

Agency Name:
Agency Code:

Election Commission
E280

Section:

102



Fiscal Year FY 2026-2027

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

**OPERATING
REQUESTS**

(FORM B1)

For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
☒	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
☐	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
☐	Not requesting any changes.

**NON-RECURRING
REQUESTS**

(FORM B2)

For FY 2026-2027, 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 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):	
☐	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
☒	Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS

(FORM D)

For FY 2026-2027, 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.

**PRIMARY
CONTACT:
SECONDARY
CONTACT:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
LaToria Williams	(803) 734-9069	lwilliams@elections.sc.gov
Jenny Wooten	(803) 734-4139	jwooten@elections.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2026-2027 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

SIGN/DATE:

**TYPE/PRINT
NAME:**

<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
 10/15/25	 10/15/25
Jenny Wooten	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	21,174,755	0	0	0	21,174,755	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Annual Election Costs	1,500,000	0	0	0	1,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B2 - Non-Recurring	Epollbooks	18,000,000	0	0	0	18,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B2 - Non-Recurring	Asset Management	1,800,000	0	0	0	1,800,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B2 - Non-Recurring	Curbside Carts	2,040,000	0	0	0	2,040,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B2 - Non-Recurring	HAVA Grant Match	54,545	0	0	0	54,545	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			44,569,300	0	0	0	44,569,300	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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: \$1,500,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$1,500,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? 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. <i>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?</i>
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\$1,500,000 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. <i>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.</i>

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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	\$21,174,755
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? 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. These funds will be used to pay back a contractual lease obligation to TD Bank through the Master Lease Program facilitated by the State Treasurer's Office.

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 B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

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

TITLE	Epollbooks
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$18,000,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? 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**

These funds will be to pay for the statewide replacement/upgrade of electronic pollbooks to support voter check-in at polling locations. The contract for the current electronic pollbooks has reached the end of its term. Improves efficiency, reduces wait times, and enhances security at polling locations.

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 B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

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

TITLE	Asset Management
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$1,800,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? 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	These funds will be used to provide asset management services to counties and track election equipment.
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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.

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FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

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

TITLE	Curbside Carts
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$2,040,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? 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**

These funds provide for specialized carts for all 2,400 polling locations (\$850 per unit). Not all counties have curbside carts for every polling location even though they are required by law to provide curbside voting. Enhances accessibility by supporting voters who cannot enter the polling place.

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 B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

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

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

AMOUNT	\$54,545
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? 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 FUNDS	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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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 \$272,727 so the required state match is \$54,545.

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 COST SAVINGS PLANS

To accommodate a 3% reduction, the South Carolina State Election Commission would implement decreases in expenditures for supplies, training, and travel.

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?

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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?