

MCDOWELL COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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



McDowell County Board of Elections

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 9:28 a.m.

Board Members Present: Chair Barbara Hilty, Member Tracey Bollick, Member J.R. Hachadurian, Secretary Kay House, Member Della Watson *AB* *KH*

Board Members Absent: None

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

Guests in Attendance: Susan Elliott, Suzanne Fisher, 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 17, 2026**, meeting were presented.

Motion: House

Second: Hilty

Discussion: Watson

Vote: Unanimous, 5-0

Action: Minutes approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to the Board.

Motion: Hilty

Second: House

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5-0

Action: Agenda approved as presented.

Directors Report

- Mailed Ballots -55 CIV, 2 MIL, and 4 OVR = Total 61
- Early Voting – 1715 Marion, 203 Old Fort = Total 1918
- Early Voting will be held this Saturday from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.-didn't say in board meeting

Old Business

1. 2026 Primary Election Precinct Officials List

An updated Elections Official list for West Marion #7 was presented.

Motion: House

Second: Watson

Vote: Unanimous, 5–0

Discussion: None

Action: West Marion #7 Election Officials list approved as presented.

New Business

1. 2026 Primary Absentee Ballot Applications

Director Jane Propst presented 2 CIV (civilian) absentee ballot applications.

Motion: Hilty

Second: House

Vote: Unanimous, 5–0

Discussion: None

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

General Discussion

During the meeting, Tracey Bolick asked about the performance of the ballot-on-demand printers after hearing that a voter had left the voting enclosure because they believed a machine was broken and later returned to cast their ballot. Bolick subsequently learned that the voter had needed to leave to pick up their children from school and that the delay may have been related to a printing issue.

Director Jane Propst explained that ballot-on-demand printers do take longer to print, which can slightly increase the time voters wait to receive their ballots compared to past elections. She stated that a new network switch had been purchased and appears to be improving printing speed. However, Propst added that she is not fully committed to continuing the use of ballot-on-demand systems and will weigh the advantages and disadvantages before deciding whether to use them in the November 2026 election.

1. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 02, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Motion: Bolick

Second: House
Meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Baylie Davis

Baylie Davis, Deputy Director
February 24, 2026