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MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN SC: HEARING ON VOTER REGISTRATION ROLLS

I had no idea I would have more information to share with you so soon, but there is an important development that could affect South Carolina's elections.

An Ad Hoc Committee on the State Election Commission has been called in the House for "Review of the State Election Commission's process for maintaining the accuracy of voter rolls with regards to qualified electors, including but not limited to, removing deceased people from the state's active voter registration list." There is reason for concern. Excessive purges of voter rolls are one of the most common and effective means of voter suppression.

South Carolina has an excellent record of maintenance of the rolls. No one has found true instances of fraudulent voting by persons who are using the names and voter registration of deceased individuals, or of other fraud related to the rolls. This issue was reviewed thoroughly during the "Zombie Voter" drama a few years ago and has been confirmed repeatedly since. The few instances in which it appears that a deceased person voted are easily accounted for as clerical error (for example, an election worker checking off a deceased John Doe Sr. as having voted when it was his very much alive son, John Doe Jr., who signed the voter rolls as John Doe Jr. and voted).

The committee will take public testimony on June 30 at 9:00 AM in Room 110 of the Blatt Building. Those who wish to testify must sign up on-line. Full information is available at <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/meetings.php?agenda=11426>.

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