

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

June 26, 2026

9:01 a.m. – 10:17 a.m.

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

Board Members Absent: Member Tracey Bolick

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

Guests in Attendance: Susan Elliott, Anna Caldwell, Elizabeth Gibbs, Janet McGinnis, Joan Messner, Dale Wolfe

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 **May 19, 2026**, meeting were presented.

Motion: House

Second: Hilty

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 4-0

Action: Minutes approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to the Board.

Motion: Hilty

Second: Hachadurian

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 4-0

Action: Agenda approved as presented.

Directors Report

Director Propst reported that the McDowell County Board of Elections has hired two new part-time employees, Jodie Razdrh and Kathy Wright. Director Propst stated that the county budget has not yet been approved and expects to have additional information following Tuesday's Board of Commissioners meeting. Director Propst informed the Board that the McDowell County Board of Elections has established an Instagram account, @mcdowellcountyboe, and updated its Facebook page. Director Propst reported that, pursuant to NCGA Session Law 2026-18, the City of Marion and the Town of Old Fort will transition their municipal elections to even-numbered years, lengthening the current elected officials' terms by one year. Director Propst announced that the 2026 Summer Conference will be held August 9–11, 2026, at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. Director Propst distributed the North Carolina Voter Registration List Maintenance Manual to Board members.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Polling Place Changes/Updates

Marion 4 Precinct

Relocate the Marion 4 polling place from First Free Will Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 947 Baldwin Ave., Marion, NC 28752, located outside the precinct boundaries, to Clinchfield Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1150 E Court St., Marion, NC 28752, located within the precinct boundaries.

Motion: House

Second: Hachadurian

Vote: Unanimous, 4–0

Discussion: None

Action: Marion 4 precinct polling place is hereby relocated to Clinchfield Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1150 E Court St., Marion, NC 28752.

Pleasant Gardens 6 Precinct

Relocate the Pleasant Gardens 6 polling place from Pleasant Gardens Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 214 PG Baptist Church Rd., Marion, NC 28752, a privately owned facility, to Pleasant Gardens Elementary School Gymnasium, 100 John Roach Dr., Marion, NC 28752, a tax-supported facility.

Motion: House

Second: Watson

Vote: Unanimous, 4–0

Discussion: None

Action: Pleasant Gardens 6 precinct polling place is hereby located at Pleasant Gardens Elementary School Gymnasium, 100 John Roach Dr., Marion, NC 28752.

Old Fort 2 Precinct

Relocate the Old Fort 2 polling place from Old Fort Wesleyan Church fellowship hall, 336 Catawba Ave., Old Fort, NC 28762, a privately owned facility, to Old Fort Elementary School, Corridor 128 S Mauney Ave., Old Fort, NC 28762, a tax-supported facility.

Motion: Hachadurian

Second: Watson

Vote: Unanimous, 4–0

Discussion: None

Action: Old Fort 2 precinct polling Place is hereby located at Old Fort Elementary School Corridor, 128 S Mauney Ave, Old Fort, NC 28762.

Nebo 13 Precinct

Relocate the polling place from the Nebo Elementary School Gymnasium to the Nebo Elementary School Cafeteria to improve voter access.

Motion: Hilty

Second: Watson

Vote: Unanimous, 4–0

Discussion: None

Action: Nebo 13 Precinct polling place will now reside at Nebo Elementary School Cafeteria.

Marion 5 Precinct

The County Manager advised that this item will be presented to the County Commissioners at their next meeting. No vote was taken.

Motion: None

Second: None

Vote: None

Discussion: The Board noted that the matter will be revisited following action by the County Commissioners regarding the use of the McDowell County Recreation Center Gymnasium.

Action: No action was taken. Consideration of the proposed relocation will be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting following action by the County Commissioners on the facility availability.

West Marion 7 Precinct

West Marion 7 Precinct is located outside its precinct boundaries and is currently situated within Marion 2 Precinct. As no suitable facilities are available within West Marion 7 Precinct, a waiver will be requested from Executive Director Sam Hayes of the State Board of Elections to utilize an out-of-precinct polling location.

Motion: None

Second: None

Vote: None

Discussion: Director Propst advised that approval of the waiver request requires a unanimous vote of the full board. Because one board member was absent, no vote was taken.

Action: No action was taken. The waiver request for the West Marion 7 Precinct will be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting.

2. Buffer Zones

The Board discussed proposed buffer zones set at 50 feet from the voter entrance, with designated campaign activity areas located adjacent to the buffer zone.

Motion: None

Second: None

Vote: None

Discussion: Consideration of this item is pending final determination of the Marion 5 Precinct polling place location.
Action: No action was taken. Buffer Zones will be presented at the next scheduled meeting.

General Discussion

Director Propst reported that no dates are currently available from the State Board of Elections regarding the presentation of the McDowell County Early Voting Plan.

Public Comments

Joan Messner addressed the Board during the public comment period.

Adjournment

Motion: Watson

Second: Hilty

Meeting adjourned at **10:17 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Baylie Davis".

Baylie Davis, Deputy Director

June 26, 2026