



CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINER

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The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House - 1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor McMaster,

In reviewing the Legislative Audit Council (LAC)'s January 2024 A REVIEW OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION PROCESS, several major issues have been identified and require immediate action. This report contains much information that will be read by few, but wise governance dictates that critical faults in the administration of South Carolina elections be addressed.

- 1) Voter Roll issues - Ineligible voters on roll and casting votes, erroneous voters active
- 2) Audits done by SEC and counties not consistent and documented properly
- 3) Voting equipment malfunctions – Electronic Poll Book and Tabulator/Scanner
- 4) Lack of transparency in election process and auditing of same
- 5) \$5m of voting equipment has been misplaced
- 6) Previous audit recommendations and findings have gone unaddressed
- 7) Spending of funds on asset management system \$450k+ and 10 SUV's \$488k improperly done and assets are un- or underutilized
- 8) No proper asset management system being used to administer voting equipment assets
- 9) Information security within and among voting systems has not been addressed
- 10) SEC's election security guide has not been updated
- 11) County election officials are missing certifications and education credits
- 12) Receipt of more than \$6.5 million from outside organizations paid directly to SEC, counties, and individuals without proper approval and documentation
- 13) SEC has budgeted only \$160,000 of the \$13,918,872 total HAVA federal funds received on cyber and physical security
- 14) Issues sent to SLED for action have resulted in no action

The information included in the LAC's report identifies issues that are allowing risk to election integrity in South Carolina. Act 150 in 2022 did some really good things to decrease election risk, but there is much more to do. The addition of an audit division and 52 new SEC employees by the end of 2024 will not answer the problems above; only process changes will. Complexity and volume of information make it easy to dismiss the need for change. This is a request for you to address the issues identified by the LAC concerning the administration of our elections.

Sincere Thanks,

Laura W. Downing
Certified Fraud Examiner