Jane Dale Propst, Director
2458 NC 226 S., Marion, NC 28752
PO Box 1509 Marion, NC 28752
www.mdowellcountyboenc.gov
828-659-0834

# MCDOWELL COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

*Board Members:*
Barbara Hilty, Chair
Kay House, Secretary
Tracey Bolick, Member
Warren Wall, Member
Della Watson, Member

## McDowell County Board of Elections

**Meeting Minutes**
October 27, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.

**Board Members Present:** Secretary Kay House, Member Tracey Bolick, Member Chris Wall, Member Della Watson

**Board Members Absent:** Chair Barbara Hilty

**Staff Present:** Elections Director Jane Propst, Deputy Director Baylie Davis, Elections Assistant Jocelyn Childres

**Guests in Attendance:** Susan Elliott, Brandy Laurencelle

---

**Meeting Opening**

Secretary Kay House 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 **October 20, 2026,** meeting were presented.

**Motion:** Wall
**Second:** Watson
**Discussion:** None
**Vote:** Unanimous, 4 –0
**Action:** Minutes approved as presented.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was presented to the Board.

**Motion:** Bolick
**Second:** Wall
**Discussion:** None
**Vote:** Unanimous, 4–0
**Action:** Agenda approved as presented.

**Directors Report**

As of October 26, 2026, a total of 6,464 voters have participated in Early Voting, with 5,311 voters in Marion and 1,153 voters in Old Fort. Average daily turnout is about 718 voters, with total Early Voting participation potentially reaching 10,000 voters. For comparison, a total of 8,374 voters participated in Early Voting in 2022.

**New Business**

**1. 2026 General Election Absentee Ballot Applications**

Per Numbered Memo 2020-25, the "meaningful number" for the October 27, 2026 meeting is 40.

**Motion:** Wall
**Second:** Bolick
**Discussion:** None
**Vote:** Unanimous, 4-0
**Action:** The meaningful number was established as 40 for the October 27, 2026 meeting.

Director Jane Propst presented 1 MIL absentee ballot.

**Motion:** Watson
**Second:** Wall
**Discussion:** None
**Vote:** Unanimous, 4-0
**Action:** The Absentee ballot was accepted as presented. The ballot was tabulated.

Director Jane Propst presented 5 OVR absentee ballots.

**Motion:** Wall
**Second:** Watson
**Discussion:** None
**Vote:** Unanimous, 4-0
**Action:** The Absentee ballots were accepted as presented. The ballots were tabulated.

Director Jane Propst presented 3 CIV, 1 CIV-VIP absentee ballots.

**Motion:** Wall
**Second:** Watson
**Discussion:** None
**Vote:** Unanimous, 4-0
**Action:** The Absentee ballots were accepted as presented. The ballots were tabulated.

Director Jane Propst presented 40 CIV absentee ballots.

**Motion:** Wall
**Second:** Watson
**Discussion:** None
**Vote:** Unanimous, 4-0
**Action:** The Absentee ballots were accepted as presented. The ballots were tabulated.

**2. Early Voting Ballot Duplication**

Director Jane Propst presented an Early Voting Ballot that required duplication.

**Motion:** Bolick
**Second:** Watson
**Discussion:** None
**Vote:** Unanimous, 4-0
**Action:** The ballot was duplicated and tabulated.

## Old Business

### 1.2026 General Election Day Precinct Officials

An updated list of 2026 Election Day Election Officials was presented.

**Motion:** Watson
**Second:** Wall
**Discussion:** None
**Vote:** Unanimous, 4-0
**Action:** 2026 Election Day Election Officials List approved as presented.

## General Discussion

### 1. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

## Public Comments

None

## Adjournment

**Motion:** Wall
**Second:** Watson
Meeting adjourned at **10:05 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Baylie Davis

Baylie Davis, Deputy Director
October 27, 2026