

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 20, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Elections Director Jane Propst, Elections Assistant Jocelyn Childres

Guests in Attendance: Janet McGinnis, Joan Messner, Elizabeth House

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 **July 7, 2026**, meeting were presented.

Motion: House

Second: Bolick

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5–0

Action: Minutes approved as presented.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to the Board.

Motion: Bolick

Second: Watson

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5–0

Action: Agenda approved as presented.

Directors Report

The 2026–2027 County Budget has been approved. All of our budget requests were funded, with the exception of a full-time IT Support Specialist position.

The purchase of the new voting equipment has been deferred until Spring 2027. Before the purchase, Print Elect must conduct a public simulated election using the new equipment. Print Elect has advised that they are unable to conduct the required simulation before the November 2026 election. Consequently, the purchase and implementation of the new voting equipment will take place in Spring 2027.

Our request for an out-of-precinct waiver for the West Marion precinct has been approved by Sam Hayes, Executive Director of the State Board of Elections.

A write-in candidate petition filed by John Owens for the McDowell County Board of Education, Pleasant Gardens District, has been certified.

Old Business

1. Early Voting Plan

The November 2026 early voting will be conducted at the McDowell Board of Elections office in Marion and the Old Fort Depot in Old Fort. The proposed schedule includes weekday voting hours from 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., as well as voting on Saturday, October 17, and the statutory Saturday, October 31, with hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Motion: House

Second: Hilty

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous, 5-0

Action: The Board unanimously approved the 2026 Early voting plan.

New Business

None

General Discussion

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Motion: Hilty

Second: Watson

Meeting adjourned at **9:10 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jocelyn Childres, Elections Assistant
July 20, 2026