

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.**

**2024-21**

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned has been notified that there presently exists a vacancy on Kershaw County Council, in the office and at-large seat of the Chairperson, due to the resignation of Katie Guinn; 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 November 5, 2024, 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 Kershaw County Board of Elections and Voter Registration has confirmed that J. Benjamin Connell, who prevailed in a primary election conducted on August 6, 2024, is presently unopposed in the aforementioned special election for the office and at-large seat of the Chairperson of Kershaw County Council; and

**WHEREAS**, absent prior action by the undersigned, a vacancy will remain in the office and at-large seat of the Chairperson of Kershaw County Council such that the residents thereof will be without representation in said office pending the results of the November 5, 2024 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, 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**, by letter dated September 11, 2024, J. Benjamin Connell tendered his resignation as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, effective September 13, 2024; 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 as the Chairperson of Kershaw 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**, J. Benjamin Connell, of Lugoff, South Carolina, is a fit and proper person to serve as the Chairperson of Kershaw 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 J. Benjamin Connell to serve as the Chairperson of Kershaw County Council, effective September 14, 2024, 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 12th DAY OF  
SEPTEMBER, 2024.**

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**HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER**  
Governor

ATTEST:

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MARK HAMMOND  
Secretary of State