – Status – Paid from master lease funds disbursed to SEC.
- Invoice #PR579423a for \$1,784,898.12 – Status – Paid from master lease funds disbursed to SEC.
- Invoice #PR579424 for \$3,220,412.80. Status – Unpaid.
- Total invoices: \$30,841,629.92

If you have any questions or if we need to provide further explanation, please let me know.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Jenny Wooten McGill, Chief of Staff
Director of Government Affairs & Policy

South Carolina Election Commission
1122 Lady St, 5th Floor, Columbia, SC 29201
P.O. Box 5987, Columbia, SC 29250
Phone: 803.734.4139 Website: scVOTES.gov

From: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 2:52 PM
To: McGill, Jenny <jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>
Cc: Nicholson, Thomas <tnicholson@elections.sc.gov>; O'Brien, Kevin <Kevin.O'Brien@sto.sc.gov>; ALipsitz@maynardnexsen.com
Subject: RE: TD Bank and the lease

Good afternoon, Jenny,

TD Bank reviewed the matter internally and have decided that the best course of action is to document as a separate lease and make it coterminous with the 9/30/2027 maturity date on the existing lease.

They will provide a sample amortization schedule so we can see the estimated cash flow.

We will need a new financing request along with supporting documentation as I had mentioned previously.

I'll update you as I receive additional information.

Thanks,



Jackie D. Hipes | Director Debt Management Division

South Carolina Treasurer's Office

1200 Senate Street, Suite 214

Wade Hampton Bldg., Columbia, SC 29201

803-734-1391 | jackie.hipes@sto.sc.gov

From: McGill, Jenny <jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>

Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 9:31 AM

To: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>

Cc: Nicholson, Thomas <tnicholson@elections.sc.gov>

Subject: RE: TD Bank and the lease

Good morning, Jackie,

We have a meeting this afternoon to discuss the items you need.

I'll be in touch.

Thank you so much,

Jenny

From: Hipes, Jackie <Jackie.Hipes@sto.sc.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 4:06 PM

To: McGill, Jenny <jmcgill@elections.sc.gov>

Subject: TD Bank and the lease

Jenny,

Alan Lipsitz and I met with TD Bank this morning. It sounds possible and favorable that they will be able to amend the lease in some way perhaps as an addendum. They need to meet with someone on Monday and will probably have an answer by Tuesday.

We are not sure what the rates may be; they are actually up a bit. They hope not to need to refund the original lease. They will also let Alan know what they will need from him, so there will be added fees associated with his work.

While we are waiting to hear back from TD, we need to know the exact amount and receive any documentation that indicates the amount. We will probably need a supplemental financing request as well. Also, what is your timing as to when the funds are needed?

We did ask to make sure that they would be able to process the disbursement request that you just submitted, and they said that wouldn't be a problem.

If you could get me the amount and the supporting documentation, we will go from there and wait to hear what TD's solution is.

Thanks,



Jackie D. Hipes | Director Debt Management Division
South Carolina Treasurer's Office
1200 Senate Street, Suite 214
Wade Hampton Bldg., Columbia, SC 29201
803-734-1391 | jackie.hipes@sto.sc.gov

EXHIBIT 20

ESSENTIAL USE/SOURCE OF FUNDS CERTIFICATE

January 31, 2025

TD Equipment Finance, Inc.
12000 Horizon Way, 4th Floor
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
Attention: Maggie Morris

Re: Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement dated as of even date herewith (the "Lease")
between TD Equipment Finance, Inc. ("Lessor") and the State Election Commission
("Lessee")

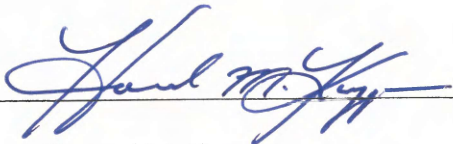
This certificate confirms and affirms that the Equipment described in the Lease referenced above is essential to the functions of Lessee or to the services Lessee provides its citizens. Further, Lessee has an immediate need for, and expects to make immediate use of, substantially all such Equipment, which need is not temporary or expected to diminish in the foreseeable future. Such Equipment will be used by Lessee only for the purpose of performing one or more of Lessee's governmental or proprietary functions consistent with the permissible scope of its authority.

Lessee expects and anticipates adequate funds to be available for all future payments or rent due after the current budgetary period.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

This Certificate is executed and delivered as of the day and year first written above.

STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

By: 

Name: Howard M. Knapp

Title: Executive Director

EXHIBIT 21

January 31, 2025

TD Equipment Finance, Inc.
12000 Horizon Way, 4th Floor
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Re: Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement dated as of January 31, 2025 between TD Equipment Finance, Inc. and the State Election Commission

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The undersigned is general counsel for the State Election Commission ("Lessee"), an instrumentality of the State of South Carolina, and in such capacity has examined counterparts of the documents executed by Lessee in connection with leasing of certain personal property pursuant to the Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement dated as of January 31, 2025 (the "Agreement") between Lessee and TD Equipment Finance, Inc. ("Lessor"). I have examined the Agreement, the certificates of officers and representatives of Lessee and such other documents and papers as I have deemed necessary for the expression of the opinions contained herein. In such examinations I have assumed the authenticity of all documents submitted to me as originals, conformity to the original documents of all documents submitted to me as certified or photostatic copies, and the authenticity of the originals of such latter documents.

COMMISSIONERS

HON. DENNIS W. SHEDD
Chairman

JOANNE DAY

CLIFFORD J. EDLER

LINDA MCCALL

SCOTT MOSELEY

HOWARD M. KNAPP
Executive Director

Based on my examinations mentioned above and relying upon statements of fact contained in the documents I have examined, I am of the opinion that:

- (1) The Agreement has been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by Lessee.
- (2) Lessee has full right, power, and authority to execute and deliver the Agreement and perform its obligations thereunder; and the execution and delivery of the Agreement by Lessee does not, and performance by Lessee thereof will not, contravene any indenture, covenant, instrument, or agreement to which Lessee is a party or by which Lessee or any of its properties is bound or affected.
- (3) The execution and delivery of the Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated thereby complies with all applicable bidding and procurement laws.
- (4) No approval, consent, exemption, authorization, or other action by, or notice to or filing with, any government authority is necessary in connection with the execution, delivery, or performance by Lessee of the Agreement; provided, it being understood that the performance by Lessee of the Agreement is subject to non-appropriation as set forth in Section 5.06 of the Agreement.
- (5) To our knowledge, there is no action, investigation or proceeding pending or threatened against Lessee before any court or administrative agency that might (a) materially adversely affect Lessee's ability to perform any obligations under the Agreement, (b) involve the possibility of any judgment or liability that would result in any material adverse change in Lessee's business, properties or assets, or (c) materially adversely affect the enforceability of the Agreement.

Lessor and its successors and assigns, and any counsel rendering an opinion on the tax-exempt status of the interest components of the Agreement, are entitled to rely on this opinion as of the date it was given.

1122 Lady Street
Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987
Columbia, SC 29250

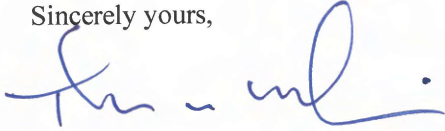
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To be eligible to register, you must be:
A U.S. Citizen | S.C. Resident | 18 years or older

TD Equipment Finance, Inc.
Page 2

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Nicholson", followed by a period.

Thomas W. Nicholson
General Counsel

EXHIBIT 22

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102



Fiscal Year FY 2025-2026

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS (FORM B1)	For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):		
	☒	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.	
	☐	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.	
	☐	Not requesting any changes.	
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS (FORM B2)	For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):		
	☒	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.	
	☒	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.	
	☐	Not requesting any changes.	
CAPITAL REQUESTS (FORM C)	For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):		
	☐	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.	
	☒	Not requesting any changes.	
PROVISOS (FORM D)	For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):		
	☒	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.	
	☐	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).	
	☐	Not requesting any proviso changes.	

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	LaToria Williams	(803) 734-9069	lwilliams@elections.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Jenny McGill	(803) 734-4139	jmcgill@elections.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2025-2026 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
SIGN/DATE:		
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Howard McKnapp	Dennis W. Shedd

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

This document was completed by agency staff in compliance with state law and thereafter transmitted to the Department of Administration.

Agency Name:	<u>Election Commission</u>
Agency Code:	E280
Section:	102

<u>BUDGET REQUESTS</u>			<u>FUNDING</u>					<u>FTEs</u>				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B2 - Non-Recurring	Statewide voting system upgrade	32,000,000	0	0	0	32,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Annual Election Costs	4,500,000	0	0	0	4,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Polling Location Technician Certification Program	500,000	0	0	0	500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B1 - Recurring	Election Integrity	500,000	0	0	0	500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B1 - Recurring	NEW FTEs	423,346	0	0	0	423,346	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
6	B1 - Recurring	Agency Legal Defense Costs	500,000	0	0	0	500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	B1 - Recurring	Poll worker pay increase	4,000,000	0	0	0	4,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	B1 - Recurring	Board member stipend increase	1,035,000	0	0	0	1,035,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	B1 - Recurring	State Board of Canvassers Compensation	11,250	0	0	0	11,250	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	B2 - Non-Recurring	HAVA MATCH	200,000	0	0	0	200,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			43,669,596	0	0	0	43,669,596	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
----------------------------	---

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Annual Election Costs
--------------	-----------------------

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$4,500,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$4,500,000
---------------	--

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
----------------------	------

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☒	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	☐	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	☐	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	☐	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	☐	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	☐	IT Technology/Security related
	☐	HR/Personnel Related
	☐	Consulted DTO during development
☐	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	☐	Education, Training, and Human Development
	☐	Healthy and Safe Families
	☐	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	☒	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 4.2.1: Effectively oversee all agency programs and operations. Total reimbursement provided for county poll workers following statewide election (base figure calculated on 2016 SW primary reimbursements; target figure includes 2106 primaries, runoffs, and PPP reimbursements). Goal 4.2.2: Total reimbursement provided for county poll workers following statewide election (base figure calculated on 2016 SW primary reimbursements; target figure includes 2106 primaries, runoffs, and PPP reimbursements). Manage funds appropriated for aid to county supplements.
------------------------------------	---

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

The SEC would be the recipient of the funds and would use the funds to provide the necessary reimbursements to counties for statewide elections.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

In South Carolina, state and local election officials share in the responsibility of conducting elections. The SEC, as the chief election agency in the state, is responsible for overseeing the overall voter registration and election process. Each year, South Carolina holds approximately 300 elections. There is at least one statewide election in South Carolina every fiscal year. The amount of resources needed and the number of days on which voting actually takes place in South Carolina has increased significantly with the implementation of early voting. The State Election Commission is requesting \$4,500,000 to cover the cost of election expenses. The State Election Commission provides tremendous financial support to the 46 county boards of voter registration and elections to help cover the cost of election expenses. Election expenses include but are not limited to early voting workers, election day workers, legal notices, and printed supplies. Without this financial support, it would be impossible to carry out accessible, efficient, and accurate elections.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Polling Location Technician Certification Program
-------	---

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$500,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$500,000
--------	---

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
---------------	------

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☐	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	☒	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	☐	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	☐	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	☐	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	☐	IT Technology/Security related
	☐	HR/Personnel Related
	☐	Consulted DTO during development
	☐	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	☐	Education, Training, and Human Development
	☐	Healthy and Safe Families
	☐	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	☒	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	The SEC would be the recipient of the funds and would use the funds to provide the necessary reimbursements to counties for statewide elections.
-------------------------	---

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	The SEC would be the recipient of the funds.
---------------	---

FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

**JUSTIFICATION OF
REQUEST**

The \$500,000 recurring, general funds request would be used to maintain a statewide pool of highly trained, compliant, and dependable Polling Location Technicians to serve in statewide elections. This Certified Polling Location Certification Program will assist in recruiting and retaining polling location technicians in all counties, which is currently a statewide challenge.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4
-----------------	---

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Election Integrity
-------	--------------------

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$500,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$500,000
--------	---

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
---------------	------

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
		Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
		Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
		Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	X	IT Technology/Security related
		HR/Personnel Related
	Consulted DTO during development	
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
	X	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
		Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal1.1:Maintain a statewide voter registration system that is secure, convenient, accessible and meets the needs of the counties and citizens of South Carolina
-------------------------	---

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	The SEC would be the recipient of the funds.
---------------	--

FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

**JUSTIFICATION OF
REQUEST**

Election integrity, election audits, and voter list maintenance is a top priority for the agency. The State Election Commission is tasked with maintaining the statewide voter registration system. With the growing amount of data the agency is receiving in order to keep the voter list as accurate as possible, ongoing software and technology upgrades are needed to ensure list accuracy. Additionally, it is imperative that are routinely performed. The State Election Commission is requesting \$500,000 to complete results verification audits, risk limiting audits, and necessary updates, enhancements, and technological upgrades to the statewide voter registration. If the funds are not provided, South Carolina elections will be severely impacted.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	5
------------------------	---

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	NEW FTEs
--------------	----------

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$423,346 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$423,346
---------------	---

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	5.00
----------------------	------

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply: <table> <tr><td>☒</td><td>Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program</td></tr> <tr><td>☒</td><td>IT Technology/Security related</td></tr> <tr><td>☒</td><td>HR/Personnel Related</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Consulted DTO during development</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #</td></tr> </table>	☒	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience	☐	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas	☐	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative	☐	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program	☐	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program	☒	IT Technology/Security related	☒	HR/Personnel Related	☐	Consulted DTO during development	☐	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #
☒	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience																						
☐	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines																						
☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program																						
☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas																						
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☒	IT Technology/Security related																						
☒	HR/Personnel Related																						
☐	Consulted DTO during development																						
☐	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #																						

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective: <table> <tr><td>☒</td><td>Education, Training, and Human Development</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Healthy and Safe Families</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Public Infrastructure and Economic Development</td></tr> <tr><td>☐</td><td>Government and Citizens</td></tr> </table>	☒	Education, Training, and Human Development	☐	Healthy and Safe Families	☐	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development	☐	Government and Citizens
☒	Education, Training, and Human Development										
☐	Healthy and Safe Families										
☐	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security										
☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development										
☐	Government and Citizens										

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 4.1.1: Effectively oversee all agency programs and operations. Percentage of Employee Performance Management System (EPMS) evaluations conducted. Goal 4.1.2: Manage administrative, financial and human resource activities of the agency. Employee retention rate (nonretirement).
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

	The SEC would be the recipient of the funds.
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	
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What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	The SEC saw an increase in workload regarding regulatory requirements and is adjusting to ensure continuity of services and performance throughout the agency. As such, certain staff are taking on additional job duties. Overall, being able to adequately compensate staff for performance of job duties is essential to the SEC being able to recruit and retain qualified individuals, enabling the accomplishment of the agency's goals and mission. HA35 GIS Manager (Band 7):80,105(salary) + 34,445 (fringe) =114,550AN19 Professional Auditor (Band 5): 55,559 (salary) +23,890 (fringe) =79,44979,449*4=317,796 (Total Personnel Cost)=114,550+ 317,796=423,346 (Total Personnel Cost Request)
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Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

6

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Agency Legal Defense Costs

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: \$500,000

Federal: \$0

Other: \$0

Total: \$500,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark “X” for all that apply:

X

Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience

Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines

Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program

Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas

Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative

Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program

Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program

IT Technology/Security related

HR/Personnel Related

Consulted DTO during development

Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

Education, Training, and Human Development

Healthy and Safe Families

Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security

Public Infrastructure and Economic Development

X

Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Goal 4.2.1: Ensure compliance with state and federal laws and agency policies and procedures.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The SEC would be the recipient of the funds.

FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

**JUSTIFICATION OF
REQUEST**

The State Election Commission has gone from being a part of 1-2 lawsuits a year to 10-12 major, complex lawsuits. In order for the agency to properly manage the increasing lawsuits, the State Election Commission is requesting \$500,000 to allocate to its legal defense costs.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	7
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Poll worker pay increase
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$4,000,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$4,000,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☐	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	☒	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	☐	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	☐	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	☐	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	☐	IT Technology/Security related
	☐	HR/Personnel Related
	☐	Consulted DTO during development
	☐	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	☐	Education, Training, and Human Development
	☐	Healthy and Safe Families
	☐	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	☒	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 4.2.1: Effectively oversee all agency programs and operations. Total reimbursement provided for county poll workers following statewide election (base figure calculated on 2016 SW primary reimbursements; target figure includes 2106 primaries, runoffs, and PPP reimbursements). Goal 4.2.2: Total reimbursement provided for county poll workers following statewide election (base figure calculated on 2016 SW primary reimbursements; target figure includes 2106 primaries, runoffs, and PPP reimbursements). Manage funds appropriated for aid to county supplements.
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

The SEC would be the recipient of the funds and would use the funds to provide the necessary reimbursements to counties for statewide elections.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Election workers are critical to conducting fair and impartial elections. Ongoing harassment, threats, and increased demands have made it harder to recruit and retain poll workers. Many counties are experiencing a shortage of poll workers. The State Election Commission is requesting \$4,000,000 to allocate to poll worker pay. This request will allow for an overall increase of \$25 per day of work and an increase of \$15 per training bringing the total per day of work to \$100 and the total per training to \$75. This would be the first increase to poll worker pay in recent history. This request would also allow for standby poll workers to receive a per diem payment of \$75 whereas standby poll workers are not currently paid for training received if they are needed to work an election. If the funds are not provided, South Carolina elections will be severely impacted and it will grow increasingly more difficult to recruit, train, and retain poll workers.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

8

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Board member stipend increase

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: \$1,035,000

Federal: \$0

Other: \$0

Total: \$1,035,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark “X” for all that apply:

X

Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience

Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines

Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program

Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas

Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative

Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program

X

Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program

IT Technology/Security related

HR/Personnel Related

Consulted DTO during development

Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:

Education, Training, and Human Development

Healthy and Safe Families

Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security

Public Infrastructure and Economic Development

X

Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

4.2.3: Effectively oversee all agency programs and operations. Manage funds appropriated for aid to county supplements.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF

The SEC would be the recipient of the funds and would use the funds to provide aid to county board members.

FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

**JUSTIFICATION OF
REQUEST**

Across the state, there are 46 boards of voter registration and elections consisting of three to nine board members per board. The State Election Commission is requesting \$1,035,000 for county board member stipends to include an overall increase of \$1,000 per year per board member bringing the total stipend paid per board member per year to \$2,500 with a maximum of \$22,500 per county. There has not been an increase to the board member stipend in recent history. If the funds are not provided, South Carolina elections will be severely impacted and it will grow increasingly more difficult to recruit, train, and retain board members for county boards of voter registration and elections.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	9
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	State Board of Canvassers Compensation
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$11,250 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$11,250
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☐	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	☒	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	☐	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	☐	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	☒	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	☐	IT Technology/Security related
	☐	HR/Personnel Related
☐	Consulted DTO during development	
☐	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	☐	Education, Training, and Human Development
	☐	Healthy and Safe Families
	☐	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	☒	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	4.2.3: Effectively oversee all agency programs and operations. Manage funds appropriated for aid to county supplements.
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	The SEC would be the recipient of the funds and would use the funds to provide aid to county board members.
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FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

**JUSTIFICATION OF
REQUEST**

The State Election Commission consists of a five-member board that constitutes as the State Board of Canvassers. The State Election Commission holds monthly meetings which the public are invited to attend. As the State Board of Canvassers, the Board meets as needed throughout the year to certify election results. There has not been an increase to the State Board of Canvassers compensation in recent history. If the funds are not provided, South Carolina elections will be severely impacted and it will grow increasingly more difficult for the State Board of Canvassers to carry out their duties as defined by state law.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Statewide voting system upgrade
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$32,000,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☐	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	☐	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	☐	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	☐	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	☒	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	☒	IT Technology/Security related
	☐	Consulted DTO during development
	☐	HR/Personnel Related
	☒	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
☐	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding	
☐	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	☐	Education, Training, and Human Development
	☐	Healthy and Safe Families
	☐	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	☒	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 2.1.1: Certify and support a statewide voting system that meets state law, federal voting system standards and is accessible for all voters. Support the statewide voting system ensuring it is easy to use, accurate and secure. Goal 2.1.2: Number of election databases produced by SEC.
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	The SEC would be the recipient of the funds and would provide payment to the vendors.
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What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon

**JUSTIFICATION
OF REQUEST**

In order to meet the increasing needs and demands of county voter registration and elections offices, the State Election Commission utilized the State Master Lease Program to purchase DS300 polling place scanners and tabulators, ExpressVote Ballot Marking Devices, DS950 high-speed scanners and tabulators, and pollbook hardware. The equipment will be used to conduct elections by county voter registration and election offices across the state. All 46 counties received equipment.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	10
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	HAVA MATCH
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$200,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	☐	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	☐	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	☐	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	☐	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	☐	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	☒	IT Technology/Security related
	☐	Consulted DTO during development
	☐	HR/Personnel Related
	☒	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
☐	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding	
☐	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	☐	Education, Training, and Human Development
	☐	Healthy and Safe Families
	☐	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	☒	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 1.1 :Maintain a statewide voter registration system that is secure, convenient, accessible, and meets the needs of the counties and citizens of South Carolina. This request would advance the strategy above by reducing lines and creating other efficiencies at polling places, reducing the time and resources necessary to process voter participation data, and improving the security of election infrastructure. Goal 2.1: Support the statewide voting system ensuring it is easy to use, accurate, and secure. This request would advance the strategy above by providing a program to conduit audits of paper ballots to verify the results of the election as tabulated by the ballot scanners.
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	The S.C. State Election Commission would be the recipient of the funds and would use the funds to meet the match requirement for the HAVA grant funds.
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FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

**JUSTIFICATION
OF REQUEST**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 provides funds to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) as authorized under Title 1, Section 101, of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, to make grant payments to states. The funds are provided to improve the administration of elections for federal office, including to enhance election technology and make security improvements. States are required to match 20% of amounts awarded. South Carolina's total award was \$1,000,000 so the required state match is \$200,000.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	102.1
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	ELECT: County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections Compensation
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	V. Statewide/Special Primaries
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	8
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2025-2026? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Across the state, there are 46 boards of voter registration and elections consisting of three to nine board members per board. The State Election Commission is requesting \$1,035,000 for county board member stipends to include an overall increase of \$1,000 per year per board member bringing the total stipend paid per board member per year to \$2,500 with a maximum of \$22,500 per county. There has not been an increase to the board member stipend in recent history. If the funds are not provided, South Carolina elections will be severely impacted and it will grow increasingly more difficult to recruit, train, and retain board members for county boards of voter registration and elections.
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

The amounts appropriated in this section for County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections Board Members, shall be disbursed annually to the County Treasurer at the rate of ~~\$1,500~~ **\$2,500** for each member, not to exceed ~~\$13,500~~ **\$22,500** per county. The County Treasurer shall use these funds only for the compensation of County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections Board Members. Any funds not used for this purpose shall be returned to the State Treasurer. These funds are exempted from mandated budget reductions. In addition, in the calculation of any across the board agency base reductions mandated by the Executive Budget Office or the General Assembly, the amount of funds appropriated for compensation of County Boards of Voter Registration and Elections Board Members shall be excluded from the agencies base budget. Unexpended funds shall be carried forward from the prior fiscal year and shall be utilized for special primaries, runoffs, and elections.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	102.2
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	ELECT: Elections Managers & Clerks Per Diem
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	IV Distribution to Subdivisions
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	7
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2025-2026? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
-------------------------	-------

Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Election workers are critical to conducting fair and impartial elections. Ongoing harassment, threats, and increased demands have made it harder to recruit and retain poll workers. Many counties are experiencing a shortage of poll workers. The State Election Commission is requesting \$4,000,000 to allocate to poll worker pay. This request will allow for an overall increase of \$25 per day of work and an increase of \$15 per training bringing the total per day of work to \$100 and the total per training to \$75. This would be the first increase to poll worker pay in recent history. This request would also allow for standby poll workers to receive a per diem payment of \$75 whereas standby poll workers are not currently paid for training received if they are needed to work an election. If the funds are not provided, South Carolina elections will be severely impacted and it will grow increasingly more difficult to recruit, train, and retain poll workers.
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

Managers and clerks of state and county elections shall receive a per diem of ~~\$75.00~~
100.00 for the day of work and ~~\$60.00~~ **75.00** for training and paperwork. Managers shall not be paid for more than two days for any election and clerks for not more than three days for any election. The commission may adjust the per diem of \$75.00 for the managers and clerks of the statewide election to a higher level only to the extent that the appropriation for the statewide election is sufficient to bear the added cost of increasing the per diem and the cost of the statewide election. Up to three additional managers per county may be appointed to assist county boards of voter registration and elections with the absentee/fail safe voting process prior to, on Election Day, and immediately following statewide elections. Managers assisting the county boards of voter registration and elections in the absentee/fail safe process may receive a per diem of \$75.00 per day for not more than a total of fifteen days regardless of whether one, two, or three additional managers are used.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	102.3
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	ELECT: Board of State Canvassers Compensation
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	IV Distribution to Subdivisions
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	9
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2025-2026? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
-------------------------	-------

Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	The State Election Commission consists of a five member board that constitutes as the State Board of Canvassers. The State Election Commission holds monthly meetings which the public are invited to attend. As the State Board of Canvassers, the Board meets as needed throughout the year to certify election results. There has not been an increase to the State Board of Canvassers compensation in recent history. If the funds are not provided, South Carolina elections will be severely impacted and it will grow increasingly more difficult for the State Board of Canvassers to carry out their duties as defined by state law.
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

~~\$100.00~~ **\$150.00** additional compensation per day may be paid to each member of the Board of State Canvassers up to a total of fifteen days that may be required for hearings held by the members of the Board of State Canvassers.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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AMOUNT	\$394,931
	<i>What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.</i>

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	No FTE's would be reduced.
	<i>How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?</i>

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Public Information & Training
	<i>What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?</i>

SUMMARY	The S.C State Election Commission's general fund appropriation is \$17,927,383 \$4,763,000 is exempt from mandated reductions as per Proviso 102.5 Proviso 102.1 references Aid to County stipends for county boards of voter registration and election members, and the proviso exempts these funds from the calculation of mandated reductions. Proviso 102.6 states that recurring and nonrecurring primary and general election funds are exempt from the calculation of mandated reductions. \$17,927,383-4,763,000 = 13,164,383 \$13,164,383 x 3% = 394,931.49
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Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS	In order to absorb a 3% reduction, the S.C State Election Commission would reduce spending for supplies, training, and travel.
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What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	Election Commission		
Agency Code:	E280	Section:	102

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Reducing Cost and Burden to Business and Citizens
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	0
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What is the expected savings to South Carolina’s businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☒	Repeal or revision of regulations.
	☐	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	☐	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	☐	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	N/A
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Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	N/A
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Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

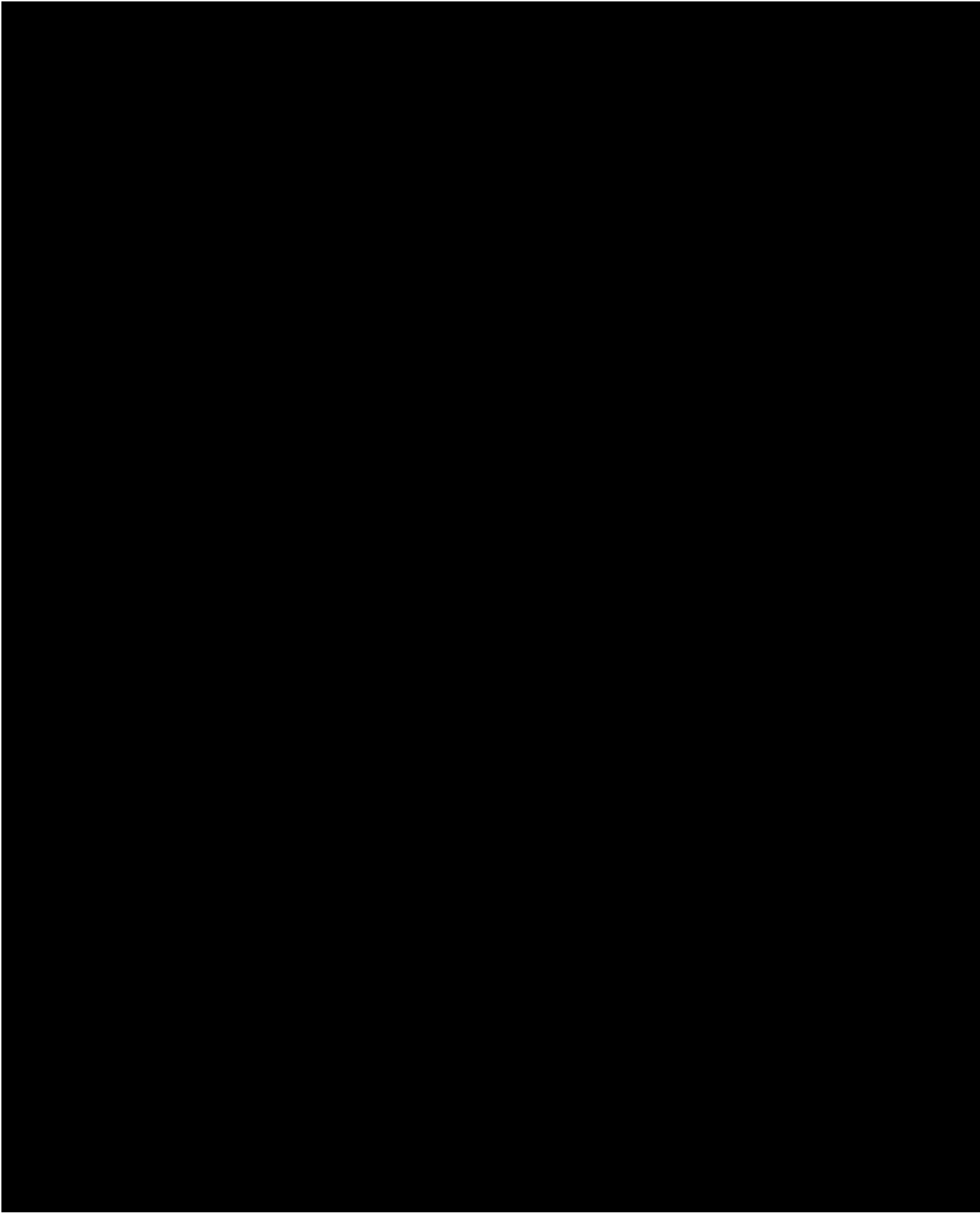
REDUCTION OF REGULATION	0
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Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

SUMMARY	The S.C State Election Commission is required to collect the following fees per state law: 1. Section 71340: Filing fees from candidates to offset the cost of conducting primaries. 2. Section 7320: Fees associated with providing precinct lists to any registered voter in South Carolina at a reasonable price. 3. Proviso 102.7: Fees associated with participating in the S.C State Election Commission's Training and Certification classes to offset the cost for conducting the classes.
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Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?

EXHIBIT 23



From: Nicholson, Thomas <tnicholson@elections.sc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:17 PM

To: Doyle, Kevin <Kevin.Doyle2@td.com>; Alan M. Lipsitz <alipsitz@maynardnexsen.com>; Dow,

Michael F. <mike.dow@wbd-us.com>; Wooten, Jenny <jwooten@elections.sc.gov>; Carson, Kelly A <Kelly.Carson@td.com>; Kovacs, Lawrence E <Lawrence.Kovacs@td.com>

Cc: Sauter, Alison L <Alison.Sauter@td.com>; Laquitar, Lorian <Lorian.Laquitar@td.com>; Chavis, Madelyn <mchavis@elections.sc.gov>; Harrell, Elizabeth <EHarrell@elections.sc.gov>

Subject: RE: [External] Follow Up Call SC/TDEF Amendment

All:

We have a proposal for how to proceed. The draft amendments provided by Alan contemplate a changed payment date to February 28th not just for the payment that had been due on September 30, 2025, but for the remaining two payments in 2026 and 2027. However, we do not expect that the dates for the remaining two payments needs to be changed to February. We expect the September 30 date to work for both of those future payments. Therefore, we propose that the draft amendments should be amended so that they only apply to the 2025 payment. Otherwise, the drafted amendments would remain the same. This would leave the status quo intact for the rest of the agreement with regards to the September 2026 and 2027 payments; the SEC would still have the duty to seek appropriations for those payments, and so on. We believe we can proceed forward with those changes.

Please let us know if this will be acceptable; we understand that time is of the essence and would like to have this matter resolved.

Thomas W. Nicholson
General Counsel

South Carolina State Election Commission

1122 Lady St., 5th Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987, Columbia, S.C. 29250

Office: 803.734.9063

Fax: 803.734.9366

From: Nicholson, Thomas

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 11:29 AM

To: 'Doyle, Kevin' <Kevin.Doyle2@td.com>; Alan M. Lipsitz <alipsitz@maynardnexsen.com>; Dow, Michael F. <mike.dow@wbd-us.com>; Wooten, Jenny <jwooten@elections.sc.gov>; Carson, Kelly A <Kelly.Carson@td.com>; Kovacs, Lawrence E <Lawrence.Kovacs@td.com>

Cc: Sauter, Alison L <Alison.Sauter@td.com>; Laquitar, Lorian <Lorian.Laquitar@td.com>

Subject: RE: [External] Follow Up Call SC/TDEF Amendment

All, sorry for the inconvenience, but we need to postpone this call; the members of the Commission are reconsidering their options and the proposed Amendment with Jenny and I. We will be in further contact soon.

Thomas W. Nicholson
General Counsel

South Carolina State Election Commission

1122 Lady St., 5th Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

P.O. Box 5987, Columbia, S.C. 29250

Office: 803.734.9063

Fax: 803.734.9366

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Doyle, Kevin <Kevin.Doyle2@td.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 6:33 PM

To: Alan M. Lipsitz; Dow, Michael F.; Wooten, Jenny; Nicholson, Thomas; Carson, Kelly A; Kovacs, Lawrence E

Cc: Sauter, Alison L; Laquitara, Loriann

Subject: [External] Follow Up Call SC/TDEF Amendment

When: Thursday, October 16, 2025 11:30 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Good evening,

I am setting up this call to address any further question on the Amendment documents so we can move forward with execution.

Best,
Kevin Doyle

Kevin Doyle, SVP
TD Equipment Finance, Inc.
M: 781 879 0884
kevin.doyle2@TD.com

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

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