

SC SENATE PRIMARY



TOM BRENNER, RETUTERS

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) walks through the Dirksen Senate Office Building before Judiciary Committee hearing at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, U.S., April 27, 2022.

State election rules exclude some voters

USA TODAY NETWORK

The South Carolina State Election Commission (SEC) determined that only South Carolinians who voted in the June 9 Republican primary or did not vote at all are eligible to cast ballots in the Senate special election.

The state called the special election after Sen. Lindsey Graham, who won the Republican Senate primary, died on July 11.

During a July 15 meeting, the SEC decided voter eligibility for the special election while discussing a conflict between state and federal election rules.

Conway Belangia, executive director of the SEC, said during the meeting that elections officials consulted past attorney general opinions and a voter oath when making the voter eligibility decision. South Carolinians who voted in the Democratic primary will not be eligible to vote in the Senate special election.

“We feel comfortable at this point to go in this direction,” Belangia said.

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South Carolina State Election Commission Executive Director Conway Belangia speaks and responds to questions Tuesday, May 12, 2026, during a hearing regarding redistricting South Carolina’s U.S. congressional districts at the Blatt Building in Columbia, South Carolina.

FLORENCE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Third person charged in shooting

STAFF REPORT

A third person has been charged with shooting into a vehicle in an effort to kill someone, according to the Florence County Sheriff’s Office. All three were previously accused of shooting into a home.

Naasir K’Meion Malvier Timmons, 17, of 535 Third Loop Road, Florence, is charged with attempted murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime.

Two other people were previously

arrested in connection with the incident and face the same charges. They are:

- Deontavis Osarion Williams, 21, of 551 Olive Street, Florence
- Dakarius Rashard Claiborne, age 17, of 228 Dogwood Lane, Darlington

The three are charged in the July 8 shooting on East National Cemetery Road near Florence.

Investigators claim they worked together to try to kill a person by shooting into the person’s vehicle.

The Florence Police Department has also accused the same suspects of shooting into a Maxwell Street home on July 8.

Williams and Claiborne are being held at the Florence County Detention Center without bond. Timmons will be held at the Florence County Detention Center while awaiting a bond hearing.

Contact the writer: gene.crider@lee.net or 803-533-5570.

Building burns in Pamplico

SPECIAL TO THE MORNING NEWS

A commercial building burned in the Pamplico community on Thursday afternoon, according to Florence County Fire Rescue.

The agency responded to the scene at 1:55 p.m. following reports of a commercial structure fire.

Firefighters arrived on scene in approximately three minutes and found a commercial structure fully involved in fire, with

several adjacent buildings in immediate danger of igniting.

Crews immediately initiated an aggressive fire attack, successfully bringing the fire under control in approximately one hour.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Florence County Sheriff’s Office.

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