

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

July 7, 2026

9:01 a.m. – 9:32 a.m.

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

Guests in Attendance: Susan Elliott, Anna Caldwell, 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 **June 26, 2026**, meeting were presented.

Motion: House

Second: Watson

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5–0

Action: Minutes approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to the Board.

Motion: Hilty

Second: Hachadurian

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5–0

Action: Agenda approved as presented.

Directors Report

Director Propst reported that the FY 2026–2027 County budget was approved on June 30, 2026, and includes a 3% cost-of-living adjustment for County employees. The budget packet has not yet been received from the County Finance Director. The Board of Commissioners requested a sales and use tax referendum for the November 2026 ballot, and the required resolution has been submitted to the North Carolina State Board of Elections.

Candidate filing for the Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor office closed on July 6, 2026. Neil Brackett and Stephen Banner filed as candidates.

One write-in petition for Clerk of Superior Court remains pending verification of one additional signature for certification.

The 2024 Primary and Second Primary election records have been disposed of in accordance with the North Carolina records retention schedule and are scheduled for shredding on July 8, 2026.

Old Business

1. Polling Place Changes/Updates

Relocate the Marion 5 polling place from Cross Mill Church of God Fellowship Hall, 216 Old HWY 10 W, Marion, NC 28752, a privately owned facility, to McDowell County Recreation Center Gymnasium, 25 Academy St., Marion, NC 28752, a tax-supported facility.

Motion: House

Second: Hilty

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5-0

Action: Marion 5 precinct polling place is hereby located at McDowell County Recreation Center Gymnasium, 25 Academy St., Marion, NC 28752.

2. Buffer Zones

Buffer zones shall be established 50 feet from the voter entrance, with designated campaign activity areas located adjacent to the buffer zone, as shown on the polling place maps in Exhibit A.

Motion: House

Second: Hilty

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5-0

Action: The Board approved the proposed buffer zones and designated campaign activity areas as shown in Exhibit A.

New Business

1. Polling Place Waiver Request

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: House

Second: Bolick

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5-0

Action: The Board approved submitting the waiver request to Executive Director Sam Hayes for consideration.

General Discussion

None

Public Comments

None

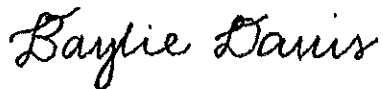
Adjournment

Motion: Hilty

Second: Bolick

Meeting adjourned at **9:32 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Baylie Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Baylie Davis, Deputy Director

July 7, 2026