

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

2022-14

WHEREAS, in April of 2018, the Superintendent of Education declared a state of emergency in the Williamsburg County School District (“District”) and the Department of Education (“Department”) assumed operational control of the District pursuant to Proviso 1A.12 of the Appropriations Act, and the Department recently indicated that it is in the process of returning operational control of the District to the District’s Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned has been informed that there presently exists a vacancy in the office and seat representing the second district on the Board of Trustees, which was created upon the death of Gladys Dorsey in July of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Act No. 107 of 2017 provides, in pertinent part, that “[i]f a vacancy on the board, due to causes other than the expiration of a term, occurs less than one hundred eighty days before the next general election, the vacancy must be filled by appointment of the Governor, upon the recommendation of a majority of the county legislative delegation,” and that “all other vacancies must be filled by special election,” which the Board of Trustees “shall call” and which “shall be conducted by the Williamsburg County Office of Voter Registration and Elections subject to the election laws of this State, *mutatis mutandis*”; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned has been advised that the appropriate officials failed or neglected to call for and conduct the requisite special election at the time and in the manner prescribed by law; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing circumstances and events, the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Williamsburg County recently requested that the undersigned order a special election to be held on July 12, 2022, to fill the aforementioned vacancy on the Board of Trustees, and the Department has confirmed that it concurs with or otherwise does not object to this request; and

WHEREAS, section 7-13-1170 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, provides as follows: “When any election official of any political subdivision of this State charged with ordering, providing for, or holding an election has neglected, failed, or refused to order, provide

for, or hold the election at the time appointed, or if for any reason the election is declared void by competent authority, and these facts are made to appear to the satisfaction of the Governor, he shall, should the law not otherwise provide for this contingency, order an election or a new election to be held at the time and place, and upon the notice being given which to him appears adequate to insure the will of the electorate being fairly expressed. To that end, he may designate the existing election official or other person as he may appoint to perform the necessary official duties pertaining to the election and to declare the result.”

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby order that an election shall be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, for the aforementioned seat on the District’s Board of Trustees. Pursuant to section 7-13-1170 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, I designate and appoint the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Williamsburg County to perform the necessary official duties pertaining to the election, in accordance with the applicable constitutional and statutory provisions, and to declare the results thereof. In order to qualify as a candidate for the seat, all candidates must file with the Board of Voter Registration and Elections of Williamsburg County a statement of intention of candidacy, and submit any applicable filing fees, by noon on Friday, May 27, 2022. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 2nd DAY OF
MAY, 2022.**

HENRY MCMASTER
Governor

ATTEST:

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State