

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

March 2, 2026

5:00 p.m. – 5:42 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: Member J.R. Hachadurian

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

Guests in Attendance: Anna Caldwell, Susan Elliott, Suzanne Fisher, Elizabeth Gibbs, Patricia Williams

Meeting Opening

Chair Barbara Hilty called the meeting to order at **5:00 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the **February 24, 2026**, meeting were presented.

Motion: Hilty

Second: Watson

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 4–0

Action: Minutes approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to the Board.

Motion: House

Second: Hilty

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 4–0

Action: Agenda approved as presented.

Directors Report

- Early Voting – 3,218 Marion, 424 Old Fort = Total 3,642
- The North Carolina State Board of Elections Executive Director, Sam Hayes, announced on February 25, 2026, that the agency has selected ReFrame Solutions as the winning vendor to modernize the State Elections Information Management System (SEIMS).
- Director Propst reported that she received a complaint from a voter concerning a sign obstructing the sloped handicap ramp adjacent to La Salsas. Director Propst stated that the matter was addressed immediately, the sign was relocated, and the entrance was restored to full accessibility.

Old Business

1. 2026 Primary Election Precinct Officials List

An updated Elections Officials list for Old Fort #1, Old Fort #2, and Higgins #11 was presented.

Motion: House

Second: Watson

Vote: Unanimous, 4–0

Discussion: None

Action: Old Fort #1, Old Fort #2, and Higgins #11 Election Officials list approved as presented.

New Business

1. 2026 Primary Absentee Ballot Applications

Director Jane Propst presented **2 OVR** (overseas citizens) absentee ballot applications.

Motion: Watson

Second: House

Vote: Unanimous, 4–0

Discussion: None

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

Director Jane Propst presented **12 CIV** (civilian) absentee ballot applications.

Motion: Bolick

Second: House

Vote: Unanimous, 4–0

Discussion: None

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

General Discussion

1. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 03, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

Public Comments

Suzanne Fisher, representing the League of Women Voters, inquired whether voter registration forms would continue to be available for individuals conducting voter registration drives. Director Propst responded that the State Board of Elections will no longer provide physical voter registration forms for voter registration drives

once the current supply is depleted. She further noted that the State Board is drafting new administrative rules that may allow the agency to provide printed voter registration applications to organizations that comply with all applicable requirements for conducting voter registration drives in the future.

Adjournment

Motion: Waston

Second: House

Meeting adjourned at **5:42 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Baylie Davis

Baylie Davis, Deputy Director

March 2, 2026