



South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



Board of Dentistry

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Henry D. McMaster
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June 8, 2026

TO: LICENSED DENTISTS IN SEVENTH US CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
FROM: SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF DENTISTRY

In an email dated March 31, 2026, the South Carolina Board of Dentistry solicited nominations for candidates for election to represent the Seventh US Congressional District in that dentist seat on the Board. Candidates wishing to be included in this election were required to provide a written petition signed by not less than fifteen (15) licensed dentists living in the US Seventh Congressional District and qualified to vote in the election. Nominations were closed April 30, 2026. The candidates for whom we received petitions are listed below in alphabetical order. Their names and a brief biography as submitted by the candidates is on the second page of this letter.

The voting portal will open on June 10, 2026, and it will remain open until midnight on June 20, 2026. No ballots may be accepted after this date. Only one vote per licensee will be accepted. You may email your ballot to the Board in PDF format to contact.dentistry@llr.sc.gov by midnight, June 20, 2026, or you may mail your paper ballot to the Board at: SC Board of Dentistry, PO BOX 11329, Columbia, SC 29211-1329. Mailed-in ballots must be postmarked on or before June 20, 2026.

Voting: Please fill in your personal information below and check the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote on the ballot included on the second page of this letter, then send both pages back to the Board. The two candidates are **Dr. M. Reece Cofer, DDS** and **Dr. Lucia R. Covington, DMD**

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Name: _____

Credential Number: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

**South Carolina Board of Dentistry US Seventh Congressional District –
2026 Election Ballot**

_____ M. Reece Cofer, DDS

Friends and Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you well. As you are aware, I am a candidate for the open seat on the South Carolina Board of Dentistry representing the 7th Congressional District. I am writing to humbly ask for your support.

For those whom I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, I would like to briefly introduce myself. My name is Reece Cofer, and I am a board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon with Coastal Carolina Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, where I practice in Myrtle Beach, Conway, and Murrells Inlet alongside Drs. Ed Eckert, Elliott Maxwell, Michael Johnson, Chad Adams, and Jeff Aycock.

I am originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee, and completed my undergraduate education, dental school, and residency training through the University of Tennessee. During my time there, I served as President of the Honor Council, which oversaw the entire Health Science Center in Memphis. In that role, I worked directly with the Dean and gained invaluable experience reviewing cases, evaluating matters fairly, and advocating for both colleagues and future patients.

We have been fortunate to live and work in the Myrtle Beach area since July 2017, when I joined Coastal Carolina Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. During that time, I have had the privilege of building relationships with many of you both professionally and personally. I served as President of the Grand Strand Dental Society in 2019 and earned my Board Certification in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery that same year.

Throughout my career, I have remained actively involved in organized dentistry and oral surgery advocacy. Since entering practice, I have been an active member of local, state, and national organizations in dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery, including the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology. I have also remained involved with the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Political Action Committee, including representing our specialty during Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C. Most recently, I was approved to serve as an Expert Reviewer for the South Carolina Board of Dentistry. Last year, I was also selected to serve on the Examination Committee for the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, where I currently help develop questions for the national board examination.

My wife, Mary Catherine, and I have been married since 2013. Her family has been blessed to call the Carolinas home since the late 1700s, which ultimately brought us here permanently. We have two wonderful children: our 7-year-old daughter, Talley, and our 4-year-old son, Worth.

Those who know me know that my priorities have always been faith, family, providing the highest quality care for our patients, and protecting the integrity of our profession. Dentistry continues to face increasing challenges, and I believe it is important that experienced practitioners remain actively involved in shaping the future of our profession.

If elected, I will work diligently to advocate for our shared values while safeguarding our patients, practices, and profession. I would be honored to represent both general dentists and specialists within our district, and I am committed to being accessible, transparent, and responsive whenever issues arise that require Board involvement. Open communication and thoughtful leadership are essential to maintaining the trust of both our colleagues and the public we serve.

I deeply value the relationships I have built within our dental community and would be grateful for your support and vote. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or would like to discuss my candidacy further.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and support.

Warm regards,

Reece Cofer

Lucia R Covington, DMD

Good morning to all my fellow colleagues,

My name is Dr. Lucia Covington. I was born in Manning, SC, attended the College of Charleston, and completed dental school and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency at the Medical University of South Carolina. I am a solo practitioner in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. Since establishing my practice in 2013, I have been deeply committed to advancing patient care, patient safety, and strengthening our profession. My roots in South Carolina run deep; and I intend on using my direct relationships with legislative delegation and civic leadership from the state and county levels.

I am proud to be running for the open seat on the South Carolina Board of Dentistry for the 7th Congressional District. I first learned of this position's responsibilities from the

current Board seat holder, Dr. Tom McDonald, while serving alongside him on our SC House of Delegates since 2014. In preparation for this role, Dr. McDonald gave me valuable insight into both the responsibilities of the position and the critical issues.

Dentistry in South Carolina is at a pivotal moment. We are navigating increased corporate influence, ongoing staffing shortages, financial constraints on small businesses, and mounting challenges with insurance reimbursement. These issues demand strong, informed leadership that will advocate for providers while protecting the integrity of patient care and safety. I will safeguard our profession and its members while enhancing patient safety to a greater extent than before.

I have consistently shown up for organized dentistry through service with the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, American Dental Association, South Carolina Dental Association, Pee Dee Dental Society, Grand Strand Dental Society (Past Vice President & President), and South Carolina Dental Board of Delegates (2014-current). Additionally, I serve our community through the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, Board member for the Children's Recovery Center, and serve veterans through the Charleston VA Hospital.

I hold myself to strong standards set by our country, state, and Lord. If elected, I would be honored and committed to upholding the highest standards for our profession in our district, advocate for fair reimbursement, address corporate overreach, and ensure that decisions made at the state level reflect the realities of private practice while improving the quality of care for our patients and safeguarding our profession. I welcome the opportunity to connect with you and earn your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lucia Covington