

# **SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Affiliated with

National Volunteer Outreach Network, Country Women's Council, U. S. A., Associated Women of the World  
and in partnership with Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service

## **LEADER TRAINING GUIDE**

### ***“VOTE FOR ME; ABSENTEE”***

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Participants will learn who is eligible to vote absentee
- Participants will learn how to request an absentee ballot
- Participants will learn how to vote a straight ballot or a split ballot
- Participants will learn how to properly return an absentee ballot so that their vote will be counted

#### **SAY:**

The information in this lesson applies to voting in South Carolina only. Different states have different voting laws. South Carolina voters must have a valid specific reason to vote absentee, including:

- > anyone 65 years of age or older may vote absentee without a reason
- > persons attending schools out of their county of residence who will be in school on election day may have their parents request an absentee ballot
- > those who are employed on shift work who are working during the time the polls are open
- > those who are employed out of their county of residence
- > persons serving on jury duty on the day of election
- > those out of their county of residence on vacation on the day of election
- > those who have an emergency four days before election day and are unable to get to the polls on election day
- > three days prior to election day if there is a death in the family
- > persons who have been arrested but not yet convicted may request an absentee ballot
- > poll workers and poll watchers not working in their home precinct
- > those who are caregivers for the sick
- > persons serving in the military may call or write the voter registration office in their county of residence and request an absentee ballot.

#### **GIVE HANDOUT 1 and SAY:**

This list gives the reasons for requesting an absentee ballot. When this is completed and affirmed to be true, the form is returned to the registration office. If for any reason the oath is broken, your vote could be challenged by the Election Commission. Example: If you request an absentee ballot and state you will be out of your county of residence on election day, and you are seen in town and would be able to get to the polls to vote on election day, the Election Commission could throw out your vote. Those 65 years or older may request an absentee ballot for all elections during a calendar year. The form must be signed, dated and check the reason. An absentee ballot will be mailed automatically to them, and they will receive a paper ballot for voting.

**SAY:**

When your ballot is received approximately six (6) weeks prior to the election from the Voter Registration Office do not be intimidated by the ballot. You may vote for all offices and questions on a ballot, or simply the ones for which you choose to vote.

**GIVE HANDOUT 2 and SAY:**

Read over the entire ballot first. Use a black ball point pen to color in the oval by the name of the candidate you wish to vote for. If you choose to vote a straight party ticket color the oval beside the party you choose. This will cast a vote for each candidate within that party. You do not need to color the oval beside the name of each candidate in that party in each race. If you do not wish to vote a straight party color the oval by the name of the person in each race you wish to vote for. You may vote for all or only one candidate. You may write in a candidate in each race on the line WRITE IN \_\_\_\_\_ and color the oval beside of the words write in.

**GIVE HANDOUT 3 and SAY:**

When you return your ballot after you have voted, put the ballot in the envelope that reads “Ballot Herein.” That envelope goes within the Ballot return envelope. The voter’s oath will be on the back of the Ballot return envelope. You MUST SIGN VOTERS OATH on the back of the return envelope. If you do not sign the oath your vote cannot be counted. Also, a witness must sign the voter’s oath on the line for witness in order for your vote to be counted. The voter and witness’ signature and the address of the witness must be on the return envelope for your vote to be counted. This is a South Carolina Law. Anyone may witness your signature on the envelope. Example: The Postman or anyone available who can write their name may witness your signature when you sign the voter’s oath on the return envelope. Mail your ballot to your Voter Registration Office. Ensure that it is received no later than seven (7) P. M. on Election Day, or you may deliver your ballot in person to the Registration office. If some one other than yourself delivers your ballot you must fill out the yellow sheet that was received in your ballot. DO NOT PUT THE YELLOW SHEET IN THE ENVELOPE but take separately. Be Sure to Vote!!

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***“Vote for me; Absentee”*** Leader Lesson written be Helen Spiller, Foothills District Director, Greenwood County President, Family and Community Leaders.  
Consultant: Connie Moody, Director, Greenwood County, South Carolina Voter Registration and Elections Office.

## Request for Absentee Ballot

**Please check the appropriate box to indicate why you are requesting an Absentee Ballot:**

- 01 A member of the Uniformed Services on Active Duty
- 02 A member of the Merchant Marine
- 03 A spouse or dependent of a member of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine
- 04 A U. S. Citizen temporarily residing outside of the United States due to employment, serving with the American Red Cross, USO, Peace Corps, etc.
- 05 A U. S. Citizen permanently residing outside of the United States
- 06 Physical Disability
- 07 Student, their spouse or dependents residing with them who are outside their county of residence
- 08 For reasons of employment will not be able to vote on Election Day
- 09 Government employee, their spouse or dependents residing with them, who are outside their county of residence on Election Day
- 10 Person on vacation who will be outside their county of residence on Election Day
- 11 Serving as a juror in a state or federal court on Election Day
- 12 Admitted to the hospital as emergency patient on the day of election or within a four-day period before the election
- 13 Death or funeral in the family within a three-day period before the election
- 14 Confined to a jail or pre-trial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial
- 15 Attending a sick or physically disabled person
- 16 Certified poll watcher, poll manager, county registration board or election commission member or staff working on Election Day
- 17 Persons sixty-five years of age or older

I do swear or affirm that I am a qualified elector, that I am entitled to vote in this election, and that I will not vote again during this election. The information above is true in all respects, and I hereby apply for an absentee ballot for the reason indicated above. Any person who fraudulently applies for an absentee ballot in violation of this section, upon conviction, must be punished in accordance with Section 7-25-20.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT - GREENWOOD COUNTY  
GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 7, 2006

A GREENWOOD COUNTY	B SOUTH CAROLINA	C NOVEMBER 7, 2006
<p><b>OFFICIAL BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS</b></p> <p>(A) Use a blue or black ballpoint pen.</p> <p>(B) To vote a straight party ballot, darken the oval <input type="radio"/> beside the name of the party of your choice.</p> <p>(C) To vote a mixed ballot, or in other words for candidates of different parties, omit the straight party mark and darken the oval <input type="radio"/> next to the candidate's name.</p> <p>(D) If you wish to vote for a candidate not on the ballot, write the name of the candidate in the space provided and darken the oval <input type="radio"/> next to the write-in line.</p> <p>(E) Nonpartisan offices, amendments, and questions are not included in the straight party vote and, to be counted, must be marked individually.</p> <p>(F) To vote for any candidate or question, darken the oval next to your choice.</p> <p>(G) If you choose to change or correct your ballot, request a replacement ballot from the Poll Manager/Election Officer.</p>	<p><b>State Superintendent of Education</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Tony Fayyazi Independence</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Arnold E Karr Green</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Karen Floyd Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Tim Moultrie Libertarian</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jim Rex Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ralph Lindblad Constitution</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p><b>Adjutant General</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Stan Spears Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Glenn Lindman Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p> <p><b>Commissioner of Agriculture</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Hugh Weathers Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Emile DeFelice Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>Statewide Constitutional Amendment 1</b></p> <p>Must Article XVII of the Constitution of this State be amended by adding Section 15 so as to provide that in this State and its political subdivisions, a marriage between one man and one woman is the only lawful domestic union that shall be valid or recognized; that this State and its political subdivisions shall not create, recognize, or give effect to a legal status, right, or claim created by another jurisdiction respecting any other domestic union, however denominated; that this amendment shall not impair any right or benefit extended by the State or its political subdivisions other than a right or benefit arising from a domestic union that is not valid or recognized in this State; and that this amendment shall not prohibit or limit the ability of parties other than the State or its political subdivisions from entering into contracts or other legal instruments?</p> <p>Explanation of above: This amendment provides that the institution of marriage in South Carolina consists only of the union between one man and one woman. No other domestic union is valid and legal. The State and its political subdivisions are prohibited from creating or recognizing any right or claim respecting any other domestic union, whatever it may be called, or from giving effect to any such right or benefit recognized in any other state or jurisdiction. However, this amendment also makes clear it does not impair rights or benefits extended by this State, or its political subdivisions not arising from other domestic unions, nor does the amendment prohibit private parties from entering into contracts or other legal instruments.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Independence</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Green</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Libertarian</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Constitution</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Working Families</p>	<p><b>U S Representative in Congress District 3</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> J Gresham Barrett Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Lee Ballenger Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Lee Ballenger Working Families</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>Statewide Constitutional Amendment 2A</b></p> <p>Shall Article III, Section 9 of the Constitution of this State be amended so as to provide that the annual session of the General Assembly shall commence on the second Tuesday in January at the State Capitol Building in the City of Columbia, but that each body shall be authorized by majority vote to recess for a period of time not to exceed 30 consecutive calendar days at a time, or by two-thirds vote to recess for a time period of more than 30 consecutive calendar days at a time, and to sit in session at the State Capitol Building in the City of Columbia, and to provide for meetings as each body shall consider appropriate, and to provide for an organizational session for the Senate in those years in which the membership of the Senate is elected and to delete obsolete language relating to earlier sessions of the General Assembly?</p> <p>Explanation of above: This amendment permits either house by majority vote to recess for not more than thirty days at a time or by a two-thirds vote to recess for more than thirty days at a time, permits each house to meet during the legislative session as it considers appropriate, and permits organizational sessions of the Senate in the years senators are elected after the election before the next regular session the following January. The House is presently permitted to organize this way but the Senate is not.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>Governor</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mark Sanford Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Tommy Moore Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>State House of Representatives District 12</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kevin Scharf Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Anne Parks Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>Statewide Constitutional Amendment 2B</b></p> <p>Shall Article III of the Constitution of this State be amended by deleting Section 21 which provides that neither house of the General Assembly shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which it shall be at the time sitting?</p> <p>Explanation of above: This amendment deletes a requirement that prohibits either house from adjourning for more than three days without the consent of the other house. This deletion is necessary to permit the meeting and recessing provisions outlined in paragraph one. (from Amendment 2 a)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>Lieutenant Governor</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Andre Bauer Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Robert Barber Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>Probate Judge</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Frank Robert Addy Jr Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>County Council District 1</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Edith S Childs Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>
<p><b>Secretary of State</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mark Hammond Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Cheryl L Footman Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>Soil and Water District Commission</b> (Two Seats to Fill, You may vote for Two, Less than Two, but not more than Two)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Marion Paul Gentry Petition</p> <p><input type="radio"/> J Brad Martin Petition</p> <p><input type="radio"/> W E Bill Robinson Jr Petition</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>Statewide Constitutional Amendment 2B</b></p> <p>Shall Article III of the Constitution of this State be amended by deleting Section 21 which provides that neither house of the General Assembly shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which it shall be at the time sitting?</p> <p>Explanation of above: This amendment deletes a requirement that prohibits either house from adjourning for more than three days without the consent of the other house. This deletion is necessary to permit the meeting and recessing provisions outlined in paragraph one. (from Amendment 2 a)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>State Treasurer</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Thomas Ravenel Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Grady L Patterson Jr Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>School Trustee District 50 Seat 1</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Willie Evans Non-Partisan</p> <p><input type="radio"/> LaVerne Fuller Non-Partisan</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>Statewide Constitutional Amendment 3A</b></p> <p>Must the first sentence of the fourth paragraph of Section 16, Article X of the Constitution of this State relating to the equity securities investments allowed for funds of the various state-operated retirement systems be amended so as to delete the restrictions limiting investments in equity securities to those of American-based corporations registered on an American national exchange as provided in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or any successor act, or quoted through the National Association of Securities Dealers Automatic Quotations System or similar service?</p> <p>Explanation of above: Currently, South Carolina's Retirement Systems may invest only in publicly traded stocks and stocks of companies located in the United States. This amendment would allow prudent investing in all stocks as a means of seeking higher profits.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p>
<p><b>Attorney General</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Henry McMaster Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>Comptroller General</b> (One Seat to fill)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Richard Eckstrom Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Drew Theodore Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p><b>Statewide Constitutional Amendment 3A</b></p> <p>Must the first sentence of the fourth paragraph of Section 16, Article X of the Constitution of this State relating to the equity securities investments allowed for funds of the various state-operated retirement systems be amended so as to delete the restrictions limiting investments in equity securities to those of American-based corporations registered on an American national exchange as provided in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or any successor act, or quoted through the National Association of Securities Dealers Automatic Quotations System or similar service?</p> <p>Explanation of above: Currently, South Carolina's Retirement Systems may invest only in publicly traded stocks and stocks of companies located in the United States. This amendment would allow prudent investing in all stocks as a means of seeking higher profits.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No</p>

**SAMPLE**

CONTINUE VOTING ON BACK

ATTENTION VOTER: DO NOT REMOVE BALLOT STUB FROM BALLOT

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT  
GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 7, 2006  
GREENWOOD COUNTY

NO: 00001

Initials of Issuing Officer

**Back of the ballot envelope**

**Voters Oath**

I hereby swear (or affirm) that I am duly qualified to vote at this election according to the Constitution of the State of South Carolina; that I have not voted during this elections; and that the ballot or ballots with which this oath is enclosed is my ballot and that I have received no assistance in voting my ballot that I would not have been entitled to receive had I voted in person.

.....  
Signature of Voter

Date on this ..... day of ..... 20 .....

.....  
Signature of Witness

.....  
Address of Witness