



Cecil County Board of Elections

July 16, 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

The Cecil County Board of Elections Board meeting was held on the July 16, 2025, in the Rising Sun Room on the 2nd Floor of the Cecil County Administration Building located at 200 Chesapeake Boulevard in Elkton, Maryland. Public viewing of this meeting was available in person and via webinar. Board member attendance was in person, as noted below:

ATTENDEE	Jennifer Graham	President
	Stephen Stiles	Vice President
	Krista Moretz	Secretary
	Holcombe Grier	Board Member
	Eunice Grant	Board Member
	Bradley Moore	Board Attorney
	Gary Holmes	Director
	Karen Benecewicz	Deputy Director
	Sean Brimm	Public
	Teresa DiFabbio	Public

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by President, Jennifer Graham at 3:03 pm. Quorum was established with all five (5) Board Members present.

AGENDA

No additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the June 18, 2025, Board meeting were provided to the Board with a copy in each of their folders.

- MOTION: Board Member, Holcombe Grier motioned to approve minutes for June 18, 2025.
- SECOND: Stephen Stiles, Board Vice President
- ACTION: Minutes approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Jennifer Graham opened the meeting by wishing everyone a happy summer. She thanked everyone for their presence as this is typically a time for vacations. Added a reminder to stay hydrated and cool.

DIRECTOR' S REPORT

Gary Holmes, Director, enclosed his director's report with the agenda in the folders for the board. Gary stated that over the course of the month the office processed 351 records, and that the Critical Assessment assigned by SBE had been completed.

Gary stated that he had attended the last SBE board and the SBE /LBE Collab meetings virtually and MAEO in person. The most notable topic from the meetings discussed the RFPs that have gone out or will go out shortly for new pollbooks, new voting systems and a new voter registration system. The goal is to have these replaced for the 2028 election. The state hiring freeze was also discussed. Local Boards are exempt from the freeze and not eligible for the voluntary separation. At this month's MAEO meeting it was decided that the majority wish to return to the in-person meetings. From now until the end of the year, a different county will host.

Sheri and Brenda (office staff) went out to scout alternative Early Voting sites. We are waiting on confirmation from the Church of the Nazarene. But the hope is to eventually find something with more lighting in the parking lot and closer to the main road so that it is more visible. The only locations that we still have not heard from would be the libraries -Perryville or Rising Sun. The other locations either were not suitable for our needs or were not interested in hosting us. Staff are scheduling site visits to all the polling locations and alternative sites to update measurements, test outlets, take pictures and ensure that there will be no issues in 2026. ES&S (Election Systems and Software) completed the replacement of batteries during the 1st week of July. Last week, we acquired 2 additional black carts and 3 bottoms (ballot box) of the DS200 scanners.

Gary has scheduled a meeting to discuss the opportunity to have a booth at the 2026 Cecil County Fair. Gary said that we have a few outreach events that staff will be attending before the August board meeting. Guidelines for outreach events have been established. We will attend the 55+ Senior Expo and 3 Back to School events at Bohemia, North East and Elkton. The county is in the process of a website transition, so there will be times where we cannot update information. Gary said that we remain in contact with the realtor and the executive offices in regards to a new office and warehouse location.

COUNSEL'S REPORT

Bradley Moore readdressed the letter regarding the posting of Canvass Minutes to the website. It was determined that the Open Meetings Act did not apply to Canvass Minutes, meaning that we are not required to post those minutes to the website.

Holcombe Grier and Krista Moretz expressed their opinion that Cecil should post Canvass Minutes moving forward. While there is no overwhelming consensus on what other counties do with their minutes, Jennifer Graham (Board President) called for a motion on the matter.

Holcombe Grier (Member) motioned for Canvass Minutes to be posted beginning 2026; it was seconded by Stephen Stiles (Vice President). The motion passed and was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

The issue of Canvass Minutes led to a discussion of the Canvass Board and what the requirement for meeting after the close of the election to reject untimely ballots. Karen Benecewicz (Deputy Director) said that she would inquire.

It was confirmed that the Board will be taking the new Voter Registration Distributor Training. It was brought up that certification as a distributor expires in December after an election. But the question remained as to whether the training was a requirement or a suggestion. COMAR Md. Code Regs. 33.05.03.06 discusses the Voter Registration Distributor.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISCLOSURES

There were no announcements or disclosures at this meeting.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Sean Brimm asked that what the open meetings complaint was that prompted the discussion on Canvass Minutes. It was explained that a complaint was filed against several other county boards because their canvass minutes were not accessible through their website. It was determined that the Open Meetings Act did not apply to Canvass Minutes, meaning that we are not required to post those minutes to the website.

Board Folders:

- June 18, 2025 – Board Meeting Minutes for approval
- Director's Report
- July 16, 2025 Agenda
- VR-013 Monthly Statistics Report
- Connect 24 (MAEO newsletter)
- Minutes from June 26, 2025 SBE/LBE Collaboration Meeting

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board Meeting will convene at 3:00pm on August 20 ,2025 in the Perryville Room in the Cecil County Administrative Bldg.


ADJOURNMENT

Holcombe Grier (Member) motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Stephen Stiles (Vice President) The meeting adjourned at 3:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Krista Moretz, Secretary



Jennifer Graham, President

Meetings, Trainings, and Important Dates:

- August 19, 2025 – MAEO meeting Dorchester Co.
- August 20, 2025 – Board Meeting
- August 28, 2025 – SBE Board Meeting
- September 1, 2025 – Closed Labor Day
- September 16, 2025 – MAEO meeting St. Mary's Co.
- September 17, 2025 – Board Meeting
- October 13, 2025 – Closed Columbus Day
- October 15, 2025 – Board Meeting
- October 21, 2025 – MAEO meeting Washington Co.
- October 20, 2025- Rising Sun Municipal Election
- November 11, 2025 – Closed Veterans Day
- November 18, 2025 – MAEO meeting Prince George's Co.
- November 19, 2025 – Board Meeting
- November 27-28, 2025 – Closed Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 16, 2025 – MAEO meeting/ Holiday Party Carroll Co.
- December 17, 2025 – Board Meeting
- December 25, 2025 – Closed Christmas Holiday