

From: Elmore, Christina <celmore@postandcourier.com>
To: Adams, ChaneyChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov
Date: 2/10/2016 2:30:36 PM
Subject: FW: Nisbet resignation

Chaney,

I hope all is well. I need confirmation on a few details I just received from the State Election Commission (see email below). We were told that Dorchester County Coroner Chris Nisbet resigned Tuesday. I'm trying to confirm the protocol moving forward. One Dorchester County official indicated that a primary would be held within 11 Tuesdays of Nisbet's resignation, followed by a runoff on the 13th Tuesday and a special election on the 18th Tuesday. The State Election Commission, however, said that the Governor's office would fill the vacancy until the general election in November. Can you confirm one or the other. Magistrate Judge Katrina Patton is currently serving as interim coroner. Will she continue to serve until an election is held? Thanks for your help!

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From: Whitmire, Chris [mailto:cwhitmi@elections.sc.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Elmore, Christina
Cc: Mahoney, Arlene; Joshua Dickard
Subject: RE: Nisbet resignation

Christina,

It looks like the Governor would fill this vacancy by appointment until a new coroner is elected in November. Dorchester Coroner was already set to be on the ballot. Candidates will file in March along with all the other partisan candidates seeking office in the general election (filing period is noon, March 16, to noon, March 30). I'll defer to the Governor's office for confirmation on this.

Here's the code section:

SECTION 17-5-50. Vacancy.

(A) Except as provided in subsection (B), in the event of a vacancy in the office of coroner, the Governor shall fill the office by appointing a qualified replacement to serve until the earlier of the following:

- (1) the next general election for the office of coroner; or
- (2) the next general election, in which case an election shall be to fill the unexpired term.

In either circumstance, the person appointed by the Governor shall hold office until his successor shall qualify.

(B) If a county coroner is suspended by the Governor upon the coroner's indictment or for other reasons, the chief magistrate of that county shall act as coroner until the suspended coroner is reinstated or until a coroner is elected and qualifies in the next general election for coroners, whichever occurs first.

(C) Except as provided in subsection (B), the chief deputy or second in command of the coroner's office shall act as coroner until the vacancy is filled by the Governor's appointment. While acting as coroner, the chief deputy or second in command is subject to the duties and liabilities incident to the office of coroner and shall receive the same salary as the former coroner at the time of the vacancy.

HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 17-57; 1952 Code Section 17-57; 1942 Code Section 3555; 1932 Code Section 3555; Civ. C. '22 Section 2100; Civ. C. '12 Section 1279; Civ. C. '02 Section 880; G. S. 713; R. S. 751; 1882 (17) 1126; 2001 Act No. 73, Section 1; 2007 Act No. 52, Section 1, eff June 6, 2007; 2008 Act No. 314, Section 1, eff June 11, 2008.

Thank you.

Chris

Chris Whitmire

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This message originates from the South Carolina State Election Commission. If you have received this message in error, we would appreciate it if you would immediately notify the South Carolina State Election Commission by sending a reply e-mail to the sender of this message. Thank you.

From: Elmore, Christina [<mailto:celmore@postandcourier.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:51 PM

To: Whitmire, Chris

Subject: Nisbet resignation

Chris,

I hope all is well. I just got off of the phone with Arlene and she suggested I send you a quick email. I'm working on an article regarding Dorchester County Coroner Chris Nisbet's resignation. Josh Dickard, who runs the election office in Dorchester County, told me he hasn't received an official notice of Nisbet's resignation but that you all might have. Can you confirm whether or not you all were notified? I hear that you all have to be notified almost immediately to begin planning for a special election. Please give me a call or respond to this email when you can. I'm working on this for tomorrow's paper, so I need to hear from you by 5 p.m. today if you can swing it. Thanks for your help!

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