

MCDOWELL COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Board Members:
Barbara Hilty, Chair
Tracey Bolick, Member
Jimmie Hachadurian, Member
Kay House, Member
Della Watson, Member



McDowell County Board of Elections

Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2026

9:01 a.m. – 10:08 a.m.

BH JRM JRH

Board Members Present: Chair Barbara Hilty, Member J.R. Hachadurian, Secretary Kay House

Board Members Absent: Member Tracey Bolick, Member Della Watson

Tracey Bolick

Staff Present: Elections Director Jane Propst, Deputy Director Baylie Davis

Guests in Attendance: Susan Elliott

Meeting Opening

Chair Barbara Hilty called the meeting to order at **9:01 a.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the **January 22, 2026**, meeting were presented.

Motion: Hachadurian

Second: Hilty

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 3-0

Action: Minutes approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to the Board. Director Jane Propst proposed adding an inclement weather resolution to the agenda.

Motion: Hilty

Second: House

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 3–0

Action: Agenda approved as amended

Directors Report

- The Mock Election was completed on January 22, 2026. She noted that all machines and results were accurate. Chair Hilty asked if it would be possible to incorporate ballots that were marked incorrectly (X's, stray marks, check marks) into the L&A ballot test deck for future L&A testing. Director Propst stated to the board that she would request an answer from Print Elect.
- Precinct Elections Official training began on Thursday, January 28, and will end on Friday, February 6
- Reminder: Voter registration end on Friday, February 6, 2026.
- Early voting begins on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at the McDowell County Board of Elections and the Old Fort Depot.

Old Business

1. Election Officials List

An updated Elections Official list from Glenwood, Higgins, Turkey Cove, and West Marion was presented.

Motion: Hilty

Second: House

Vote: Unanimous, 3–0

Discussion: None

Action: Glenwood, Higgins, and West Marion Election Officials list approved as presented.

New Business

1. 2026 Primary Election Absentee Ballot Requests

Director Jane Propst presented the Absentee Ballot Request log. **9 requests** were received, and **0 requests** were denied.

Motion: House

Second: Hachadurian

Vote: Unanimous, 3–0

Discussion: None

Action: Absentee ballot requests accepted as presented.

2. 2026 Primary Absentee Ballots

Director Jane Propst presented one civilian absentee ballot.

Motion: House

Second: Hilty

Vote: Unanimous, 3–0

Discussion: None

Action: Absentee ballot accepted as presented. The ballot was tabulated.

3. Inclement Weather Resolution

Director Jane Propst presented an inclement weather resolution.

Motion: House

Second: Hilty

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 3–0

Action: Resolution was passed. In case of inclement weather, early voting will follow county closures.

General Discussion

1. Winter Virtual Conference

The Winter Virtual Conference is scheduled for **Thursday, February 5, and Friday, February 6, 2026**. Access information will be provided via email.

2. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 4:00 p.m., if needed.**

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Motion: Hilty

Second: Hachadurian

Meeting adjourned at **10:08 a.m.**

Respectively Submitted,

Baylie Davis

Baylie Davis, Deputy Director

February 3, 2026