

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 17, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 9:28 a.m.

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

Guests in Attendance: Susan Elliott, Elizabeth Gibbs, Roxan Wetzel, Trish Williams

Meeting Opening

Chair Barbara Hilty called the meeting to order at **9:00 a.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the **February 10, 2026**, meeting were presented.

Motion: House

Second: Hilty

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5–0

Action: Minutes approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to the Board. Director Jane Propst proposed removing 2026 Primary Election absentee ballot requests from the agenda.

Motion: Hilty

Second: House

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5–0

Action: Agenda approved as amended.

Directors Report

- Director Propst reported that we have processed a total of **56** absentee ballot applications categorized as follows: **50** civilian, **2** military, and **4** overseas citizens. Early Voting began Thursday, February 12, with a voter turnout of 775 in total (698 Marion Location, 77 Old Fort Location). Early Voting at the Old Fort Depot location is equipped with a motion-activated security camera.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. 2026 Primary Absentee Ballots

Director Jane Propst presented **2 CIV** (civilian) absentee ballots.

Motion: House

Second: Watson

Vote: Unanimous, 5–0

Discussion: None

Action: Absentee ballots accepted as presented. The ballots were tabulated.

General Discussion

Member J.R. Hachadurian asked if any issues had occurred during early voting. Director Propst responded that there was a complaint received indirectly from a voter regarding the accessibility of our curbside cone bell at the Marion Early Voting location. Before contacting the voter, Director Propst reviewed security footage and observed that the voter had not fully pulled forward or properly positioned her vehicle. Director Propst reached out to the voter to address the concern directly. To resolve the issue, Director Propst tested the placement of the curbside bell in her own vehicle and spray-painted the asphalt to clearly mark the correct location for cone placement. The Board concluded that Director Propst's actions satisfactorily resolved the complaint.

1. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., if needed.**

Public Comments

None

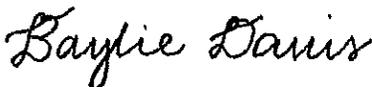
Adjournment

Motion: Bolick

Second: House

Meeting adjourned at **9:28 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Baylie Davis, Deputy Director

February 17, 2026