

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF CALHOUN

ANNE CROOK,

Plaintiff,

v.

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTION COMMISSION  
A/K/A STATE ELECTION COMMISSION,

Defendants.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Civil Action No. 2025-CP-09-00195

**CONSENT MOTION TO STAY AND TO  
TRANSFER VENUE**

**RECEIVED**

**Sep 11 2025**

**S.C. SUPREME COURT**

This matter is before the Court upon the consent of Plaintiff Anne Crook (Plaintiff) and Defendant the South Carolina Election Commission (Defendant),<sup>1</sup> who hereby jointly request this Order staying the proceedings and transferring venue to Richland County. When referred to collectively, the Plaintiff and Defendant will be the "Parties."

Specifically, the Parties jointly request an Order as follows:

(1) The Parties agree to an Order staying all further proceedings in this action for a period of sixty (60) days to provide additional time to facilitate the Parties' attempt to resolve the dispute. "The granting of a motion for a stay of proceedings rests entirely within the discretion of the trial court." *Thompson v. Swicegood*, 430 S.C. 648, 659, 845 S.E.2d 920, 925 (Ct. App. 2020) (cleaned up). Unless the Parties subsequently agree on an extension, the Parties understand that Defendant's Answer is due on Monday, November 3, 2025, notwithstanding the stay of proceedings.

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<sup>1</sup> There is no entity known as the South Carolina Election Commission. The agency is the State Election Commission.

(2) The Parties understand that this passage of time will cause the Temporary Restraining Order to dissolve on its own terms on September 12. Nevertheless, Defendant stipulates that it will not transfer any of the voter registration information or data that is the subject of this lawsuit to the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) during the pendency of this lawsuit, unless there is a fully executed memorandum of understanding (MOU), executed pursuant to § 7-5-186, between the DOJ and the Election Commission. Defendant shall notify Plaintiff in writing no less than 7 days before it transfers voter information to DOJ and shall provide Plaintiff with a full and complete copy of the MOU for her review. Plaintiff reserves the right, upon notice of Defendant's intent to transfer data to DOJ, to file a new motion for a temporary restraining order and/or preliminary injunction. For these purposes, the temporary restraining order shall not be *ex parte*. Defendant shall not initiate the transfer of data to DOJ while a request for temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction remains pending. Nothing in this Consent Motion is intended to nor will it interfere with Defendant's ongoing duties or obligations under § 7-5-186, or with regard to existing memoranda of understandings executed pursuant to § 7-5-186 to maintain the statewide voter registration database.

(3) The Parties agree that Defendant's appeal of the Temporary Restraining Order, Appellate Case No. 2025-001777, is now moot and Defendant will file a withdrawal of that appeal pursuant to Rule 260(c), SCACR within 24 hours of this Consent Motion being entered by the Court.

(4) Plaintiff consents to Defendant's Motion to Change Venue to Richland County, filed in this matter on Friday, September 5.

(5) Because of this Order staying the proceedings and changing the venue to Richland County, the Parties understand that the hearing set for Aiken County at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, August 10 will no longer be necessary.

(6) Upon the matter being transferred to Richland County, the Parties agree to work together to attempt to work together so that the matter is heard expeditiously.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ C. Bradley Hutto

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