

North Augusta



South Carolina's Riverfront

MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Ben Watson, Chairperson
Alpha Dunbar, Commissioner

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Municipal Election Commission meeting of February 19, 2025, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Chairperson Ben Watson at 9:00am in the Conference Room on the third floor of the Municipal Center.

Per Section 30-4-80(e) notice of the meeting was posted on the outside doors of the Municipal Center, the main bulletin board of the Municipal Center located on the first floor, and the City of North Augusta website.

Present were Chairperson Ben Watson and Commissioner Alpha Dunbar. Also in attendance was Jamie Paul, City Clerk.

ITEM 3. Approval of Minutes

a. February 14, 2025 meeting

The minutes of the Municipal Election Commission of February 14, 2025 were approved as submitted by general consent.

ITEM 4. Review and Approve Publication for 2025 General Election & Special Election

Commissioners and Clerk reviewed the Publication for 2025 General Election & Special Election in detail. Discussion included publication date(s) and social media posts. **(See Attachment #4)**

It was moved by Commissioner Dunbar, seconded by Chairman Watson, to approve the Publication for 2025 General Election and Special Election as submitted. Unanimously Approved.

ITEM 5. Review General Election Timeline

Commissioners and Clerk reviewed the General Election Timeline in detail. (See Attachment #5)

ITEM 6. Next meeting date


Next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for March 6, 2025 at 10:00am

ITEM 7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the commission adjourned the meeting at 9:26am.

Approved this 11th day of
March, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,


Jamie Paul, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Municipal Election Commission of the City of North Augusta announces the Municipal General and Special Election for the City of North Augusta will be **Tuesday, April 29, 2025**, for the **Election of the City Mayor, three City Councilmembers, and an unexpired term for one City Councilmember.**

The polls will open at **7:00 AM** on Election Day and close at **7:00 PM**.

Precincts involved in this Municipal Election and polling locations are as follows:

Precinct	Polling Location
Fox Creek 58 Merriwether 1	Grace Fellowship Church 507 W Five Notch Road, North Augusta 29860
Fox Creek 73 North Augusta 68	The Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity 160 Merovan Drive, North Augusta 29860
North Augusta 85	Public Safety Station #2 501 W Five Notch Road, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 26	Fairview Presbyterian Church - USE CAROLINA AVENUE ENTRANCE 1101 Carolina Avenue, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 80	Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church 471 W Martintown Road, North Augusta 29841
Carolina Heights 10	North Augusta Community Center (Ballroom Side 1) 495 Brookside Drive, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 25	North Augusta Community Center (Ballroom Side 2) 495 Brookside Drive, North Augusta 29841
Belvedere 9 Belvedere 44 Belvedere 62 Belvedere 74	Nancy Carson Library 135 Edgefield Road, North Augusta 29841
Ascauga Lake 84 Misty Lakes 45	Crown Kingdom Cultural Center 720 Edgefield Road, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 27	North Augusta High School (Auditorium Building) 2000 Knobcone Avenue, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 29	Riverview Park Activities Center (Gym 1) 100 Riverview Park Drive, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 67	Riverview Park Activities Center (Gym 2) 100 Riverview Park Drive, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 28	Victory Baptist Church 620 W Martintown Road, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 55	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 1002 Carolina Avenue, North Augusta 29841
North Augusta 54	Second Providence Baptist Church 1202 Old Edgefield Road, North Augusta 29841
Absentee - Aiken County	Aiken County Registration & Elections Commission, 1930 University Parkway, Suite 1200, Aiken, SC 29801 Monday – Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM 803-642-2028 Contact to Confirm Qualifications
Absentee - Edgefield County	Edgefield County Voter Registration 129 Courthouse Square, Edgefield, SC 29824 Monday – Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM 803-637-4072 Contact to Confirm Qualifications
Early Voting - Aiken County	Aiken County Registration & Elections Commission, 1930 University Parkway, Suite 1200, Aiken, SC 29801 April 14 – April 25, 2025 803-642-2028 Monday – Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Early Voting - Edgefield County	Edgefield County Voter Registration & Elections 210 Penn Street, Suite 1, Edgefield, SC 29824 April 14 – April 25, 2025 803-637-4072 Monday – Friday - 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

As allowed by State law, please note some precinct polling locations have been combined with other polling locations.

Persons desiring to vote in the upcoming general election may register in person by 5:00 PM Friday, March 28, 2025; by online registration, fax, or email by Sunday, March 30, 2025 by Midnight. All mail in forms must be post marked by Monday, March 31, 2025. To register, contact the Aiken County Registration & Elections Commission in Aiken if you live in Aiken County; call 803-642-2028. If you live within the City limits of North Augusta in Edgefield County, contact the Edgefield County Voter Registration in Edgefield; call 803-637-4072.

On Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 11:00 AM, at the City of North Augusta Municipal Center, the Municipal Election Commission will hold a hearing to determine the validity of ballots challenged in this election.

Ben Watson, Chairperson and Alpha Dunbar – **Municipal Election Commission**

60 Days Prior to Primary Election - December 13, 2024, Friday (ORD = Dec. 16, 2024) - Partisan candidates filing by primary or convention method of nomination - certified to MEC by Political Parties - Official Date determined by Municipal Ordinance

- 90 Days January 29, 2025, Wednesday
- 75 Days February 13, 2025, Thursday - Filing by Petition deadline to MEC (ORD - Feb. 12, 2025)
- 60 Days February 28, 2025, Friday
- 45 Days March 15, 2025, Saturday - Allows for oversea military Absentee ballots (Friday, March 14, 2025)
- 30 Days March 30, 2025, Sunday - Absentee Ballots available (Monday, April 1, 2025)
- 20 Days April 9, 2025, Wednesday - Candidates to File Campaign Disclosure form deadline

DATE	ACTION
Wed., Oct. 30, 2024	MEC Meeting - Oath of Office for new Commissioners; Elect Chairperson, Review New Laws, Update Ordinance to Partner w/ Aiken Co. for a portion of Election, Update Local Election Ordinance, Review Election Calendar
Mon., Nov. 4, 2024	Ordinance to Partner w/Aiken Co. for a portion of Election & Ordinance establishing Election dates, 1st readings
Wed. Nov. 13, 2024	MEC Meeting - Election Timeline and Finalize Election Public Notice - Deadlines
Mon., Nov. 18, 2024	Ordinance to Partner w/Aiken Co. for a portion of Election & Ordinance establishing Election dates, 2nd readings
Tues., Nov. 18, 2024	Mail copy of Ordinances to Republican Party and Democratic Party- the next day after meeting
Thurs., Nov. 21, 2024	MEC Meeting - Election Timeline; Finalize Election Filing Deadline notice; Review Election Public Notice - Polling Locations
Mon., Nov. 25, 2024	Send Notice of Filing Deadlines to Augusta Chronicle
Tues., Dec. 3, 2024	Publish Notice - Filing Deadlines - Not mandatory - Notices for Elections fall on the authority charged by law with conducting and election and must publish 2 notices.... S.C. Code Section 7-13-35 (Political Parties must publish notices for Primary Election or Convention)
Mon., Dec. 16, 2024 - Entry commences at 9am	Entry into Party Primaries/Conventions - Monday after the 60 days prior to Primary Election (60 days = Friday)
Mon., Dec. 23, 2024 - Entry ends at 12:00 NOON	Close of entry into Party Primaries/Conventions (1 week for filing) (at least 45 days prior to Primary to allow for overseas military absentee ballots)
Thurs., Jan. 23, 2025	MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice - Polling Location, etc.; Review Election App with K. Whaley
Thurs., Jan. 23, 2025 OR Fri. Jan. 24, 2025 - moving date	Send 1st Publication of the Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations to Augusta Chronicle to publish on Jan. 29 (4 days prior to Publication Date) - 90 days prior to Election - preferred
Wed., Jan. 29, 2025 - moving date	1st Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations in Augusta Chronicle (4 days prior to Publication Date) - 90 days prior to Election - preferred
Wed., Feb. 5, 2025	MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice - Polling Location, etc.; Review Election App with K. Whaley
Tues., Feb. 11, 2025	Party Convention deadline
Thurs., Feb.6, 2025 - moving date	Send 2nd Publication of the Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations to Augusta Chronicle to publish on Feb. 12 , exactly 2 weeks after 1st Publication
Wed., Feb.12, 2025 - moving date	2nd Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations in Augusta Chronicle, exactly 2 weeks after 1st Publication
Wed., Feb. 12, 2025	Deadline for Nominating <u>Petition to City Clerk</u> - Noon (75 days or more before Election)
Fri., Feb. 14, 2025	MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice - Polling Location, etc.; Party Certification - letter to Mayor
Wed., Feb. 19, 2025	MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice - Polling Location
Wed., Feb. 19, 2025 OR Fri. Feb. 21, 2025	Send 1st Publication of the Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations to Augusta Chronicle to publish (4 days prior to Publication Date) - 90 days prior to Election - preferred
Wed., Feb. 26, 2025 - TO BE PUBLISHED	1st Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations in Augusta Chronicle (4 days prior to Publication Date) - 90 days prior to Election - preferred

DATE	ACTION
Tues., Feb. 25, 2025	Primary Election Run-Off ; if needed (2 weeks after Primary/ 3 days before MEC Certification)
Fri., Feb. 28, 2025 - Received by both Parties prior to d	Deadline for Party Certification to MEC - Noon (no later than 60 days prior to Election)
Fri. Feb. 28, 2025 - Certified at 2/14/15 MEC Mtg	MEC Meeting- Review Candidates/Sign Letter to Council @1:00pm (meet earlier if certification is received sooner)
Mon., Mar. 3, 2025 - on Meeting agenda	Deadline for MEC Certification to Council (Letter signed by MEC) - will deliver to City Clerk by Friday, 2/28
Wed., Mar. 5, 2025	MEC Meeting-Election Timeline; Finalize Election Public Notice with Polling Locations, Registration deadlines and Early Voting dates; Review Election App with K. Whaley
Tues. Mar. 11, 2025 - Social Media Posting ONLY	Election Public Notice - Polling Locations - Post on Social Media ONLY
Thurs., Mar.7, 2025	Send 2nd Publication of the Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations to Augusta Chronicle to publish on Mar. 12 , exactly 2 weeks after 1st Publication
Wed., Mar.12, 2025 - TO BE PUBLISHED	2nd Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations in Augusta Chronicle, exactly 2 weeks after 1st Publication
Wed., Apr. 9, 2025	Absolute date for candidates to file Campaign Disclosure form pre-election (20 days prior to Election) or State will disqualify candidates. (This is the candidates' responsibility.)
M-Fri, Apr. 14-25, 2025	Early Voting ; 8:30 am-5:00 pm; Aiken & Edgefield County Municipal Buildings
Thurs., April 17, 2025	Send Extra Publication of the Notice of Election Dates - Polling Locations to Augusta Chronicle
Tues., Apr. 22, 2025 - POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA TOO	Publish Extra Election Notice - week prior to Election (Chronicle); Post on website & Social Media. ALSO - Contact Judge Murphy about swearing in candidates on May 5, 2025
Mon., Apr. 28, 2025	Post Election App on Social Media; "Deliver "Public Safety Pick-up Cards" to PS
Tues., Apr. 29, 2025	General Election & Special Election (with a run-off, if necessary, on May 13, 2025)
Thurs., May 1, 2025	MEC Hearing on contested ballots (11:00 am)
Fri., May 2, 2025	Official Results delivered to City Clerk (Letter signed by MEC)
Mon., May 5, 2025	Certification of Official Results at City Council Meeting; Council Acceptance by Motion; Swearing in of Candidates; Elect Mayor Pro Tempore (when applicable)
Mon., May 5, 2025	Email "Successful Candidates" form to State Ethics Commission (no later than 5 days after election)