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
November 2, 2026
5:01 p.m. – 6:25 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

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

---

Meeting Opening

Secretary Kay House called the meeting to order at **5:01 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the **October 27, 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: Wall
Second: Bolick
Discussion: None
Vote: Unanimous, 5–0
Action: Agenda approved as presented.

Directors Report

Director Propst reported that the 2024 Election ballots and ATV forms were destroyed on October 28, 2026, in accordance with the 22-month records retention schedule. She reported that 10,636 voters participated in Early Voting, compared to 8,374 in 2022 and 7,595 in 2018. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., with lunch at 1:00 p.m.

New Business

1. 2026 General Election Absentee Ballot Applications

Per Numbered Memo 2020-25, the "meaningful number" for the November 2, 2026 meeting is 96.

Motion: Wall
Second: Bolick
Discussion: Watson proposed reviewing 10 absentee containers selected at random. Wall stated that reviewing the 96 ballots would not take an excessive amount of time. Watson noted that the containers had already been recommended by staff following the appropriate research and review. Wall emphasized that the Board's responsibility is to ensure that integrity is restored to the election process. House stated that there had been no lack of integrity as long as the Board followed the rules and procedures established by the State Board of Elections. Watson added that when the community trusts each Board member, knowing that the Board also trusts its staff helps build public confidence in the process. Bolick expressed agreement with Wall's motion, stating that McDowell County is not one of the larger counties and should be able to review twice the amount completed the previous week. Watson encouraged members of the public to attend Board of Elections meetings to observe the process firsthand. Bolick stated that reviewing each container allows her feel confident in the process.
Vote: 2 ayes – 3 nays
Action: The motion failed.

Per Numbered Memo 2020-25, the "meaningful number" for the November 2, 2026 meeting is 20.

Motion: Watson
Second: Hilty
Discussion: None
Vote: 3 ayes – 2 nays
Action: The meaningful number was established as 20 for the November 2, 2026 meeting

Director Jane Propst presented 56 CIV absentee ballots.

Motion: Watson
Second: House
Discussion: None
Vote: 3 ayes – 2 nays
Action: The Absentee ballots were accepted as presented. The ballots were tabulated.

Director Jane Propst presented 20 CIV absentee ballots.

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

Director Jane Propst presented 1 CIV absentee ballot.

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

Director Jane Propst presented 12 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.

Director Jane Propst presented 1 MIL absentee ballot.

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

Director Jane Propst presented 1 MIL absentee ballot.

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

Upon motion by Wall, the board recessed at 6:09 p.m. and reconvened at 6:16 p.m. with all members present.

Old Business

1.2026 General Election Day Precinct Officials

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

Motion: Bolick
Second: House
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 Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Motion: Wall
Second: Watson
Meeting adjourned at **6:25 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Baylie Davis

Baylie Davis, Deputy Director
November 2, 2026