

1977 WL 37212 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

January 3, 1977

*1 The Honorable John W. Matthews, Jr.

Member

House of Representatives

Route 1

Box 159-B

Bowman, South Carolina 29018

The Honorable Earl M. Middleton

Member

House of Representatives

211 Amelia Street

Orangeburg, South Carolina 29115

Gentlemen:

You have each inquired as to the procedure for filling the office of coroner for Orangeburg County consequent upon the death of the incumbent coroner, Honorable Joe A. Dickey. Coroner Dickey was serving the completion of a term of office to expire in January 1977, having been re-elected to the office of coroner in the general election of November 1976. He would have succeeded himself to a term beginning on January 4, 1977, had his death not occurred. He died, however, on or about January 1, 1977.

The term of office of coroner is fixed at four years and it is required that he be elected. S. C. CONST. art. 5, § 20. Section 14-302, Code of Laws for South Carolina, 1962, provides that:

'In the event of a vacancy at any time in any of the offices of any county of the State, the Governor may appoint some suitable person to hold the office—until the next general election for such office if the term of such office be fixed by the State Constitution—.'

I advise that the next general election for the office of coroner in Orangeburg County will be held in November 1979 and that the appointee of the Governor to fill the vacancy will hold the office of coroner until that election.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Daniel R. McLeod

Attorney General

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