



Cecil County Board of Elections

May 21, 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.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by President, Jennifer Graham at 3:10 pm. Quorum was established with all five (5) Board Members present. Deputy Director Karen Benecewicz joined remotely.

ATTENDEES

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| Jennifer Graham | Board President |
| Stephen Stiles | Vice President |
| Krista Moretz | Secretary |
| Eunice Grant | Board Member |
| Holcombe Grier | Board Member |
| Gary Holmes | Director |
| Sheri Woodruff | Election Supervisor |
| Farrah Dowell | Election Assistant |
| Christine DeVito | Election Assistant |
| Mary Nelson | Public |

AGENDA

Approved without changes.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS

Jennifer remarked that we should all take the time to remember the meaning of Memorial Day this weekend. Memorial Day is for those that lost their lives in service to their country, and visiting a veteran's cemetery is one appropriate way to mark the occasion.

Jennifer called for approval of the April 16, 2025, Board Minutes. Eunice Grant moved for approval and was seconded by Holcombe Grier. The minutes were unanimously approved. Jennifer Graham then administered the oath of office to new employees: Christine DeVito and Farrah Dowell - who started their new roles in April and May, respectively.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Gary Holmes began his report by welcoming the two new employees and reporting that the office had processed more than 1000 records in the last month. We completed and submitted the monthly Critical Oversight Report. The staff has been keeping up with the Death Notices, as well as ERIC reports as they are notified from the State Board.

As the Board was aware, the staff returned from the MAEO conference on May 9, 2025. In addition to the Biennial SBE- sponsored meetings on sexual harassment and job posting and

evaluations that the board attended., the staff was able to attend meetings on UOCAVA (overseas voters), Voter Registration, Community Trust, Risk Limiting Audits, Canvassing, Best Practices Sticker Contests and Video Production. We were happy to share Cecil County's color coding and cart organization in the small county best practice roundtable. The small counties we shared with were Kent, Allegheny, Queen Anne's, and Calvert. The take-aways were possible Election Judge newsletters and perhaps a mock election. We spent a day listening to Chuck Gallagher speak, as well. In addition to the scheduled sessions, the staff participated in trivia and the match game. Brenda Ross was recognized for 5 years of service, Gary for 20 years and Karen received the Shining Star Award for Cecil County. We were able to meet and speak with various election vendors.

Gary stated he presented the 2026 Budget in front of the County Council on May 13, 2025. The council was very complimentary of the work the office has done in recruiting and retaining judges. The budget presentation went smoothly, and the council made mention of their knowledge of our warehouse space issues. On May 14, Gary did a warehouse walk-through for both Stephen Reisler and Dan Schneckenburger. On May 15, the State Board held SBE/LBE Collaboration and Director's Meeting. Discussions included the RFPs that are for the pollbooks and new voting system, as well as PEPs being due the end of June. It was announced on Friday May 16 that the lawsuits involving the 2020 and 2022 election material are now closed and we are free to begin purging the material. The office staff has begun consolidating boxes of relevant materials and removing the items that cannot be shredded. We have arranged for Chesapeake Shredding to do onsite shredding on June 18.

Gary and Farrah attended a Community Safety and Wellness event on Saturday May 17. Gary also attended a Cecil Leadership event.

COUNSEL'S REPORT

Board Attorney Bradley Moore was absent from the meeting and there was no report.

NEW BUSINESS

The inventory of all items required by SBE is 100% complete. ES&S will be onsite June 30 through July 2 to work on battery replacement and cleaning of the BMDs and DS200 scanners. We are in the process of putting together an "I Voted" sticker design contest for the 2026 election. Information will be going to the schools at the start of the new school year and entries will likely be accepted until December. Winner selection will occur in early 2026 to allow time for the winning designs to be printed for the Primary election in June.

We plan to put together training videos for the staff to use as SOP (standard operating procedures), as well as for training of election judges. Sheri will also be using the trainings provided by the Elections Group during our staff meetings for those that are interested.

OLD BUSINESS

Local realtor Jeff Sellers is still looking for possible properties nearby, but has not reached out with any new locations. Stephen Stiles said he found a location that might be of interest and would be reaching out to Jeff with the information. The county has also mentioned a possible temporary move of just the election office (not warehouse), which could potentially include training space and additional storage for ballots.

ANNOUNCEMENT/DISCLOSURES

Katie Berry’s SBE email regarding ethics statements had been distributed to the board members in advance. Eunice Grant disclosed that she is a County employee and may have to complete one of the forms.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

No comments from the public. It was noted that the Primary Election Date has officially been changed to June 23, 2026, moving Early Voting to June 11 -18, 2026. Stephen Stiles noted that the Church of the Nazarene was still listed as an early voting site. Another site had been suggested to the office and we will be looking into what is involved in making a change and taking it under consideration.

The board will be meeting in a closed session on June 5, 2025 to discuss the Director’s (Gary Holmes) PEP evaluation.

ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer Graham asked the board for a motion to close. Eunice Grant, Member Cecil County Board of Elections motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Krista Moretz, Secretary Cecil County Board of Elections. There was no opposition and the meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Moretz, Secretary

Jennifer Graham, President