

### **FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

<b>Message from the Director</b> Isaac Cramer	2
<b>2022 General Election Review</b> Early voting a success Charleston County sees strong turnout	3
<b>Team Awarded</b> Voting team honored by County	5
<b>Outreach and Engagement</b> National Voter Registration Day 2022 "Get Out and Vote" Night	6
Adopt a Polling Location	8
Local groups giving back <b>2023 Election Calendar</b> Looking forward to the year ahead	9

### **STAY IN THE KNOW**

Follow us on social media for the latest updates on elections, outreach, and more!

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### **GET VOTE READY**

Check your registration information, review your voting districts. and find your polling place by scanning the QR code!



Charleston County Board of Elections & Voter Registration (843) 744-VOTE (8683) chsvotes.gov



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As we head into 2023, the new year brings an opportunity for us to celebrate, reflect, and grow. This year marks many new beginnings for the Charleston County Board of Elections.

For the first time during a General Election, seven Early Voting Centers were open across Charleston County for 12 days, serving more than 65,000 voters. See **Page 3** to learn more about early voting. We successfully piloted two new initiatives: Adopt a Polling Location and Day for Democracy. See **Page 8** for more information on our Adopt a Polling Location partnerships.

Our Citizens Communication Team was recognized by Charleston County for their innovative postcard that saved taxpayers \$90,000 (see **Page 5**). We again partnered with Frothy Beard and the South Carolina Stingrays for National

Voter Registration Day and Get Out the Vote Night. Both of those voter outreach events are profiled starting on **Page 6**.

Odd years in the election cycle are often referred to as "off-years." The absence of a presidential election or a midterm election does not mean the absence of elections. On the contrary, many important elections are held during odd years, including elections for municipal representatives and ballot initiatives. Reduced turnout during odd years is common but does not diminish the significance of the ballot. The results of these elections can have outcomes that directly impact our lives in the same manner presidential and midterms elections do. There are no "off-years" in elections; every election matters. For more information on 2023 elections, see **Page 9**.

In 2023, our staff will be laying down the groundwork to ensure future success. Rather than seeing this year as a break between the 2022 midterms and the 2024 presidential election, we will remain hard at work planning, preparing, and implementing changes to our processes and procedures. Our office will be standardizing our operating procedures, expanding our community outreach and engagement, training poll workers, and building relationships to reach our goal of continually providing better services to the voters of Charleston County.

Thank you to all our partners in the community, our dedicated staff and poll workers, the Charleston County government, and the people of Charleston County. We are honored for the opportunity to serve you by conducting free and fair elections.

**Isaac Cramer** Executive Director



Follow us on social media!

#### Charleston County residents given 12 days of in-person early voting



#### **Convenient Locations**

Seven early voting centers operated from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. in the days leading up to Nov. 8. The centers, which offered curbside voting for disabled and elderly residents, allowed Charleston County voters the option of voting prior to Election Day.



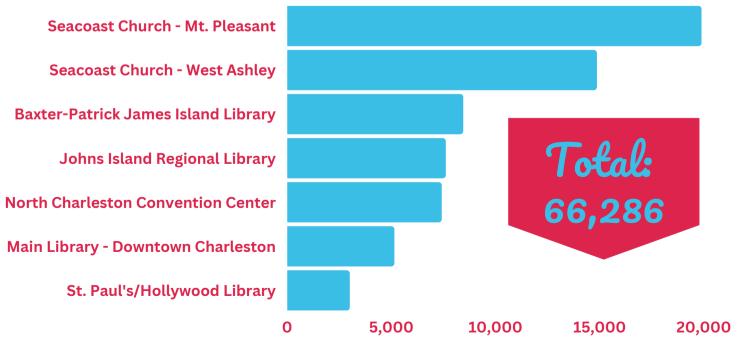
#### **Increased Accesibility**

In May, <u>state election law changes</u> replaced in-person absentee voting with early voting. Eligible voters can vote up to two weeks before the week of Election Day by visiting any early voting location in their county– no excuse necessary!

#### Large-Scale Turnout

Tens of thousands of Charleston County residents took advantage of the offering, with the turnout total reaching 66,286 across the seven locations. This not only provided more opportunities for people to vote, but it also cut down on wait times for voters on Election Day.

#### Charleston County Turnout for the 2022 General Election by Early Voting Center



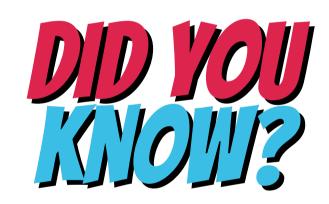


#### Charleston County among top turnouts in state for midterms

According to SCVotes, 154,386 Charleston County voters made their voices heard during the 2022 General Election. That constitutes a total turnout percentage of more than 58% for the county, which is several percentage points higher than the statewide average of 51%.







 According to SCVotes, Charleston
County had 264,022 registered voters entering the 2022 General Election.

★ We scanned a total of 7,761 mail-in absentee ballots for this election.





#### BEVR team recognized for efforts to update and inform voters

The Charleston County Board Of Elections & Voter Registration's Citizen Communication Team was recognized for its efforts to keep voters informed and updated. The team, which includes Dakota Blitch, Maybell Brown, Barbara Kennedy, Matthew Kibbey and Ben Leeson, was the recipient of a Charleston County Team Award.

The group used postcards to notify residents about recent redistricting. By choosing an efficient method to share this information, costs to the county were cut by \$90,000. The team members proofed this data with GIS mapping information to accurately display how the changes impacted voters.



L to R: Isaac Cramer, Ben Leeson, Maybell Brown, and Matthew Kibbey.



#### National Voter Registration Day a popular event in 2022

The Charleston County Board of Elections & Voter Registration (BEVR) celebrated National Voter Registration Day in a big way in 2022! The holiday helps ensure those who are eligible have an opportunity to vote in upcoming elections. Throughout the day, organizations and volunteers worked together to raise voter registration awareness and inform others of opportunities to register.





On Sept. 20, BEVR began the day with an outreach event at Trident Technical College. Our outreach team spent the morning in the on-campus student lounge to directly provide assistance to those at the school.



That evening, we partnered with Frothy Beard Brewing Company to re-release the special "I Voted" Kolsch! Attendees were once again able to purchase a pint of the brew while receiving various voter services and free goodies from our team.



## Thank you to those who came out to celebrate!





"Get Out and Vote" night contributes to worthy cause



The Charleston County Board of Elections & Voter Registration teamed up with the South Carolina Stingrays and the Charleston County Public Library (CCPL) to directly serve residents in a nutritious way.

On Saturday, Nov. 5, the Stingrays wore "Get Out and Vote" jerseys during their 4-2 win over the Atlanta Gladiators. Those jerseys were then auctioned off, raising \$3,500 for CCPL's Free & Fresh program. Local poll workers were also celebrated during the game, while BEVR team members were in attendance to raise awareness ahead of the 2022 General Election.

We are proud of this achievement and appreciate our shared goal of serving Charleston County residents. BEVR is looking forward to continuing this wonderful partnership in 2023.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

We can conduct outreach events for your organization including:

- Issuing Voter IDs
- Satellite Voting Unit Tours
- Absentee Enrollment
- Voter Education
- s Mock Elections
  - Voting Machine Demos
- Interested? Contact us at outreach@charlestoncounty.org
- Voter Registration
- Poll Worker Recruitment
- and more!





#### Program quickly expands in first full year

In June, the South Carolina Stingrays became the first organization to take part in our Adopt a Polling Location initiative!

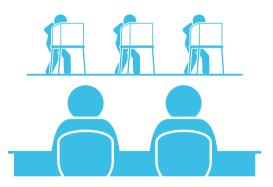
Participants from the team donated their pay for working the election to CCPL to support the Free & Fresh project. \$1,760 in funding for the free food program was raised that day.





During the 2022 General Election, several other groups participated in the Adopt a Polling Location program, such as Charleston County Exchange Club, Charleston Parks Conservancy, Charleston Promise Neighborhood, and Lowcountry Food Bank.

The James Island Charter High School Wrestling Team also assisted with election night operations at our headquarters.



Interested in adopting a polling location in 2023? Learn more about the program and apply via <u>our website</u>.



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### **Special Elections**

- 🛨 February 7, 2023
  - Charleston County School Board of Trustees District 6

### Referendums

- **★** February 7, 2023
  - City of Folly Beach Referendum

### **General Elections**

- **★** May 2, 2023
  - Town of Meggett
  - Town of Sullivan's Island

### 🛨 June 6. 2023:

Town of Hollywood



### 🛨 November 7, 2023

- Towns of Awendaw, James Island, Lincolnville. McClellanville, Mount Pleasant, Ravenel, Rockville, Seabrook Island, and Summerville
- Cities of Charleston, Isle of Palms, and North Charleston

### Reminders

★ Ensure you are properly registered at least 30 days prior to an election.

🛧 Update your registration information via <u>email</u>, on our <u>website</u>, or by visiting our office at 4367 Headquarters Road in North Charleston.

