



# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

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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  
Voter Registration & Elections**  
(843) 744-VOTE (8683)

[chsvotes.gov](http://chsvotes.gov)

## STAY IN THE KNOW

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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Above: Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections Executive Director Isaac Cramer

A busy election year is in full swing for Charleston County residents, poll workers, and our staff members. Our voters were some of the first in the nation to cast ballots toward nominating a Democratic candidate for president. A few weeks later, Charleston County residents were among the first in the South to voice their choice for a Republican presidential candidate. Charleston County recognized the importance of leading the country in one of our most sacred responsibilities as Americans. I am proud of our poll workers, team members, and voters for rising to meet these crucial moments. Statistics on the presidential preference primaries can be found on **Page 3**.

We saw a great deal of interest in these contests from local, national, and international media. We welcomed reporters from several continents to our headquarters and polling locations, showcasing the efficiency and trust built around our elections. With the increased attention on the work that we do, we have continued to invest in security measures to

keep our election heroes and your votes safe. You can learn more about recent enhancements to our headquarters on **Page 6**.

In March, election officials from around the Palmetto State came together for a weeklong conference through the South Carolina Association of Registration and Elections (SCARE). This annual event serves as a forum for both members and state lawmakers to explore ways to improve laws, voter education, and various aspects of the election process. As SCARE's first vice president, I enjoy this exchange of experiences and ideas and always look to improve our service to Charleston County residents. More information on the 2024 conference is on **Page 5**.

While the presidential preference primaries took place in the winter, this spring contains several elections, including the statewide primaries in June. From registering voters and testing equipment to managing ballots from absentee, early voting, and Election Day voters, our officials work throughout the year to ensure Charleston County remains the epitome of excellent election offices. We are always looking for civic-minded people to help us succeed in our mission. If you are interested in serving as a poll worker in 2024, I encourage you to contact us. To all who support our county and our country by visiting their polling location and believing in our efforts, thank you.

**Isaac Cramer**  
Executive Director



**Follow us on social media!**

★ ★

# PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARIES

## Charleston Co. voters voice choices for president

With South Carolina experiencing a first-in-the-nation presidential preference primary for the Democratic Party and a first-in-the-South presidential preference primary for the Republicans, Charleston County voters cast some of the first ballots toward determining who will hold the nation’s highest office.

The two elections drew in thousands of voters for both early voting periods and on each Election Day. The three early voting locations included BVRE’s North Charleston headquarters, Essex Village Church of Christ in West Ashley, and Wando Mount Pleasant Library. On Election Day, voters visited their assigned polling locations.

More than 13,000 ballots were cast in the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary, with President Joseph R. Biden receiving more than 96% of the total vote in Charleston County.

Over 63,000 Charleston County residents participated in the Republican Presidential Preference Primary. Former South Carolina Governor and U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley earned nearly 62% of the vote across the county, while former President Donald Trump garnered the most votes around the state.



*Above: An early voter checks in at Essex Village Church of Christ*



*Above: A "Vote Here" sign outside of BVRE headquarters greets voters*

## Are you vote ready?

You can find your polling location, view your sample ballot, and more, [from the comfort of your computer, smartphone, or tablet](#). Make sure you’re prepared before heading to the polls!







Above: A electronic pollbook is prepared ahead of the early voting period for the Town of Kiawah Island Special Election



Above: An array of "I Voted" stickers await new homes with voters.

In addition to the presidential preference primaries, the Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections conducted the South Carolina House 109 Special Primary Election and the Town of Kiawah Island Special Election this winter.

Nearly 5% of those eligible participated in the S.C. House 109 Special Primary Election, which saw Tiffany Spann-Wilder emerge as the victor over Eduardo K. Curry II. The Town of Kiawah Island Special Election saw a participation rate of more than 32.5%. In that race, Madeleine Kaye topped Alex Fernandez to fill a town council seat.

BVRE's North Charleston headquarters served as the early voting location for both elections. Voters experienced minimal wait times during the early voting period and at their assigned polling locations on Election Day.

### ELECTION SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

Information on scheduled elections in Charleston County, as well as historic election results, can be found by visiting [CHSVotes.gov](http://CHSVotes.gov).



# SCARE 2024

## Charleston Co. election official wins statewide award at yearly conference

The South Carolina Association of Registration and Election Officials (SCARE) held its annual conference in early March. The gathering allowed election officials from across the state to discuss initiatives that look to improve the democratic process for poll workers, staffers, and voters. Courses taught best practices across a variety of topics, while several lawmakers visited the event for collaborative workshops.

During the event, BVRE’s voter services manager, Zoë Burch, won the Excellence in Elections Award from the South Carolina State Election Commission. The honor recognizes those who "... have best demonstrated the necessary knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitude to be an exceptional election professional and for those who have made contributions to the election community that are above and beyond normal duties."

Amid many accomplishments in 2023, Zoë oversaw the growth of BVRE’s nationally recognized Adopt a Polling Location and Day for Democracy programs, which have proven to be tremendously popular and positive experiences for participants. She also implemented the county’s first-ever “I Voted!” Sticker Design Contest, which received well over 100 eligible submissions and brought students’ artwork to life while engaging the next generation of voters.

“Zoë Burch’s leadership at BVRE is not just a role, it’s a performance that inspires and ignites creativity,” remarked BVRE Executive Director Isaac Cramer. “Her innovative approach to navigating election processes has not only enhanced efficiency but has also painted a canvas of possibility for the future of voting. This award is well deserved, and I am pleased at the committee’s unanimous decision to formally commend her efforts.”



*Above: BVRE Voter Services Manager Zoë Burch poses after winning the Excellence in Elections Award during the 2024 SCARE Conference*

# ELECTION SECURITY ENHANCEMENT

## Safety investments, collaborative efforts emphasize election security

Those visiting BVRE's North Charleston headquarters will notice recently added safety measures. These additions reaffirm BVRE's commitment to conducting secure elections where poll workers, staff members and voters will feel comfortable when participating in our democratic process. Ahead of BVRE's move to its new building in July 2023, the department partnered with local media outlets to raise awareness of the location change. This modern facility features several multi-purpose rooms, adequate parking space, an accessibility ramp, and updated amenities. Large signage directs and welcomes those who stop by the headquarters. Along with serving as a hub for voter services, BVRE's headquarters acts as an early voting center for all Charleston County elections.



Above: Signage greets visitors to BVRE's North Charleston headquarters

The protocols at headquarters now exceed safety measures in place at the Charleston County Public Services Building. Our executive leadership team is in constant contact with public safety officials within Charleston County Government and those actively serving the community to ensure best practices are being followed. Charleston County's Emergency Operations Center is partially activated for each Election Day during countywide elections to quickly respond to those who may attempt to cause disruptions. These collaborative efforts led to an invitation to the National Homeland Security Conference in July, where BVRE leadership will join officials from the County's Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management Department to present to thousands of security professionals and county government representatives.



Above: BVRE Deputy Director of Voter Services Natasha Streets addresses Charleston County Government employees serving at the Emergency Operations Center



# ELECTION SECURITY ENHANCEMENT

## BVRE Executive Director Testifies Before U.S. Congressional Committee



On Tuesday afternoon, BVRE Executive Director Isaac Cramer testified before the United States Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. Cramer spoke on the safety of Charleston County election officials, the security of polling locations, and the need for federal funding to enhance election operations at the county level.

"... I believe the Charleston County model can serve as a resource to other election officials wondering how they can ensure the security of each polling location and the safety of every voter and poll manager," he said in his opening statement. "Preparing for the administration of the upcoming elections, our office meets monthly with our Counter Threat Manager, local law enforcement, emergency management, and public safety. Collaborating with county officials, we have embarked on initiatives to assess and enhance the security apparatus of our facilities..."

BVRE is consistently looking to improve the voting process for Charleston County residents, and its team members are proud to provide the same gold standard of service to all.

If you missed Cramer's testimony, the full hearing can be viewed [online](#).

*Top left: BVRE Executive Director Isaac Cramer (right) poses while attending a hearing on the "Administration of Upcoming Elections."*

*Bottom left: Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections Executive Director Isaac Cramer's nameplate sits on a table ahead of a hearing on the "Administration of Upcoming Elections."*



# OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

## New outreach programs to educate, empower community members

Amid an active election season, BVRE is launching two new programs designed to increase voter registration and participation across Charleston County!

In February, Charleston County Council moved to accept grant funding for a new poll worker recruitment program that works with local college students. BVRE applied for and was awarded a grant totaling \$76,861 by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. The department was one of just 14 award recipients from submissions across the United States. This funding will develop a college-level course centered around civic engagement through working as a poll worker and recruiting fellow students to serve at the polls.

Additionally, in March, BVRE's Outreach Team held the first meeting for the office's new Voter Ambassador Program. As voter ambassadors, community members receive training to host voter registration drives and educate voters in the community. These efforts will help ensure citizens are ready to vote, playing a crucial role in increasing voter registration and turnout. More information on BVRE's latest outreach efforts can be found [online](#).



Top right: Supplies for BVRE's Voter Ambassador program are on display, including a tote bag, forms, and stickers.

Bottom right: The official seal for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission is shown.

## DID YOU KNOW?



We can conduct outreach events for your organization including:

- Issuing Voter IDs
- Voter Education
- Voter Registration
- Satellite Voting Unit Tours
- Mock Elections
- Poll Worker Recruitment
- Absentee Enrollment
- Voting Machine Demos
- and more!

Interested? Contact us at [outreach@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:outreach@charlestoncounty.org)








# 2024 ELECTIONS

## Several special elections, statewide primaries make up spring slate

With a handful of special elections and statewide primaries taking place in Charleston County this spring, BVRE wants to share a few important reminders for those looking to participate:

-  Ensure you are properly registered at least 30 days prior to Election Day and that your address on file is up to date.
-  Make sure you have a valid photo I.D. that you can use to vote. Accepted forms of I.D. can be found on [SCVotes.gov](https://www.scvotes.gov).
-  If you are voting absentee in any election, your absentee application must be returned to BVRE headquarters by 5 p.m. on the 11th day prior to Election Day.

## REMAINING ELECTION SCHEDULE

- ★ SC House District 109 - Special Election: April 2
- ★ Town of Summerville - Special Election: April 2
- ★ City of Folly Beach - Special Election: April 23
- ★ Town of Kiawah Island - Special Mayoral Election: April 23
- ★ Town of Kiawah Island - Special Town Council Election: April 23
- ★ Town of Lincolville - Special Town Council Election: June 11
- ★ Statewide Primaries: June 11
- ★ General Election: Nov. 5



## Be a Poll Manager!

- ★ **Serve your community**
- ★ **Participate in the democratic process**
- ★ **Get paid for your work**

