

MINUTES
Wicomico County Board of Elections
345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804
Wednesday, March 18, 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: Jane Reagan

The Wicomico County Board of Elections met on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

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

At 9:03 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 February 17, 2026, Board of Elections meeting. Board Member Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes, with corrections, seconded by Board Member Wendlandt, 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 the Candidate Filing Deadline was February 24, 2026, with a total of 68 candidates filed.

She noted that all Voter Notification Cards related to redistricting have been mailed.

Director Church reported that Election Judge manuals have been completed by the vendor and are pending delivery. Election Judge training will begin in April.

She further noted that the State Board of Elections will hold public demonstration of voting systems under consideration for the 2028 Election Cycle from March 23-25, 2026, at locations in Baltimore, Rockville, and Grasonville, MD.

Regarding voter outreach, Director Church reported that Voter Registration Volunteer training are ongoing and will continue through the close of voter registration.

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The voter registration and party affiliation deadline are on June 2, 2026.

In addition, the IT department has completed approximately 94% of the annual inventory audit, which is expected to be finalized by the end of the month.

BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Board Attorney Pete Golba reported that responses have been submitted for two Open Meetings Act complaints. No determinations have been made at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

The FY 26 Budget was distributed to Board Members for review.

Director Church also presented the FY 27 Proposed Budget, which includes consideration for new pollbooks. The cost would be shared between the county and the State. Discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election Judge training is scheduled to begin April 7, 2026. An updated training schedule will be provided to Board Members.

Election Judge Parity was distributed to Board Members and will be posted publicly with board meeting documents.

Director Church reviewed key upcoming dates:

- Mail-in ballot canvass: June 1, 2026
- Second mail-in ballot canvass: June 25, 2026
- Provisional canvass: July 1, 2026
- Final mail-in ballot canvass: July 6, 2026

Discussion was held regarding mail security and delivery concerns. Board Member Green referenced recent reports of mail delays and suggested avoiding the use of public blue mailboxes.

Director Church stated that the Board of Elections does not use public blue mailboxes and instead delivers mail directly to the post office using official mail trays. She also noted that election mail is clearly marked and handled as priority by the U.S. Postal Service.

Director Church stated that she will raise these concerns with postal officials as preparations for mail-in voting begin. She confirmed that the ballot printing and mailing process will begin in April.

The Board discussed methods to increase voter awareness, including signage, media outreach, and community-based notifications.

Suggestions included:

- Posting banners or signage

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- Utilizing local media outlets
- Social media outreach
- Distributing informational postcards at local business and restaurants

Director Church noted that the State Board of Elections will also conduct a public information campaign and that local outreach will complement those activities.

Board Attorney Golba asked about the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) conference date. Director Church stated she will provide that information once it becomes available.

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 Roberts seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Board President Purnell stated the meeting will close per the Open Meetings Act under General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(1) and §3-305(b)(7).

Date: March 18, 2026

Time of Closed Session: 9:44 a.m.

Location: Local Board of Elections, Salisbury, MD

Purpose for Closing the Meeting:

The Wicomico County Board of Elections voted to close the meeting to the public pursuant to **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. Individual open positions in Local Board of Elections
2. The status of a confidential personnel matter
3. Obtain legal advice regarding a complaint alleging a violation of the Open Meetings Act

Motion to Close Meeting Made by: Carsten Wendlandt **Seconded by:** Aundra Roberts

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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 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: Potential candidates for open positions, 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: 11:09 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Board Member Wendlandt moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Board Member Wendlandt adjourned the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


 Katrina Purnell, Board President 4/15 - 2026
Date


 Julie Morfin-Montiel, Election Program Assistant 4/16/2026
Date