

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 6, 2026

12:30 p.m. – 1:23 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

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

Meeting Opening

Chair Barbara Hilty called the meeting to order at **12:30 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the **March 5, 2026**, meeting were presented.

Motion: House

Second: Bolick

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 4–0

Action: Minutes approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to the Board. Member Bolick requested to add the provisional ballot process to the agenda under general discussion.

Motion: Bolick

Second: Hilty

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5–0

Action: Agenda approved as amended.

Directors Report

None

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Random Sample Audit

Director Propst presented the board with a request for staff to conduct the random sample audit count for Precincts Pleasant Gardens and Marion #3, using bipartisan teams, for the March 3, 2026, Primary Election in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-182.2(b)(2). Hilty declined the request and motioned for staff to sort the ballots and for the board members to count them.

Motion: Hilty

Second: House

Vote: Unanimous, 5-0

Discussion: None

Action: The board conducted the sample audit. There were no discrepancies between the machine count and hand-to-eye count.

General Discussion

Next Meeting

The next meeting is Canvass, scheduled for **Friday, March 13, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.**

2. Provisional Ballot Process

The board members held a general discussion regarding the language Director Propst used to present the provisional ballots to the board. No motion was made.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Motion: House

Second: Bolick

Meeting adjourned at **1:23 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Baylie Davis

Baylie Davis, Deputy Director

March 12, 2026