FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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

This summer was a remarkable period of growth, collaboration, and achievement for the Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections (BVRE). As the executive director, I had the privilege of witnessing the dedication and hard work that our team and partners put into ensuring that our community is well prepared for the electoral process this fall.

One of the highlights of the summer was hosting the 2024 SCARE Midyear Conference at our headquarters. The event was a resounding success, filled with dynamic discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities that left a lasting impact on all who attended. We explored legislative updates, best practices, and innovative solutions that will help us continue to enhance election administration across the state. As the newly elected president of the South Carolina Association of Registration and Election Officials (SCARE), I was honored to guide these crucial conversations and help set the tone for continued progress in our field. Learn more on **Page 3**.

Our commitment to election security was also on full display during our second annual Election Security Workshop. This workshop brought together election leaders, law enforcement, and other key officials to focus on ensuring the safety of our elections. We worked collaboratively to develop strategies and practices that will protect our democratic processes in the face of evolving challenges. I am deeply grateful to all who participated. Further details are on **Page 4**.

The importance of safeguarding elections was further underscored at the National Homeland Security Conference in Miami Beach, where Charleston County took center stage. Our delegation emphasized the power of collaboration across departments to secure our elections and presented a robust framework designed to protect election workers, voters, and infrastructure. This collaborative approach continues to serve as a model for other regions and demonstrates Charleston County's commitment to leading by example. Read more on **Page 5**.

As we look ahead to the 2024 General Election and to special elections for two municipalities, I am filled with optimism and gratitude for the collective efforts that have brought us to this point. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this summer such a success. Together, we are building a stronger, more secure, and more engaged Charleston County.

Isaac Cramer
Executive Director

Follow us on social media!

BVRE HOSTS SCARE MIDYEAR EVENT

Officials gather in North Charleston to improve election administration

The 2024 SCARE Midyear Conference in Charleston County was a vibrant and engaging event that brought together election officials and administrators from across South Carolina. This year's conference was packed with insightful sessions, dynamic workshops, and plenty of networking opportunities, all aimed at enhancing the state's election processes.

Held at BVRE's headquarters in North Charleston, the conference buzzed with energy as attendees delved into discussions on the latest legislative updates, best practices in election administration, and innovative solutions to common challenges. The atmosphere was one of collaboration and learning, with professionals eager to share their experiences and gain new insights.

One of the highlights was the series of interactive sessions that allowed participants to engage with one another. These sessions were designed to foster a deeper understanding of the tools and strategies that can make elections more efficient and secure.

The conference also featured inspiring keynote speeches that underscored the importance of continuous improvement and adaptation in the field of election administration. Isaac Cramer, who was named president of SCARE in the spring, played a key role in guiding these discussions and setting a positive tone for the event.

Overall, the 2024 SCARE Midyear Conference was a resounding success, setting a high bar for future events and reinforcing the commitment of South Carolina's election officials to uphold the integrity and efficiency of the electoral process.

Left: Attendees participate in a tabletop exercise at the 2024 SCARE Midyear Conference.

Right: Attendees listen to a speaker at the 2024 SCARE Midyear Conference.

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!

PROTECTING OFFICIALS AND VOTERS

Election security workshop promotes safety measures for S.C. officials

Charleston County's Election Security Workshop returned in 2024 after the event's first iteration received widespread praise in its initial year. Dozens of election leaders, law enforcement officials, and representatives of various county departments convened at BVRE headquarters for July's workshop.

Discussion focuses included election security preparedness with an emphasis on public safety, emergency management, and law enforcement partnerships. The event featured several guest speakers, as well as tabletop exercises, once again led by The Committee for Safe and Secure Elections.

"This event underscored the critical importance of election security in safeguarding our democratic processes," said BVRE Executive Director Isaac Cramer. "Charleston County exemplified its ongoing commitment and collaborative efforts with county partners, reinforcing our readiness for the challenges in 2024 and beyond. I am deeply grateful to all the members of County Council and County Administrator Bill Tuten for their indispensable support in ensuring the security of our elections."

We thank everyone who attended this year's event from near and far, and we are looking forward to its continued growth in the future as we ensure safe and secure elections for all.

Left: BVRE Executive Director Isaac Cramer addresses attendees at the 2024 Election Security Workshop.

Right: Leaders from various Charleston County Government departments pose outside of BVRE's headquarters during the 2024 Election Security Workshop.

SAFEGUARDING OUR ELECTIONS

County leaders speak at National Homeland Security Conference

Charleston County Government leaders took center stage at the 2024 National Homeland Security Conference in Miami Beach this past July, emphasizing the critical need for collaboration between departments to enhance the safety and security of elections.

During the conference, the Charleston County delegation, which included representatives from the Board of Voter Registration and Elections, Department of Public Safety, and Emergency Management, highlighted a comprehensive approach to safeguarding the electoral process. The session underscored the importance of a unified strategy that leverages the strengths of various agencies to address potential threats and vulnerabilities.

The leaders presented a robust collaborative framework designed to integrate the expertise and resources of election officials, public safety personnel, and emergency management teams. This framework aims to ensure a coordinated response to any threats that may arise during election periods.

Emphasis was placed on the necessity of effective communication channels between different agencies. Real-time information sharing and joint training exercises were identified as essential components for ensuring rapid response and coordination.

Additionally, the use of advanced infrastructure and innovative solutions was a focal point of the discussion. Charleston County leaders highlighted the implementation of security measures at a new election headquarters to protect voter data and election infrastructure, as well as the deployment of state-of-the-art equipment and best practices to monitor and respond to potential incidents.

The session also addressed the need for tailored emergency preparedness plans for election scenarios. Contingency planning for natural disasters, attacks, and other emergencies that could disrupt the electoral process was discussed in detail.

Charleston County's proactive approach and commitment to collaboration were praised as a model for other regions. The insights shared at the conference reflect the county's dedication to safeguarding democracy through comprehensive and coordinated efforts.

Right: Representatives from Charleston County Government departments pose at the 2024 National Homeland Security Conference in Miami Beach, Fla.

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

County interns tour election HQ, learn about democratic process

Above: Several interns who worked with BVRE over the summer are recognized during a ceremony marking the end of their internships.

We were overjoyed to spend a day this summer hosting more than 30 enthusiastic interns from Charleston County's 2024 Youth Internship Program! Their visit to our headquarters was packed with engaging activities, including a mock election, a comprehensive tour of our facilities, and an in-depth look at our unwavering commitment to maintaining free and fair elections.

Moreover, we had the privilege of working alongside six exceptional interns from the program for several weeks this summer. These bright young minds not only made meaningful contributions to our services for Charleston County residents, but also gained invaluable insights into the critical role of elections, voting, and civic engagement.

We proudly celebrated their achievements during a ceremony with fellow interns from various county departments. Their dedication and hard work this summer have been nothing short of inspiring.

Thank you for your incredible efforts this summer. We are excited to see the bright futures that await each of you, and we hope to see you all again on Election Day!

Left: Dozens of interns from Charleston County's 2024 Youth Internship Program participate in a voting demonstration and learn about democracy at BVRE's headquarters.

“I VOTED!” STICKER DESIGN CONTEST

Dozens submit artwork in sticker design contest’s second year

BVRE was thrilled to announce the triumphant return of the "I Voted" Sticker Design Contest in 2024. This beloved community initiative has once again captured the imagination and creativity of Charleston County residents, resulting in a vibrant and diverse array of sticker designs that celebrate the spirit of civic engagement.

The contest, which invites the next generation of voters to submit their original artwork, aims to foster a sense of pride and participation in the electoral process. This year's contest saw an impressive number of entries, reflecting the community's enthusiasm for voting and democracy. The winning designs will be featured as official "I Voted" stickers distributed at early voting centers throughout Charleston County during the General Election.

The finalists were selected by a panel of judges from BVRE’s executive leadership team. The winners will be decided by a public vote on the BVRE Facebook page. In addition to having their artwork featured on the "I Voted" stickers, the winning artists will receive a prize package and countywide recognition.

BVRE extends its heartfelt thanks to all participants and encourages everyone to continue engaging in the electoral process. Stay tuned for the announcement of the winning design and make sure to pick up your "I Voted" sticker at an early voting center this fall!

Above: A header logo for the 2024 “I Voted!” Sticker Design Contest is pictured, with a blue paint mark and the name of the competition in red and white.

2024 GENERAL ELECTION

Important dates and reminders ahead of the General Election

Registration Deadline

Sunday, October 6
11:59 p.m.

Absentee Ballot Applications Due at Election Headquarters

Friday, October 25
5:00 p.m.

Absentee Ballots Due at Election Headquarters

Tuesday, November 5
7:00 p.m.

Early Voting Information

Monday, October 21 - Saturday, October 26
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Monday, October 28 - Saturday, November 2
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

- Baxter-Patrick James Island Library
- Election Headquarters
- Essex Village Church of Christ
- Main Library - Downtown Charleston
- Seacoast Church - Mount Pleasant
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- St. Paul's Hollywood Library

VOTE

Be a Poll Manager!

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