

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street, Easton, MD 21601
Board of Elections Meeting Room

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Present:

Board

Susan J. MacKinnon, President
Denise Lovelady, Vice President
Gugy Irving, III, Secretary
Barbara H. Perry, Member
Walter W. Black, Member

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Staff

Tammy Stafford, Election Director
Donna Kegley-Hacker, Election Program Manager II
Fred Gleockler, Election Program IT Specialist II

Members of the Public

Gary Judy, Citizen
Terrence Bernard, Citizen
Larry Schuyler, Citizen
Shari Wilcoxon, Citizen
Mary Yancey
Sally Akridge, League of Women Voters of Mid-Shore, Inc. & Citizen

Absent/Excused:

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gleockler and Ms. Stafford confirmed that the live streaming was working.

Ms. MacKinnon called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

With all Board members in attendance, Ms. MacKinnon declared that a quorum was present.

CLOSED MEETING SUMMARY

Ms. MacKinnon asked Board Attorney Ms. Ryan to give the summary of the closed meeting. Ms. Ryan announced that the Board met in a closed meeting on October 15, 2025, from 10:21 a.m.-10:37 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter regarding the performance of a particular individual. Ms. Ryan stated that no decisions were made at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF OPEN MINUTES- 10/15/2025 Open Board Meeting

Minutes from the Open Board Meeting held on 10/15/25 were mailed in Board packets to members and were posted on the LBE website, allowing for review prior to this meeting. Ms. MacKinnon called for any corrections to the minutes.

Hearing none, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Black and seconded by Ms. Perry. The motion passed unanimously by all members present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Ms. MacKinnon announced that the agenda was posted. She asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Irving motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Black seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Copies of the Board's Public Comment Protocols and Procedures were attached to the copies of the agenda available at today's meeting.

Ms. MacKinnon opened the floor for public comments. Five members of the public spoke.

1. Mr. Judy highlighted correspondence received this past month from "our State Voter Integrity Group" regarding deceased individuals on the voter rolls, the State's slow response to the DOJ for voter records, an illegal alien in the news in July that was on MD's voter rolls, and election judge parity.

He added that the Voter Integrity Group has discovered multiple counties with deceased voters on the rolls and "our people" have not received a response. He stated that this is alarming and greatly erodes confidence in the voting system; it makes us wonder what is going on and what has to happen to bring citizen trust back to our election system.

2. Ms. Wilcoxon spoke to "erroneous information" presented at the last meeting, having to do with the voter parity issue. She stated that many "erroneous statements" have

been made and she presented multiple emails from the office to a specific 2024 Election Judge. She added that “we” work very hard to bring you Republican Judges and this was just one example because we have limited time. Ms. Wilcoxon then read an email from October 17 addressed to “Whom It May Concern” from this same Election Judge expressing concern about parity. She concluded that she was not sure what was stated last time but it was not accurate.

3. Mr. Bernard showed a folder of his notes since 2023. He then read a statement pertaining to voting systems and absentee ballots.
4. Mr. Schuyler stated that this was the second meeting he attended. He stated that he came in just before Labor Day in 2024 and spoke to the Director about applying to be an Election Judge. He asked about parity and her answer was that it was close. He questioned the definition of close because he stated that the numbers from last year were not close. Mr. Schuyler is asking for a clear response; do we have parity between Republican and Democratic Election Judges?
5. Ms. Yancey commented in reference to deceased voters on the rolls. She stated that she assumed there is a process for how the Board of Elections is notified of deceased voters and how voters are removed and would be interested in hearing about the process for clarity.

ELECTION DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Stafford’s written report which was mailed in the Board packets for review prior to the meeting is attached to these minutes. Ms. Stafford highlighted all key areas of the report.

Mr. Black asked for additional information on the number of Election Judge Interest Applications sent out, specifically regarding why more applications were sent to Democratic voters than Republican.

Ms. Stafford responded that the LBE gets interest from a link on the website, and when they register or update their voter registration. Ms. Hacker added that the interest pool also includes returning judges who have notified the LBE of their intent to serve in the next election.

Mr. Black asked if there were 30 more Democratic than Republicans who are indicating interest. Ms. Stafford replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Black then asked if Ms. Stafford had the party breakdown of the 100 interest applications that have been returned. Ms. Stafford replied that she did not have that information at this time. She added that we are seven months out from the election and it is hard to determine what the numbers will be.

Ms. Lovelady stated that even though there are more Democratic voters expressing interest, for the number of judges needed, you have enough Republicans to make it even.

Ms. Stafford clarified that the 311 must complete the paperwork and training. At this time, we can't give a definitive answer about parity. We need to be optimistic and hope for at least a third will be able to serve and then we can determine schedules and parity as best we can. We will be as party balanced as possible.

Ms. Lovelady stated it is fluid and Ms. Stafford agreed.

Ms. Lovelady asked, that in a perfect world, how many Election Judge positions do we have to fill?

Ms. Stafford replied that Election Judges is not a perfect world.

Ms. Lovelady stated that she knew that but again asked how many judges are needed.

Ms. Stafford replied approximately 125-135, to include Standby Judges.

Ms. Stafford added that we need to staff the entire county. The majority of our Election Judges come from the Easton area, and it is difficult to find judges who will travel to other areas of the county.

Ms. Lovelady stated that she understood the complexities of making it all work but wanted to know what the basic number of election judges needed as a starting point.

Ms. Lovelady asked again about why we use unaffiliated voters as judges during the Primary when they can't vote.

Ms. Stafford clarified that unaffiliated voters could vote in nonpartisan contests during the Primary.

Ms. Lovelady agreed, remembering that school board races are nonpartisan.

Ms. Stafford also stated that the law does allow for the use of unaffiliated voters as judges.

Ms. Stafford concluded that staff would take everything into consideration. She added that the process in place to assign Election Judges is working and we will move forward accordingly and try to be as party balanced as possible.

BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Ms. Ryan announced that since the last meeting four Open Meetings Act complaints have been filed to the Open Meetings Compliance Board. These were related to the permissibility of Closed Sessions, some to discuss Election Judges, and some to obtain advice on Election Law. The meetings span between 2024 and 2025.

Ms. Ryan stated that she has filed responses to three; the fourth response is due today (11/19/25). She briefly went over the process and stated that the opinion from the Compliance Board is then issued within 30 days.

Ms. Ryan offered to send copies to the Board. The Board consensus was that Ms. Ryan should send copies of the complaints and responses to each Board member.

Mr. Irving asked if these were questioning their compliance. Ms. Ryan stated that the complaints are specific to this Board.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Facility for the Election Office

Ms. MacKinnon stated that she wants to keep this topic on the agenda because she wants to make sure it stays on the Board's and the County's radar.

Ms. Stafford stated that when she met with the County Manager and Director of Finance, she asked that they keep this need in mind. Mr. Stamp stated that there has been no movement, but we are still on the list.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2027 Proposed Budget

Ms. Stafford reported that she met with Mr. Stamp and Ms. Sparks to discuss concerns about the timing of expenditures resulting from the 2026 Primary (currently scheduled for late June 2026). Mr. Stamp and Ms. Sparks assured Ms. Stafford that these expenditures should be able to be charged against the FY2026 budget.

Ms. Stafford added that should the 2026 Primary date be changed and moved in 2027, it would result in both elections, the Primary and General, being in the FY2027 budget cycle. (Usually because of the scheduling of our Primary and General Elections, only one election occurs in a fiscal year).

Ms. Stafford stated the budget will be due in late January or early February 2027.

Ms. Lovelady asked a question for the benefit of the public in attendance. She asked if the Board of Elections is totally funded by Talbot County or is there State money allocated to us.

Ms. Stafford replied that the Board of Elections is fully funded by the County.

Ms. Lovelady asked if this was the case even though the employees are State employees.

Ms. Stafford replied that that is correct.

Ms. MacKinnon asked if at the December meeting the Board would discuss the FY2027 budget proposal.

Ms. Stafford stated that at the December meeting they should have a copy of the preliminary budget and then at the January meeting a final version before it is submitted to the County.

DISCLOSURES

Ms. MacKinnon asked if any Board members had disclosures. None were announced.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. MacKinnon asked if any Board member wished to make any comments. There were no Board comments made.

CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in the LBE meeting room.

ADJOURNMENT


Ms. MacKinnon announced that there was no other business to conduct.

Ms. Lovelady asked if there would be a Closed Session at the December meeting to which Ms. MacKinnon answered yes.

Mr. Black made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

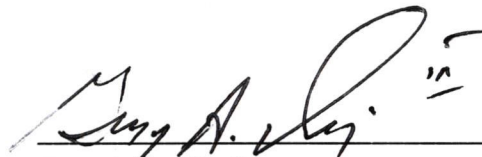
Minutes prepared by: Donna Kegley-Hacker

Attested,



Susan J. MacKinnon, President

Reviewed and submitted,



Gagy Irving III, Secretary



TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS **ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

November 19, 2025

Notice and Distribution of Materials

Meeting materials were prepared and mailed to Board Members, November 7, 2025.

The agenda and meeting materials for the November meeting were also posted on the Board of Elections web page and the entrances to the office and building at 215 Bay Street, Easton, MD, November 7, 2025.

Personnel

The Deputy Director position is posted. We hope to have the position filled by the end of November or early December.

Meetings Attended:

I attended the monthly MAEO meeting and the meeting with SBE.

I also met with Clay Stamp, County Manager and Martha Sparks, Director of Finance, to discuss a matter pertaining to the FY2026 and FY2027 budgets.

Correspondence:

Nothing to report at this time.

Voter Registration Activities:

Monthly Statistical Report- The Report was distributed to board members in the monthly packet. As of October 31, 2025, there were 28, 850 active registered voters in Talbot County.

Voting System Activities:

This month we will be conducting the battery test for the pollbooks and charging the batteries for the printers.

Fred will also be attending the Election Technology Committee meeting and the Risk Limiting Audit Workgroup meeting.

Candidate Filing:

Candidate filing began February 25, 2025, for the 2026 Gubernatorial Election cycle. The deadline to file is February 24, 2026. The list of local races can be found on our website.

Precinct and Polling Issues:

Polling Place Plans have been submitted to the Maryland State Board of Elections for review and approval. The SBE will begin reviewing the plans at their December 4, 2025 meeting.

The Election Judge Interest Application was sent to the voters who have contacted our office to serve as an election judge for the 2026 election cycle on October 2, 2025.

311 applications were sent out. 145 were Democratic, 115 Republican, 49 Other, and 2 undetermined.

We have received 100 applications back. We will continue to send monthly reminder emails to those who have not returned the application or have not indicated they are no longer interested in serving as an election judge.

Budget:

A report documenting Board of Elections Expenditures for FY2026 was included in your board packet.

There are no significant expenditures to report at this time.

I met with County Manager Clay Stamp and Finance Director Martha Sparks to discuss the timeline for the 2026 Primary Election and the impact it may have on the FY2026 and FY2027 Budgets. It was determined that we do not need to make any adjustments at this time.

Other projects:

The Talbot County Board of Elections Website has been updated and reformatted. New graphics have been added, as well as some additional content. We hope the new format will continue to be helpful to voters in search of election information.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

State Board of Elections Meetings:

Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.