



# Cecil County Board of Elections

January 15, 2025

MINUTES

### **PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE MEETING**

Public notice of the Board meeting was provided by displaying the meeting information and agenda on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Cecil County Administration Building, and by posting on the Election agency website and Election agency social media platforms. A copy of the agenda was made available.

**MINUTES** of the Cecil County Board of Elections meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025 in the Northeast Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Cecil County Administration Building located at 200 Chesapeake Boulevard in Elkton, Maryland. Public viewing of this meeting was available in person. Board member attendance was in person, as noted below.

<b>ATTENDEE</b>	Stephen Stiles	Vice President
	Krista Moretz	Secretary
	Bradley Moore	Board Counsel
	Holcombe Grier	Board Member
	Gary Holmes	Director
	Karen Benecewicz	Deputy Director
	Sheri Woodruff	Election Supervisor
	Mary Nelson	Public
	Teresa DiFabbio	Public
	Sean Brimm	Public

### **DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Stephen Stiles at 3:06 pm. Quorum was established with three (3) Board Members.

### **AGENDA**

No additions to the agenda.

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Stephen Stiles made remarks in the absence of Jennifer Graham. Stephen started by welcoming everyone to the first meeting of the new year. He also thanked the members of the public for their attendance. Stephen made mention of 2025 being a year with no election and to make the most of it.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the December 19, 2024, Board meeting were provided to the Board with a copy in each of their folders.

- MOTION:** Board Secretary, Krista Moretz motioned to approve Minutes for December 19, 2024; as present.
- SECOND:** Holcombe Grier, Member Cecil County Board of Elections
- ACTION:** Minutes approved unanimously.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Gary Holmes, Director, enclosed his director's report with the agenda in the folders for the board. Gary covered how many batches had been completed and that the Critical Assessment assigned by SBE had been completed.

Gary stated that we held our meeting with the Chief Judges that morning and would include a more detailed report in the February Board Meeting. Gary had an interview with Maggie Pilkerton who is a college journalism student at St. Mary's College and works at St. Mary's LBE. His upcoming meetings include a meeting with members of the Cecil County Leadership Institute, MAEO, a Director's Meeting and a State of the County Chamber of Commerce event.

## **COUNSEL'S REPORT**

Bradley Moore, Board Attorney, stated there was nothing to report at this time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The meeting with the Chief Judges was held earlier in the day the details and minutes will be provided at the February meeting.

The date for our Manual Audit is set for February 19, 2025 – Stephen Stiles and Holcombe Grier stated that they would try to be in attendance.

## **OFFICE REPORT**

Covered in Directors Report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

New legislation that will impact elections was discussed. <sup>HB52</sup> HB25/82 – a bill that would allow 16-year-olds to vote for members of the school board. We shared that it would be complicated, require schoolboard only ballots and extra judge training.

Curb Side Voting is also a bill that will be presented this session. The Board is considering writing a letter to express their views on this piece of legislation.

There is a MAEO committee for Legislation that the Board can follow.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISCLOSURES**

None currently.

## **QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS**

Mary Nelson mentioned that if you go to [www.mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://www.mgaleg.maryland.gov) (My MGA) you can set up an account and track the bills that you are interested in tracking. Mary also inquired about early canvassing. She wanted to know if Cecil County had thoughts on canvassing prior to early voting and elections day. Cecil County asked for an exemption; the exemptions were based on the number of ballots we receive, as well as staffing and space constraints.

Stephen Stiles mentioned that the Board Members should have received a financial disclosure from the Board of Ethics that needs to be completed by a certain date.

### **Board Folders:**

- December 19, 2024 – Board Meeting Minutes for approval
- Director's Report
- January 15, 2025 Agenda
- Canvass Minutes from November 7, 13, 15 and December 19, 2024



**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The Board/ Board of Canvassers will convene at 3PM on February 19,2025 in the North East room in the Cecil County Administrative Bldg.


**ADJOURNMENT**

Stephen Stiles motioned to adjourn the meeting.  
The motion was seconded by Krista Moretz.  
The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm for a closed session.

**CLOSED MEETING**

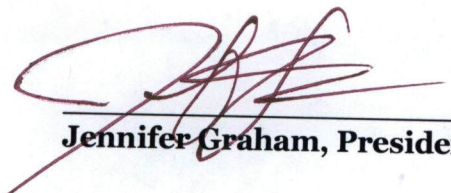
Our meeting entered closed session under the provisions of the General Provisions Article, subsection 3-305(b), specifically under provision (1) to discuss a performance evaluation and provision (2) to review a confidentiality request form.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Krista Moretz, Secretary**



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**Jennifer Graham, President**

**Meetings, Trainings, and Important Dates:**

- February 17, 2025- Office Closed Presidents Day
- February 19, 2025 – Manual Audit / Board Meeting
- March 19, 2025 - Board Meeting
- April 23, 2025 - Board Meeting
- May 4-9, 2025 – MAEO Conference Ocen City, MD
- May 21, 2025 – Board Meeting
- June 18,2025 – Board Meeting
- July 16,2025 – Board Meeting
- August 20, 2025 – Board Meeting
- September 17, 2025 – Board Meeting
- October 15, 2025 – Board Meeting
- November 19, 2025 – Board Meeting
- December 17, 2025 – Board Meeting