

Minutes

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

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Present:

Absent/Excused:

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 (online)

Staff

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

Members of the Public

Shari Wilcoxon, Citizen
Paul Duggan, Citizen
Jason Bell, Citizen
Gary Judy, Citizen
Mark Harrison, Citizen
Larry Schuyler, Citizen
Sally Akridge, League of Women Voters of Mid-Shore, Inc.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Ms. MacKinnon called the meeting to order at 9:31 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

There was no Closed meeting held on 03/18/2026.

APPROVAL OF OPEN MINUTES- 03/18/2026 Open Board Meeting

Minutes from the Open Board Meeting held on 03/18/26 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.

With no requested corrections, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Black. However, since Mr. Black was not present at the March meeting this motion was rescinded. A new motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Perry and seconded by Mr. Irving. The motion passed unanimously by all members present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Black 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. Two members of the public spoke.

1. Mr. Judy spoke, stating "we've had a few of our people" respond to a recent response that the LBE emailed to those interested in serving as Election Judges. He had a copy of the email and read it out loud. Mr. Judy stated that "we" are confused by this because the last legally required Election Judge report did not show parity; how can the positions be filled if "we" don't have parity?
2. Ms. Wilcoxon highlighted that the LBE had committed multiple Open Meetings Act violations. She made a verbal formal request that all information and meeting minutes that were discussed in private that should have been discussed publicly be acknowledged, specified, and provided to the public.

Ms. Wilcoxon added that in February (2026) Ms. Stafford was required by law to give an Election Judge parity report; instead, she provided a blank spreadsheet. Ms. Wilcoxon added that upon repeated questioning by only Ms. Lovelady as to why she (Ms. Stafford) did not comply with the law, no explanation was given. Ms. Wilcoxon stated that in March an Election Judge parity report was provided and according to the numbers presented, there is still no actual judge parity. She added that there were unequal numbers of judges from the two major parties and unaffiliated or independent judges inappropriately assigned. Ms. Wilcoxon stated that this was especially questionable since only registered Republicans and Democrats can vote in the Primary. Ms. Wilcoxon said that Ms. Stafford continues to deflect questions and provides non-meaningful responses. Ms. Wilcoxon concluded by asking, "will this Board take control, insist she follow the law, and provide parity so we can remove this from our conversation?".

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 stated that the Election Judge Vacancy report was included in the packet. It will continue to be updated as vacancies occur and positions are filled. She added that additional emails have been sent to those voters who have expressed interest in serving as an Election Judge. Ms. Stafford also stated that those who have indicated that they were willing to be Standby Judges are being used to fill unexpected vacancies; additional Standby Judges are being sought.

When discussing the Monthly Budget Report, Ms. Stafford explained that the over-expenditure in the training line item that Ms. MacKinnon questioned at last month's meeting was not an over-expenditure; the County actually charged the invoice to different line item.

Ms. MacKinnon asked for questions from Board members.

Ms. Perry noted a clerical error in the second paragraph (February should be April). Ms. Perry also noted that Ms. Stafford omitted in her oral report highlighting the presentation at the Talbot County Library (under meetings attended) and the printing of Election Judge manuals (under budget).

BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Ms. Ryan stated that she had nothing to report at this time but will attend next month's meeting in person.

Ms. Lovelady asked Ms. Ryan for any election-related legislative updates she could provide. Ms. Ryan stated that she had not received any.

The meeting room was vacated due to a fire alarm at approximately 9:57 am. The Live Stream was interrupted from approximately 16:21- 34:16 after which there was informal discussion as to how to proceed as the alarm was still sounding loudly in the room. At approximately 10:06 am (35:25 on the streaming feed) Ms. MacKinnon called a recess until 10:30 am with the hopes that the alarm would be silenced by then. The alarm was finally silenced, and Ms. MacKinnon resumed the meeting at approximately 10:10 am (39:13 on the streaming feed).

Ms. MacKinnon verified that Ms. Ryan was still in attendance online and asked her to report again on any updates on legislation. Ms. Ryan stated that she did not have an update for this meeting; that generally SBE and State Counsel provides updates but she had not received anything. She added that the legislative session just ended, and she can provide an overview of election-related legislation at the next meeting. She added that her document would be part of the Board documents available to the public.

Ms. Stafford added that the MAEO Legislative Committee has a summary document that she will include in the Board packet for the May meeting.

Ms. MacKinnon asked if there were any questions pertaining to the documents included in the Board packet.

Ms. Lovelady asked if the calendar could be updated to include dates of Election Judge trainings. Ms. Stafford replied that it could be, but the trainings are scheduled throughout April; the trainings will be completed before the next packet is mailed. Ms. Stafford added that the intent of the calendar was to provide Primary Election dates that the Board would be required to attend. Ms. Lovelady stated that the training dates could be emailed.

Ms. Lovelady then asked about correspondence, such as the letter from the MD Republican Party, and could it be sent timelier to the Board. Ms. Stafford replied that it was sent with the Board packet, which is prepared and mailed approximately a week in advance of the meeting. There was some back-and-forth discussion between Ms. Lovelady and Ms. Stafford. Ms. MacKinnon stated that the Board Chair and Director set the agenda approximately ten days in advance of the scheduled meeting; any correspondence pertaining to Board business will be included in the packet.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Responsibilities for the 2026 Gubernatorial Primary

1. Election Supply Verification- Ms. Stafford provided a calendar of important dates of canvass and other election responsibilities. The first duty is in May for Early Voting and Election Day Supply Verification. She asked for two Board members of opposite parties to audit the voting supplies immediately after the May 21st Board meeting.

Ms. MacKinnon asked if there were any questions about the calendar. She stated that she had one related to July 3rd Canvass.

Ms. Stafford asked if they could determine the supply verification team first and then discuss the calendar. Ms. MacKinnon agreed with Ms. Stafford's request.

After a brief discussion, the supply verification team was identified as Ms. Perry and Mr. Irving. The supply verification will take place on 05/21/26 immediately after the Board meeting.

Ms. Stafford then discussed the MIB Canvass, stating that the law requires canvassing to begin on June 1, 2026. Ms. Stafford is proposing another Canvass date of either June 3 or 4, 2026, depending upon the number of ballots received at that time. Following a brief discussion, it was determined that early canvassing would be scheduled for June 1, 2026, and June 4, 2026, at 10 am.

Ms. Stafford announced that the Board is responsible for polling place evaluations during Early Voting and on Election Day. The Board could decide those assignments at the May Board meeting.

Ms. Stafford stated there will be additional canvassing on June 25 and June 30, 2026. The Provisional ballot canvass is scheduled for July 1 and a final canvass on July 3, 2026. The election certification is scheduled for July 6, 2026.

Ms. Perry asked for clarification of Early Voting polling place evaluation, specifically asking if all Board members need to do this on different days or just one Board member. Ms. Stafford responded that one Board member needs to go on one Early Voting day. Ms. MacKinnon added that this will be an agenda item for the May meeting.

Ms. Stafford announced that she will have the final calendar for the May meeting. She added that if a Board member is unable to attend any of the scheduled responsibilities, please notify the Board Chair (Ms. MacKinnon), the Board Attorney (Ms. Ryan), and the Director (Ms. Stafford).

Ms. Stafford stated that the LBE Board will be sworn in as the Board of Canvassers at the May Board meeting. She will contact the Clerk of the Circuit Court for this.

Ms. Lovelady announced that she is having surgery and may not be able to attend canvassing. Ms. Stafford stated that she will reach out to SBE for guidance. Ms. Ryan stated that if a quorum is present with both parties represented Ms. Lovelady's absence should not impact the canvass. However, Ms. Ryan will talk with Ms. Stafford to ensure safeguards are in place.

DISCLOSURES

Ms. MacKinnon asked if any Board members had disclosures. There were none.

BOARD COMMENTS

As the Board Secretary, Mr. Irving thanked Ms. Hacker for preparing the Board minutes, stating that she does a fantastic job.

Ms. MacKinnon announced that a Voter Registration List Maintenance handout was once again made available for anyone who wanted a copy. She also stated that it was on the SBE website. Ms. MacKinnon also highlighted the SBE press release on their phone app, Go Vote Maryland! She also highlighted that concerns and misinformation about the election can be reported to SBE.

Ms. Stafford reminded the Board and public that Board packet materials are posted on the SBE website on the Friday before the scheduled LBE Board meeting. She added that there is a link on the Talbot LBE website to SBE; it was not working this morning, but the materials were still available by accessing SBE's website directly.

Ms. Lovelady clarified that the materials are posted on the SBE website, which Ms. Stafford confirmed.

CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

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

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Black motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 am.

Minutes prepared by: Donna Kegley-Hacker

Attested,



Susan J. MacKinnon, President

Reviewed and submitted,



Gugy Irving III, Secretary



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

April 15, 2026

Notice and Distribution of Materials

Meeting materials were prepared and mailed to Board Members, April 7, 2026.

The agenda and meeting materials for the February 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, April 7, 2026.

Personnel

The Election Program Trainee Position was posted and has closed. I will be conducting interviews in the next week or two. This position will add extra support to the office.

Fred attended the Talbot Lifesaver Marathon on March 20, 2026. He was trained in CPR, Stop the Bleed, and NARCAN. We will be reaching out to the trainers for Stop the Bleed and NARCAN to set up training for election judges.

Meetings Attended:

I attended the monthly MAEO meeting and the meeting with SBE. MAEO will not be holding a Conference in one location this year. Instead, they are considering a one-day conference that will be held at various local boards across the state.

I also spoke to a group of voters at the Talbot County Library in Easton about election security and voting on March 20, 2026.

Correspondence:

Correspondence was included in your board packets, as well as some press releases from the Maryland State Board of Elections for your review.

Voter Registration Activities:

Monthly Statistical Report- The Report was distributed to board members in the monthly packet. As of April 1, 2026, there were 28, 917 active registered voters in Talbot County.

According to calculations based on the monthly statistical report in your packet and the US Census: 2024 ACS 5- Year estimate total voter registration as percentage of estimated population is 93.67% for Active voters 18+. And 96.56% for Active voters 16+.

Source:

DP-007: Precinct Voter Counts Report

4/01/2026

Active Voters (18+)

28,917

US Census: 2024: ACS 5-Year Estimates *

Population **18** years and over

30,872

Eligible Voters as % of Estimated
Population **93.67%**

VR013: Monthly Statistical Report 4/01/2026

US Census: 2024: ACS 5-Year Estimates

Active + Inactive Voters (16+)

Population **16** years and over

30,718

31,817

Total Voter Registration as % of Estimated
Population **96.56%**

*<https://data.census.gov/table?q=DP05:+ACS+DEMOGRAPHIC+AND+HOUSING+ESTIMATES&g=050XX00US24041>

Voting System Activities:

Fred and I attended the public demonstration of the voting equipment the Maryland State Board of Elections is considering purchasing. Information on the equipment was provided in your packets.

Fred and I met with the transportation company to confirm the schedule for the delivery of the drop boxes and election equipment.

The ballot order for the 2026 Primary was submitted to SBE.

Candidate Filing:

A list of candidates can be found on the Maryland State Board of Elections website.

Ballots proofing is complete. The deadline for SBE to display the ballots is April 21, 2026 on their website.

Precinct and Polling Issues:

The Election Judge Vacancy report for April was included in your packet for your review.

Election Judge training started last week and will continue through April.

Reminder letters to all polling places will be sent out this week.

Budget:

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

The printing of the election judge manuals is included in this budget update.

Other projects:

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Close of Registration is June 2, 2026.

Early voting is June 11 through June 18, 2026 at Easton Fire House, 315 Leonard Rieck Drive, Easton, MD 21601. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Election Day is June 23, 2026. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

State Board of Elections Meetings:
Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.