

News Release

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State Recognizes Beaufort County Voter Registration and Elections Office for Community Outreach Service

The South Carolina Association of Registration and Election Officials (SCARE) recently recognized the Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration and Elections (VR&E) for its local community services outreach at the 43rd annual SCARE Legislative Conference held last week in Myrtle Beach. SCARE President David Alford and State Election Commission Executive Director Marci Andino presented the “Excellence in Elections Award” for 2017 to Beaufort County VR&E Director Marie Smalls and Beaufort County VR&E Board Chairman Tyrone “Ron” Clifford.

This is the second time in three years that the Beaufort County VR&E Board received this recognition. Beaufort County received the award two years ago for its outreach to residents of nursing and assistant living facilities. This year, the Beaufort County VR&E Board focused on promoting the importance of the voting process in our democracy by collaborating with a local group and two area schools on special projects to get teens actively involved with voting.

The Magnolia Friends, an auxiliary of the LINKS, Inc., collaborated with the Beaufort County VR&E Board in support of its Voting Impacts Student Awareness project designed to help prepare students for their role as future voters. Whale Branch Middle School and Robert Smalls International Academy used their recent student body elections as an opportunity to guide students through the entire voter registration process. The Beaufort County VR&E Board provided actual electronic voting machines for the elections. This outreach and educational initiative touched more than 500 students and staff members, summed up in a video produced by the Beaufort County Broadcast Services Department that played during the SCARE Legislative Conference to more than three hundred officials from around the state. [\[Watch video\]](#)

“Voting is the heart of democracy. As long as people have the chance to vote and to choose their representatives, then democracy is working. That is why our office seeks to ensure that all eligible voters in our community are not only registered to vote, but also exercising their right to vote,” said Marie Smalls.

Smalls added that a top priority of the Beaufort County VR&E Board is to help ensure that staff are considering ways to make voting easy for all citizens, especially those belonging to underrepresented groups, including people with different abilities, seniors, and veterans.

To learn more about registering to vote or becoming a poll manager, call 843-255-6900 or send an email to voter@bcgov.net. Additional information is available online [here](#).

Staff photo below - (from left to right: David Alford; Marci Andino; Marie Smalls; and Ron Clifford)

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