

Minutes

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

Wednesday, December 17, 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
Mark Harrison, Citizen
Jason Bell, Citizen
Larry Schuyler, Citizen
Shari Wilcoxon, 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 9:33 a.m.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Ms. Stafford apologized that the room was cool; the heating system was not working, and the County had brought in portable heating units for the time being. The units were turned off so that the meeting could be heard.

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

CLOSED MEETING SUMMARY

Board Attorney Ms. Ryan announced that there was no closed meeting held on 11/19/25.

APPROVAL OF OPEN MINUTES- 11/19/2025 Open Board Meeting

Minutes from the Open Board Meeting held on 11/19/25 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.

Ms. Perry stated there was one correction on page 2, under Public Comments, under 1. Mr. Judy on the third line. There is a typo with "in the news" repeated twice.

With this correction, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Black and seconded by Mr. Irving. 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

Ms. Perry motioned to approve the agenda. Ms. Lovelady 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. Harrison stated that the public needs a better understanding of how the Board of Elections purges the voter rolls. He stated that ERIC is not adequate. He added that voter roll maintenance is not being done properly or timely and asked if there was something that "we" citizens can do to assist with the purging of voter rolls. Mr. Harrison also stated that "we" request that the local BOE notify the SBE that Talbot County citizens request they comply with the Federal subpoena and provide the DOJ with our voter rolls.

2. Ms. Wilcoxon read a statement of the mission of the Talbot County Board of Elections. She also read an excerpt from a Washington Times Op-Ed regarding SBE and inaccurate voter rolls.

Ms. Wilcoxon exceeded the three-minute time limit and ignored the verbal announcements that her time was up. Ms. MacKinnon reminded all public in attendance of the Public Comment Protocols.

3. Mr. Judy highlighted the DOJ lawsuit against the Maryland State Board of Elections and added that the Local Board of Elections must demand that the State Board of Elections turn over the voter information that DOJ has requested. He added that the “truth will come out” and “we are thankful that the Federal government is pursuing this”.
4. Mr. Schuyler asked how he could help to guarantee the parity of Election Judges and attract judges in the geographical locations needed so that they do not have to travel so far. He offered his assistance to anyone who wants it.
5. Ms. Wilcoxon passed a paper to Mr. Bernard from which he read. Mr. Bernard quoted sections of the BOE’s Bylaws that he stated need to be revised. He also questioned whether Closed Meetings rules are being followed, specifically around required attendance of members who have completed Open Meetings Act training.

Mr. Bernard then stated that continuing from Ms. Wilcoxon that these are just a few of the reasons that “I, along with the Republican National Committee, the MD Republican Committee, and fellow Marylander Sullivan have filed a lawsuit against the MD State Board of Elections since SBE refuses to follow Federal law. They apparently must be compelled to clean our erroneously dirty voter rolls. It is time someone stand up for Maryland’s most sacred civil right of voting”.

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.

Ms. Stafford added that she would be conducting interviews on Friday for the Deputy Director position.

Ms. Lovelady asked if any Board members were part of the hiring process.

Ms. Stafford stated that no Board members were part of the hiring process but that there is an interview panel. Ms. Ryan added that hiring goes through the State and applications are reviewed to ensure that applicants meet minimum requirements.

Ms. Lovelady asked how many applicants there were, to which Ms. Stafford responded eight.

Mr. Black asked how many candidates had filed for 2026, to which Ms. Stafford replied three and the link is available on the website.

Mr. Irving asked about the battery testing being done 6 months ahead of the Primary.

Mr. Gleockler responded that there is a schedule from the State and most of the equipment has to be re-charged every three months, with some every six months, and the printer batteries every year. Most of the equipment is also charged during L & A, right before the Primary & the General elections. Mr. Gleockler added that there are also UPSs available for polls that do not have back-up generators.

BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Ms. Ryan announced that she had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Facility for the Election Office

Ms. Stafford stated that she had nothing to report and would like to remove this topic from future agendas.

Ms. MacKinnon stated that it would be appropriate to remove it until after the 2026 Election Cycle. She added that Ms. Stafford should inform the Board if there are any updates before then.

Ms. Stafford stated that she will continue to identify the facility needs and look at available buildings in the county.

B. FY2027 Proposed Budget

Ms. Stafford presented a draft FY2027 budget in the Board packet. She stated that she doesn't anticipate many changes; salary related line items come from the State.

A second draft will be presented at the January 2026 Board meeting.

Ms. MacKinnon asked about the voting equipment lease. Ms. Stafford replied that we are at the end of the cycle and the State will be looking at new equipment in 2027. Ms. Stafford does not have the anticipated figures at this time.

Ms. MacKinnon also asked about Health Insurance. Ms. Stafford replied these figures come from the State and could change.

Ms. Lovelady asked if the figure was decreased because of a staff vacancy. Ms. Stafford stated that she believed the position was included.

Mr. Black announced that the increase was 1.1% and asked if it included the expenses for the 2026 Election. Ms. Stafford replied in the affirmative and reminded the Board that this is a draft.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Board.

DISCLOSURES

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

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. MacKinnon announced that a Voter Registration List Maintenance handout was available for anyone who wanted a copy.

Mr. Black wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the LBE meeting room.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. MacKinnon, with Ms. Ryan's assistance, announced that the Board would be going into Closed Session to discuss a specific personnel member to conduct an evaluation. Ms. Lovelady made the motion. Mr. Black seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present. The meeting went into Closed Session at 10:03 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board did not return to open session. A summary of the Closed Session will be presented at the January 21, 2026, open meeting.

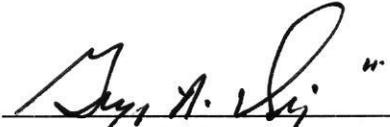
Minutes prepared by: Donna Kegley-Hacker

Attested,



Susan J. MacKinnon, President

Reviewed and submitted,



Gagy Irving III, Secretary



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

December 17, 2025

Notice and Distribution of Materials

Meeting materials were prepared and mailed to Board Members, December 9, 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, December 9, 2025.

Personnel

The Deputy Director position has closed. I am awaiting information from Human Resources.

Meetings Attended:

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

I also met with Clay Stamp, County Manager and County staff to discuss the process by which candidates submit the County Financial Ethics form.

Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

Voter Registration Activities:

Monthly Statistical Report- The Report was distributed to board members in the monthly packet. As of November 30, 2025, there were 28, 872 active registered voters in Talbot County.

Voting System Activities:

A test of the UPSs and generator was performed by the building manager and maintenance. The test was successful. The UPSs provide 45 minutes of power, while the generator is starting. In the event of a power failure, we will have continuous power on election night for election night reporting.

The pollbook battery test is complete. The batteries for the printers have been charged.

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 were reviewed and approved by the Maryland State Board of Elections at their December 4, 2025, meeting.

The December edition of the election judge newsletter was sent out with a reminder to fill out Election Judge Interest Application.

Budget:

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

There are no significant expenditures to report.

Other projects:

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

State Board of Elections Meetings:

Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.