

Mr. Howard M. Knapp
Executive Director, South Carolina State Election Commission

Howard Knapp was appointed Executive Director of the SC State Election Commission in January 2022 and was confirmed by the South Carolina Senate in March 2023.

As South Carolina's Chief Election Official, Mr. Knapp is responsible for overseeing the conduct of primary, general, and special elections in South Carolina to ensure that elections are conducted in a fair and impartial manner. He is also responsible for supervising county boards of voter registration and elections and serves as agency liaison with the S.C. General Assembly. The S.C. State Election Commission is responsible for supporting the statewide voter registration system, statewide voting system, statewide electronic poll book system, performing county compliance audits and post-election audits, administering a training and certification program for county election officials, and conducting candidate filing.

Prior to becoming Executive Director, Mr. Knapp served as the agency's Interim Executive Director and Director of Voter Services. In his role as Director of Voter Services, Mr. Knapp was responsible for information technology, cyber security, support of the statewide voting system, ballot coding and production, the agency's Area Representatives, and the agency's election audit initiatives and processes.

Mr. Knapp has served in various roles in the legislative and executive branches of S.C. state government for over a decade.

Mr. Knapp currently serves on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Standards Board, serves on the Board of Directors for the Electronic Registration Information Center, is a member of the National Association of State Election Directors, and is a Certified Election and Registration Administrator through The National Association of Election Officials and Auburn University. He is a graduate of the State of South Carolina's Certified Public Manager program and is a member of Leadership Columbia Class of 2023. He also holds an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Knapp holds a J.D. from Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, FL, and he earned his B.A. from The Citadel in Charleston, SC.