

Final Elections Report for 2026 Officers Section Election Committee

Thomas Grimsley, Officers Section Election Chair
Austin Owens
Chris Hinson

Officers Section Election Committee

This group was charged with oversight of the election for the voting process of the Section. The following is an overview of the actions for certification.

Nomination Process

On February 5, 2026, all Section members received a notice of nominations for positions of First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. In accordance with the Section by-laws, the current First Vice Chair will be considered the Chair elect and will advance to the position of Chair for the coming year. The deadline for submission was March 11, 2026. This aligns with the by-laws requirement of nominations being received at least 90 days before the Annual Section Meeting (June 11, 2026). During the nomination period, we received single nominations for the following positions: First Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. We received four nominations for the position of Second Vice Chair. All nominated members were verified as Members in Good Standing with the Section and Association as required by the by-laws.

The First Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer positions did not require an election. The contested position of Second Vice Chair required an election by the membership of the Section.

Nominees for 2nd Vice Chair include:

- Jeremy Bass – Abbeville County Fire Service
- Nathan Huhn – City of Charleston Fire Department
- Jeremy King – South Greenville Fire District
- David Nelson – Surfside Beach Fire Department

Electronic ballots were prepared by staff, and all members on the current Officer Section roster were verified as Members in Good Standing in the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association as required in the Section bylaws.

On May 11, 2026, an email was sent to all members of the Section describing the election process and contained the letter of intent for all candidates for the contested position of Second Vice Chair.

On May 18, 2026, the ballot was electronically sent to all 530 members of the Section through the Association's voting instrument, Survey Monkey. The ballot link remained active for 10 days, closing at 5 p.m. on May 29, 2026, with 213 ballots returned.

On June 1, 2026, the Election Committee met with Rick Dunn via Teams to compile elections data and observe the vote tallies.

The results of this vote:

Position of Second Vice Chair

Jeremy Bass – Abbeville County Fire Service - 77 votes (36%)

Nathan Huhn – City of Charleston Fire Department - 35 votes (16%)

Jeremy King – South Greenville Fire District – 81 votes (38%)

David Nelson – Surfside Beach Fire Department – 23 votes (10%)

Based on these results, the Officer Section Board for the 2026–2027 is:

Chair — Ben Williams

First Vice-Chair — Haley Langford Kearnes

Second Vice- Chair — Jeremy King

Secretary — Micah Taylor

Treasurer — Tracy Benenhaley

The election summary from Survey Monkey is attached. *Individual voting results are available on request.*

This election complied with Article VII, Section 1, E of the current bylaws.

Once certified by the Officer Section Elections committee, the results will be shared with the candidates and Officers Section Chair by Association President Pierce Womack. The results also be emailed to all Section members and shared at the Annual Meeting on June 11, 2026, at 10:45 AM by Election Committee member, Austin Owens.

Respectfully submitted, June 1, 2026, Rick Dunn, Officers Section staff liaison

Certificated of the full Officers Section Elections Committee on June 2, 2026, Thomas Grimsley, Officers Section Election Chair.