

Minutes

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

Wednesday, August 19, 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

Gary Judy, Citizen
Shari Wilcoxon, Citizen
Mark Harrison, Citizen

Absent/Excused:

Denise Lovelady, 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 of the five Board members in attendance, Ms. MacKinnon declared that a quorum was present.

CLOSED MEETING SUMMARY

Board Attorney Lyndsey Ryan stated that the Board of Elections held a closed session on June 17, 2026, from 10:15 am- 10:55 pm to discuss a personnel matter to conduct a performance evaluation of the Election Director.

APPROVAL OF OPEN MINUTES- 06/17/2026 Open Board Meeting

Minutes from the Open Board Meeting held on 06/17/26 were mailed in Board packets to members and were posted on the LBE website, allowing for review prior to this meeting. (Note- the meeting scheduled for July 15, 2026, was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.) Ms. MacKinnon called for any corrections to the minutes. There were none.

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

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. 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. Ms. Wilcoxon read from a written statement. A copy was not provided to the LBE.

Ms. Wilcoxon stated that there had been numerous complaints from the public and letters from Elected Officials asking the Board to follow the law on Election Judge parity; she added that the Board still refuses to demand parity of the two principle parties. She went on to add that the Board had received nine violations of the Open Meeting Compliance Board, was part of a Statewide lawsuit on voter roles, and now was specifically named in another lawsuit.

Next, Ms. Wilcoxon reported on her observations and criticisms of Ms. Stafford's retrieval of mail-in ballots from the Easton Fire House dropbox on 06/17/2026. She implied that State procedures were not followed; many of which she read from her document. Ms. Wilcoxon stated she could not find the 2026 Integrity Reports or logs online for the Easton Fire House dropbox. She requested that the Board preserve the

video, the Integrity Report, and the Acceptance Log for 06/17/2026. Ms. Wilcoxon ended by stating the Board appears to have a cavalier attitude and stated that she would be requesting these records.

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 reminded the Board that they could attend Election Judge training and if interested, to contact the office.

Under Budget- Ms. MacKinnon asked Ms. Stafford for an explanation of the Xerox overage. Ms. Stafford explained that the copier is a County contract. Though the line item was exceeded; the overall budget was not.

Ms. MacKinnon also asked if the FY 26 budget included the 2026 Gubernatorial General Election. Ms. Stafford explained that the 2026 Gubernatorial Primary was in the FY 26 budget; the 2026 Gubernatorial General is in the FY 27 budget.

BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT

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 stated she would keep the Board updated as the case progresses.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Important Dates for the 2026 General Election- Ms. Stafford announced that there would probably be two Mail-in Ballot canvass dates (in October) prior to the General Election. She will have these dates for the Board at the September meeting.

DISCLOSURES

Ms. MacKinnon asked if any Board members had disclosures. Ms. Perry announced that she had submitted one regarding signs in her yard, which the Board acknowledged.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. MacKinnon opened the floor for Board comments. There were none.

Ms. Stafford asked and was granted the opportunity to address the comments made by public citizen Ms. Wilcoxon. Ms. Stafford stated that the Talbot County Board of Elections followed all State guidelines pertaining to the retrieval of mail-in ballots. Questions can be directed to the Local Board of Elections office.

CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the LBE meeting room.

At 9:50 am, a motion to recess 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.

The Board of Canvassers met (separate minutes) from 9:50 am- 9:57 am.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:57 am Mr. Black made a motion to adjourn the Board of Canvassers and reconvene as the Talbot County Board of Elections. Mr. Irving seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by all members present. At 9:58 am Mr. Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Perry seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by all members present.

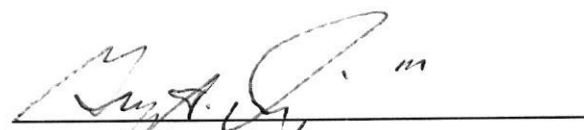
Following the meeting adjournment the public asked about the Election Judge Parity Report. They were reminded that all meeting documents are posted on the LBE website at least two days prior to the meeting.

Minutes prepared by: Donna Kegley-Hacker

Attested,

Reviewed and submitted,


Susan J. MacKinnon, President


Gagy Irving III, Secretary



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

August 19, 2026

Notice and Distribution of Materials

Meeting materials were prepared and mailed to Board Members, August 11, 2026.

The agenda and meeting materials for the August 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, August 11, 2026.

Personnel

Nothing to report.

Meetings Attended:

I attended the MAEO Conference held August 12, 2026 in Anne Arundel County.

Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

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 August 3, 2026, there were 29, 078 active registered voters in Talbot County.

Voting System Activities:

An audit of the voting system was conducted. The audit of the three precincts picked by the board was conducted using the totals tapes, election results, and showed no variances. The State determined that Talbot County was under the variance threshold and no other precincts needed to be reviewed.

Additionally, a comparison of the number of ballots cast and the election results was conducted by Clear Ballot and the Maryland State Board of Elections. Clear ballots results verified the accuracy of the voting system.

The last day for the County Support Tech was July 1. The Last day for the County Tech was July 6. The County Tech and Support Tech positions will start again in September.

The State Board of Canvassers certified the Primary Election results on July , 23, 2026. The voting equipment was released and is now going through the post-election maintenance process in preparation for the general election.

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.

Precinct and Polling Issues:

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

For election day we staffed 111. This is below the minimum number we wanted to staff, but still met the need based on voter turnout.

We had a lot of last-minute changes before election day but were able to adjust staffing as needed.

We continue to recruit election judges for the 2026 General Election.

Training for Election Judges will start in September.

Budget:

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

The request for reimbursement for postage for the mail in ballots and the bonus payments for returning election judges was submitted to the State Board of Elections. There is a 50/50 cost split.

Other projects:

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Nothing to report.