

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.**

**2026-07**

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned has been notified that there presently exists a vacancy on Dorchester County Council, in the seat of District 6, due to the resignation of William Hearn; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 4-9-90 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, vacancies occurring on the governing body of a county are generally “filled in the manner of original election for the unexpired terms in the next general election after the vacancy occurs or by special election if the vacancy occurs one hundred eighty days or more prior to the next general election”; and

**WHEREAS**, a special election for the aforementioned office is scheduled to be held on May 26, 2026, in accordance with section 7-13-190(B)(2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, which provides that for special elections to fill a vacancy in office, “[t]he special election must be on the twentieth Tuesday after the vacancy occurs”; however, “[i]f the twentieth Tuesday after the vacancy occurs is no more than sixty days prior to the general election, the special election must be held on the same day as the general election”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dorchester County Board of Elections and Voter Registration has confirmed that Frankie Staropoli, who prevailed in a primary election conducted on March 24, 2026, is presently unopposed in the aforementioned special election for the seat of District 6 of Dorchester County Council; and

**WHEREAS**, absent prior action by the undersigned, a vacancy will remain in the office of the seat of District 6 of Dorchester County Council such that the residents thereof will be without representation in said office pending the results of the May 26, 2026 special election, which is now uncontested, and qualification of a successor to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term; and

**WHEREAS**, in the event of a vacancy in a county office, the undersigned is authorized, pursuant to sections 1-3-220(2) and 4-11-20(1) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended,

April 7, 2026

to appoint a suitable person, who shall be an elector of the county, to serve in such office until a successor shall qualify as provided by law; and

**WHEREAS**, no legal impediments would prohibit Frankie Staropoli from serving in the office of the seat of District 6 of Dorchester County Council; and

**WHEREAS**, for the aforementioned reasons, and in accordance with the cited authorities and other applicable law, the undersigned has determined that it is appropriate under the circumstances presented to appoint a suitable person to serve in the office of the seat of District 6 of Dorchester County Council until a successor shall qualify as provided by law, *see Op. Att’y Gen.*, 1996 WL 599395, at \*1 (S.C.A.G. Sept. 9, 1996); *see also Bradford v. Byrnes*, 221 S.C. 255, 262, 70 S.E.2d 228, 231 (1952) (“As nature abhors a void, the law of government does not ordinarily countenance an *interregnum*.”); and

**WHEREAS**, Frankie Staropoli of Summerville, South Carolina, is a fit and proper person to serve in the office of the seat of District 6 of Dorchester County Council.

**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 appoint Frankie Staropoli to serve in the office of the seat of District 6 of Dorchester County Council, effective April 7, 2026, until a successor shall qualify as provided by law. This Order is effective immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE  
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 7th DAY OF  
APRIL, 2026.**

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**HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER**  
Governor

ATTEST:

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MARK HAMMOND  
Secretary of State