

# The Municipal Election Transfer Process

2011 MCTI Session I  
March 16, 2011

Scott Slatton  
Senior Field Services Manager




---

---

---

---

---

## Transfer Authorized by Law

- SECTION 5-15-145. Transfer of authority to conduct municipal elections to county elections commission.
- (A) Municipalities are authorized to transfer authority for conducting municipal elections to the county elections commission. County elections commissions are authorized to conduct municipal elections.
- (B) As a condition of the transfer of authority to conduct elections pursuant to this section, the governing bodies of the municipality and the county must agree to the terms of the transfer and enact ordinances embodying the terms of that agreement. The municipal ordinance must state what authority is being transferred and the county ordinance must accept the authority being transferred.
- (C) When the total responsibility for the conduct of a municipal election is transferred to a county election commission, pursuant to the provisions of this section, the municipal election commission is abolished.
- (D) If the municipality, by ordinance transfers a portion of the responsibilities for the conduct of a municipal election to a county election commission, the municipality shall not abolish the municipal election commission.
- (E) A municipality which by ordinance transfers authority for conducting municipal elections to the county election commission under this section may by ordinance set the filing dates for municipal offices, and the date by which candidates must be certified to the appropriate authority to be placed on the ballot, to run concurrently with the filing dates set by law for countywide and less than countywide offices or other filing dates as may be mutually agreed upon between the municipality and the county election commission.




---


---

---


---

---


## Why Transfer?




Election commission hears protest  
Election protest filed in Darlington County



Hearing set Dec. 3 for town  
election appeal



"The Columbia Municipal Election Commission ruled Friday during an emergency meeting . . ."




---

---

---

---

---

**Why Transfer?**

- Cost savings
- Lack of volunteer interest for:
  - Municipal election commission
  - Poll workers
- State-mandated training



---

---

---

---

**Municipal Transfer Process**

- Agree with county council to transfer
- How much authority can be transferred?
  - accepting filing
  - preparation of ballots and voting equipment
  - hiring and training poll managers
  - canvassing and certification
  - hearing protests
  - all authority?



---

---

---

---

**Municipal Transfer Process**

- If *all* authority is transferred, municipal election commission is automatically abolished
  - city can set filing dates and fees to correspond with county dates
- If *portion* of authority is transferred, city must retain municipal election commission




---

---

---

---

**Sample Ordinance**



**MASC**

---



---



---



---

**Transferred and We're Done?**

- NO!
- Work closely with county election staff
  - special elections
  - changes in poll locations
  - challenges to results
  - district boundary changes

**MASC**

---



---



---



---

**Resources**

*Municipal Election Handbook*  
www.masc.sc

South Carolina Association of Registration and  
Election Officials (SCARE)  
www.sccounties.org

South Carolina State Election Commission  
www.scvotes.org

**MASC**

---



---



---



---