

## **Minutes**

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

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

### **Present:**

#### Board

Susan J. MacKinnon, 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  
Erin Navolis, Election Program Trainee

#### Members of the Public

Terrence Bernard, Self  
Gary Judy, Citizen  
Linda Cades, Self  
Connie Lauffer, Self

### **Absent/Excused:**

Vacancy, Vice President

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Navolis 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 four Board members in attendance, Ms. MacKinnon declared that a quorum was present.

### **APPROVAL OF OPEN MINUTES- 08/19/2026 Open Board Meeting**

Minutes from the Open Board Meeting held on 08/19/26 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. There were none. Ms. Perry did note that the Director's Report was not attached; it will be when the official minutes are posted.

A 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 & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was posted. Ms. MacKinnon asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

Ms. MacKinnon announced one change to the agenda. The Closed Session for today will not be held. Ms. MacKinnon asked that the Special Meeting be held on 09/23/26 and be discussed as an additional agenda item.

Mr. Black motioned to add the Special Meeting to the agenda and approve the agenda; Ms. Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all members present.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Black motioned to approve the agenda. Ms. Perry 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. One member of the public spoke.

1. Mr. Bernard expressed that he was offended with the wording on the stanchions that are used to designate the public seating area. (These have been used for several years and the wording reads "SOCIAL DISTANCING 6FT KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.)

He stated that COVID is over, DEI is over, and it is offending. He added that it was though he was in a special club.

Ms. MacKinnon responded by stating that the meeting is set up by the Board and the Director and the room is used for various purposes. She added that the materials are what the LBE has and that is the way it is. She concluded by saying it (the stanchions) is a necessary detail for setting up the room for the various purposes.

## **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 the County Tech reported on 09/08/26; the County Support Tech reported as of 09/14/26.

She added that the Budget report in the packet this month is a report that she receives from County Finance. Next month an updated report will be provided.

### **Questions from the Board**

Under Correspondence- Mr. Irving asked if the placement of the candidate's name on the ballot was changed or did it remain the same with just an explanation provided to the email sender. Ms. Stafford replied that the question related to the ballot appearance on the BMD. She added that the BMD function requires voters to review all candidates in a contest before they can move forward. SBE explained this to the candidate.

## **BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Last month, Ms. Ryan stated that the Talbot Local Board of Elections, four other LBEs, and the State Board of Elections were named as defendants in a civil suit challenging the General Assembly's constitutional amendment proposed question (pertaining to redistricting) on the General Election ballot. The Office of the Attorney General is handling the lead in this case.

Ms. Ryan reported that this matter has been resolved. The Maryland Supreme Court reversed the decision of the Circuit Court of Dorchester County and required the question be reworded and the reworded question will be on the ballot.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Canvass Dates- Ms. Stafford presented the following Canvass Schedule:

Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Monday, October 19, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 2 p.m. (Early Voting Results)

Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 8 p.m. (Selection of Post Election Precincts for Audit)

Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Post Certification Canvass will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, following the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Ms. MacKinnon asked if all Board members were able to note these; all members responded in the affirmative.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

ADDED TODAY- Ms. MacKinnon announced that since there will be no special Closed Meeting today, she proposed holding that meeting on September 23, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Stafford stated that the time would be 10:30 a.m. Ms. Perry stated that she could not attend. After verifying that the remaining members could attend and getting agreement from Board Attorney Ms. Ryan, Ms. MacKinnon announced that since a quorum could be present, the special Closed Meeting could be held. Mr. Irving made a motion for the Board to meet in special Closed Session on September 23, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the performance evaluation of the Director. Mr. Black seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all members present.

- A. FY 2028 Budget- Ms. Stafford stated that the FY 28 budget would be a discussion point at the October meeting.
- B. General Election Judge Parity Report- Ms. MacKinnon stated that the Board received a copy of this report in their packet.

Ms. MacKinnon asked Ms. Stafford if she had enough Election Judges. Ms. Stafford replied that Election Judges are always needed, especially as the Election approaches and judges drop for various reasons.

Ms. MacKinnon asked if there were any Standby Judges. Ms. Stafford replied that there are a few, but we can use more.

Ms. MacKinnon asked if Judges are still being accepted. Ms. Stafford said yes, applications are continuously accepted and training can be arranged.

Ms. Perry asked for clarification of the report. Ms. Stafford explained that NEW- means a new judge is filling the slot; if the slot is BLANK, that means a judge is still needed.

### **C. General Election Board Responsibilities**

- 1. Supply Verification Audit- Ms. Stafford announced that two Board members of opposite parties are needed to complete this no later than October 7, 2026. Mr. Irving and Mr. Black volunteered to do this on October 5, 2026, at 1 p.m. Ms.

Stafford presented a black bag with the precincts in it. Mr. Irving and Mr. Black randomly selected the following to audit:

EV 01 Early Voting (automatically assigned)  
040001 Cordova Fire House  
03003 Oxford Fire House  
02001/02002 St. Michael's Middle & High School

2. Polling Place Evaluations- Ms. Stafford reminded the Board that some polling places need to be evaluated during the General Election. After some discussion, Board members agreed to:

01001/01003 Easton Fire House- Ms. MacKinnon  
01005 Talbot County Community Center- Mr. Irving  
05002 Tilghman Fire House- Ms. Perry  
02003 Royal Oak Community United Methodist Church- Mr. Black  
02001/02002 St. Michael's Middle & High School- Mr. Black  
EV 01 Easton Fire House for Early Voting- Ms. MacKinnon

Ms. MacKinnon asked if the forms would be available at the next meeting; Ms. Stafford stated that they would.

#### **DISCLOSURES**

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

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Ms. MacKinnon opened the floor for Board comments.

Ms. MacKinnon announced upcoming Board meetings:

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Wednesday, December 16, 2026.

All meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. MacKinnon highlighted items in the Board packet including the handout on Voter Registration List Maintenance and a letter from State Administrator Jared DeMarinis to the U.S. Department of Justice, and the latest edition of the Election Judge newsletter. She also reminded everyone that the State Board of Elections and the Local Board of Elections are the trusted sources for election information. Lastly, she mentioned the Go Vote Maryland app as a usual resource.

## **CLOSED MEETING**

As announced at the beginning of the meeting, the Closed Meeting scheduled for today was cancelled.

## **CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING**

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

At 10:07 a.m., a motion to adjourn the Board meeting and convene as the Board of Canvassers was made by Mr. Black. This motion was seconded by Mr. Irving. The motion passed unanimously by all members present.

Ms. Stafford distributed the minutes from the August 19, 2026, Board of Canvassers meeting for review. Ms. Perry, Chair of the Board of Canvassers, asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. MacKinnon and Mr. Irving motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Black seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all members present.

Ms. Stafford presented one (1) ballot. It was postmarked and received after the certification of the 2026 Primary Election. The Board of Canvassers examined the postmark and date stamp. Ms. Perry asked for a motion. Ms. MacKinnon motioned to reject the ballot as untimely. Mr. Irving seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all members present.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Perry requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. MacKinnon made a motion to adjourn the Board of Canvassers. Mr. Irving seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

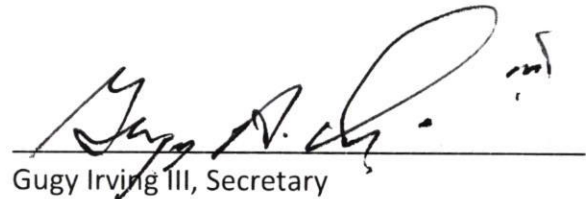
Minutes prepared by: Donna Kegley-Hacker

Attested,



Susan J. MacKinnon, President

Reviewed and submitted,



Gagy Irving III, Secretary



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

September 16, 2026

### **Notice and Distribution of Materials**

Meeting materials were prepared and mailed to Board Members, September 9, 2026 and the agenda was posted on the webpage and doors to the entrances to the office and building at 215 Bay Street, Easton, MD .

The meeting materials for the September meeting were on the Board of Elections web page and September 11, 2026.

### **Personnel**

The Election Deputy I position is reposted. I hope to fill the position in early October.

### **Meetings Attended:**

I attended the monthly meeting with SBE.

### **Correspondence:**

I received an email from a candidate expressing concern about the placement and appearance of candidate names on the Ballot Marking Device. The email was addressed to me and the State Administrator. I have deferred this matter to SBE.

### **Voter Registration Activities:**

Voter registration re-opened Tuesday, July 7, 2026. The last day to register for the Gubernatorial General Election is October 13, 2026.

**Monthly Statistical Report-** The Report was distributed to board members in the monthly packet. As of September 1, 2026, there were 29, 089 active registered voters in Talbot County.

### **Voting System Activities:**

Post election maintenance was completed on the voting equipment August 26, 2026 and pollbooks August 27, 2026.

Logic and Accuracy testing began September 14, 2026.

The County Support Tech started September 8, 2026.

**Candidate Filing:**

The list of candidates for the 2026 Gubernatorial General Election can be found on the Talbot county Board of Elections website or by visiting the Maryland State Board of Elections website at [elections.maryland.gov](https://elections.maryland.gov).

**Precinct and Polling Issues:**

The Election Judge parity report for election day and early voting was included in the board packet for your review.

Election Judge Training began September 8, 2026 and will continue until the end of the month.

Drop boxes will be delivered today.

**Budget:**

A report documenting Board of Elections Expenditures for FY2027 was included in your board packet.

**Other projects:**

Nothing to report.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

Early voting begins Thursday, October 22, 2026 and ends Thursday, October 29, 2026 at Easton Fire House, 315 Leonard Rieck Drive, Easton, MD 21601.

Maryland State Board of Elections meeting is Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.