

**MINUTES**  
**Wicomico County Board of Elections**  
**345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804**  
**Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

**ATTENDEES:** Katrina Purnell, Board President, Democratic Member  
Carsten Wendlandt, Vice President/Secretary, Republican Member  
Sharon Morris, Democratic Member  
Aundra Roberts, Democratic Member  
Nicole Green, Republican Member  
Peter Golba, Board Attorney  
Dionne Church, Election Director  
Leora Noranbrock, IT Program Specialist  
Julie Morfin-Montiel, Election Program Assistant

**ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Catrina Taylor  
Vincent Gisriel  
Dennis Evans

The Wicomico County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

Public notice was given, and the Board of Elections office posted the agenda prior to the meeting.

At 11:03 a.m., Katrina Purnell, Board President, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present. The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer.

Board President Purnell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2026, Board of Elections meeting. Board Member Wendlandt made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Board Member Roberts, and passed unanimously.

Changes/additions to the Agenda: Closed Session subsection corrected from §3-305(b)(5) to §3-305(b)(7).

**ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Election Director Church reported that there are currently thirty-two candidate filings to date, including twelve new filings since the January meeting.

She noted that Voter Notification Cards, reflecting district and polling place changes, are currently being printed and mailed to voters and that process is ongoing.

Director Church also reported that the Election Judge Manual recently went through an online bidding process. Data Integrators was selected as the vendor through the bid process.

In addition, the IT department is currently completing the annual inventory audit.

Regarding voter outreach, a previously scheduled outreach at the Board of Elections office was cancelled and additional outreach events have taken place recently.

**MINUTES**  
**Wicomico County Board of Elections**  
**345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804**  
**Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

**BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Board Attorney Pete Golba reported that he is currently reviewing two complaints received regarding alleged violations of the Open Meetings Act. He also stated that he has been working with the State Board of Elections regarding a confidential personnel matter.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The FY 2026 Budget was distributed to Board Members for review.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Open Meetings Act Complaints:

Board President Purnell read correspondence indicating that two complaints had been filed alleging violations of the Open Meetings Act by the Wicomico County Board of Elections. Written responses to the complaints are due by February 26, 2026.

Election Judge Parity:

Director Church reported that the State Board has implemented a new policy requiring that a report on Election Judges be provided during monthly Board meetings. The report will include the number of Elections Judges assigned, the polling place assignments, and the party affiliation breakdown. Director Church explained the judges have not yet formally appointed for the upcoming election cycle; however, the current party breakdown can be provided. At this time, there are 236 Democratic Election Judges, 136 Republican Election Judges, and 53 Unaffiliated Election Judges, for a total of 425 judges. The report will be posted with the meeting documents.

Wicomico Board of Elections Death Notice Information:

Director Church reviewed the State-mandated procedures used for maintaining voter registration records related to deceased individuals. The State receives and processes death information from the Maryland Department of Health, the Administrative Office of the Courts, Federal Courts, USPS, returned mail, Circuit Courts, petitions, jury lists, and ERIC.

Director Church noted that the information regarding these procedures is available on the State Board of Elections website [www.elections.maryland.gov](http://www.elections.maryland.gov). She emphasized the State procedures for removing deceased voters from the voter rolls and that a voter record cannot be cancelled solely based on an obituary without proper verification.

In response to a question from Board Member Wendlandt, Director Church stated that notifications from the Jury Commissioner are typically received on a quarterly basis.

Director Church also noted that visitors Vincent Gisriel and Dennis Evans had previously submitted obituaries for individuals believed to be deceased voters and that the office had followed the required notification procedures.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Board President Purnell recognized Vincent Gisriel and Dennis Evans for public comment.

**MINUTES**  
**Wicomico County Board of Elections**  
**345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804**  
**Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

Mr. Gisriel discussed the previously submitted list of sixteen individuals believed to be deceased in September 2024, along with supporting documentation such as obituaries.

Mr. Evans stated that he and Mr. Gisriel are affiliated with the organization Secure the Vote Maryland, which monitors voter registration records across the state. He discussed the documentation and obituaries provided.

Board President Purnell thanked the speakers for their comments and stated that Director Church would review the information and respond within the appropriate timeframe.

**MEMBER TIME:**

None.

**SUMMARY OF CLOSED SESSION:**

Board Member Wendlandt moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Wicomico County Board of Elections and enter into closed session. Board Member Morris seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Board President Purnell read the specific of the Open Meetings Act under General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(1) and §3-305(b)(7).

**Date:** February 17, 2026

**Time of Closed Session:** 11:38 a.m.

**Location:** Local Board of Elections, Salisbury, MD

**Purpose for Closing the Meeting:**

The Wicomico County Board of Elections has voted to close this meeting to the public. The legal authority for this decision is found in **General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)**.

**The Specific Subsection of the Open Meetings Act Relied Upon Is:**

- **GP §3-305(b)(1):** To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.
- **GP §3-305(b)(7):** To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

**Topics to Be Discussed:**

1. The status of a confidential personnel matter.
2. Obtain legal advice regarding a complaint alleging a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

**Motion to Close Meeting Made by:** Carsten Wendlandt    **Seconded by:** Sharon Morris

**MINUTES**  
**Wicomico County Board of Elections**  
**345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804**  
**Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

Board Members who Voted to Meet in Closed Session:	Aye	Nay
Katrina Purnell, President	X	
Carsten Wendlandt, Vice President	X	
Sharon Morris, Board Member	X	
Nicole Green, Board Member	X	
Aundra Roberts, Board Member	X	

**Persons Attending the Closed Session:** All the voting board members above and Board Attorney Pete Golba. Board President Katrina Purnell was not present during the discussion concerning the confidential personnel matter.

**Authority Under §3-305 for the Closed Session:** GP §3-305(b)(1) and GP §3-305(b)(7)

**Topics Actually Discussed:** Discussion regarding the status of a confidential personnel matter and legal advice concerning complaints alleging violations of the Open Meetings Act.

**Actions Taken in Closed Session:** Discussion only (no vote).

**Each Recorded Vote:** No vote taken.

**Ending Time of Closed Session:** 12:11 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Board Member Wendlandt moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Board President Purnell adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

<i>Katrina Purnell</i>	<i>3-18-2026</i>
Katrina Purnell, Board President	Date
<i>Jolie Morfin-Montiel</i>	<i>3/18/2026</i>
Jolie Morfin-Montiel, Election Program Assistant	Date