

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"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

NON-RECURRING REQUESTS (FORM B2)	For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

CAPITAL REQUESTS (FORM C)	For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS (FORM D)	For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.

SIGN/DATE:	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
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

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
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		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Annual Election Costs
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$4,500,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$4,500,000
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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:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>Goal 4.2.1: Effectively oversee all agency programs and operations.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>
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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 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.

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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
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$500,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$500,000
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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:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
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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.
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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 \$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.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Election Integrity
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$500,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$500,000
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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:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	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
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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.
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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**

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.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	5
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	NEW FTEs
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	<p>General: \$423,346</p> <p>Federal: \$0</p> <p>Other: \$0</p> <p>Total: \$423,346</p>
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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	5.00
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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:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>Goal 4.1.1: Effectively oversee all agency programs and operations. Percentage of Employee Performance Management System (EPMS) evaluations conducted.</p> <p>Goal 4.1.2: Manage administrative, financial and human resource activities of the agency. Employee retention rate (nonretirement).</p>
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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

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)

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		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	6
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Agency Legal Defense Costs
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$500,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$500,000
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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:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

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

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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	<p>General: \$4,000,000</p> <p>Federal: \$0</p> <p>Other: \$0</p> <p>Total: \$4,000,000</p>
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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:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>Goal 4.2.1: Effectively oversee all agency programs and operations.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>
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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.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	8
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Board member stipend increase
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$1,035,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$1,035,000
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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:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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

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.

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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	<p>General: \$11,250</p> <p>Federal: \$0</p> <p>Other: \$0</p> <p>Total: \$11,250</p>
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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:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>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.</p> <p>Goal 2.1.2: Number of election databases produced by SEC.</p>
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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

<p>JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST</p>	<p>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.</p>
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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 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:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR/Personnel Related
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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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	<p>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.</p>
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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 – PROVISIO 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
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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	<p>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.</p>
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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
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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	<p>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.</p>
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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
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

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

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

SUMMARY	<p>The S.C State Election Commission's general fund appropriation is \$17,927,383</p> <p>\$4,763,000 is exempt from mandated reductions as per Proviso 102.5</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Proviso 102.6 states that recurring and nonrecurring primary and general election funds are exempt from the calculation of mandated reductions.</p> <p>\$17,927,383-4,763,000</p> <p>= 13,164,383</p> <p>\$13,164,383 x 3% = 394,931.49</p>
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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.

In order to absorb a 3% reduction, the S.C State Election Commission would reduce spending for supplies, training, and travel.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

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:	
	X	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	<p>The S.C State Election Commission is required to collect the following fees per state law:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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?