



# Cecil County Board of Elections

## November 19, 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 meeting was held on November 19, 2025 in the Rising Sun Room on the 2<sup>nd</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 and via Zoom webinar. Board member attendance was in person and by phone, as noted below:

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Stephen Stiles	Vice President
	Krista Moretz	Secretary
	Holcombe Grier	Member
	Bradley Moore	Counsel
	Gary Holmes	Director
	Karen Benecewicz	Deputy Director
	Sheri Woodruff	Supervisor
	Mary Nelson	Public

#### **DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Stephen Stiles at 3:05pm. Quorum was established with three of the five Board Members present in person.

#### **AGENDA**

No additions to the agenda.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the October 15, 2025 Board meeting were provided to the Board, with a copy in each of their folders.

**MOTION:** Secretary Krista Moretz motioned to approve the minutes for October 15, 2025

**SECOND:** Member Holcombe Grier seconded the motion

**ACTION:** Minutes approved unanimously

#### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Stephen Stiles gave the President's remarks in Jennifer's absence. He thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. He extended a Thanksgiving message to all and encouraged us to invite someone with no family or no place for Thanksgiving to our table.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gary Holmes enclosed his Director's report, along with the agenda and a few other documents in the folders for the Board. Gary stated that, over the course of the month, the office processed 613 records and there are 74,413 active voters in the county. The monthly Critical Audit assigned by SBE has been completed, as well as the NCOA and "fuzzy matching".

The office was closed on Tuesday, November 11 in observance of Veterans' Day. All HVAC work in the office has been completed, and everyone has returned to their offices.

We recently had a candidate file for the Board of Education. Jasmine and Gary visited two locations as potential Early Voting Backup sites (in case of emergency). Those locations were Cecil College in Elkton on Railroad Ave and the Elkton Neighborhood Community Center. This was in place of the Elkton Town Hall that had previously been the backup, but no longer wished to do so. The Community Center just sent over the signed agreement, and the final documents needed for the polling plan should be complete by the end of the week.

Staff continue to participate in MAEO meetings. Karen and Ashira attended the most recent meeting yesterday in Prince George's County. Staff will be participating in the December meeting in Carroll County if they wish to attend. They are still on track for the state's election certification program to be ready on or before the 2026 MAEO conference. Sheri is co-chairing the Conference Planning Committee to determine the location of the 2026 meeting.

Karen has been assembling the 2026 Polling Place Plan, which consists of the Early Voting and Election Day sites, as well as the Drop Boxes. She also recently attended the Risk Limiting Audit (RLA) meeting, where they discussed that the regulations are still being written and that they will be ready before the end of the year. The RLA for the Primary will take place between July 14-21, focusing on a statewide contest of either a Republican or Democratic ballot. We know that a batch is defined by what is on the scanner's memory stick, and a ballot manifest will have to be delivered to the state by July 10.

We have received some entries for the sticker contest -- approximately 20 elementary school entries and two high school entries. The responses have come to the voting email and through the link on our website. The Board suggested reaching out to the Cecil Whig to see if they could assist in promoting the contest. We will also be reaching out to those on our list as potential judges for the contest soon. Karen is also working on the Election Judge Manual, which has been released for county edits.

Gary was interviewed by Cecil TV on Monday night, and that interview is available online. Some of the topics discussed were opportunities to serve as Judges and Pages. He also had meetings with Finance to discuss next year's budget, as well as with the administration to discuss our issues with mail distribution and our request for additional space, particularly for the warehouse. Jasmine and Ashira completed poll book battery testing and are implementing the equipment charging schedule while organizing, cleaning, and labeling election day supplies.

Farrah, Jasmine, and Sheri continue to work with Maggie in IT on the website transition. Currently, both the new and the old websites are active. We have not been informed as to when the old one will no longer be accessible. The last municipal election of the year took place in Rising Sun with seven voters receiving voter credit. Our community outreaches have finished for the year.

### **COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Bradley Moore had nothing to report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board was asked to vote on the 2026 polling place plan, which remained unchanged from the 2024 election. The plan includes the same 19 election day polling locations, two early voting sites, and five drop boxes. The Board was presented with a map of all locations represented.

MOTION: Member Holcombe Grier motioned to approve polling place plans

SECOND: Secretary Krista Moretz seconded the motion.

ACTION: The 2026 polling place plan was approved unanimously

The office is receiving a grant of approximately \$7,000 from the County’s Emergency Management Services. We will be meeting with them in December to discuss how we wish to spend the grant funds. The funds should be spent on items that relate to security. Currently, the list includes: exterior lighting and interior fire suppression for the drop boxes, cord covers for the extension cords at polling sites and possibly lighting rentals for the Church of the Nazarene.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISCLOSURES**

Holcombe Grier disclosed that he had recently attended a ‘No Kings’ march in North East.

### **QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS**

Mary Nelson, a member of the public, expressed her approval of the lights and fire suppression systems for the drop boxes. The Board agreed with her.

### **BOARD FOLDERS**

- October 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes for approval
- Director’s Report
- November 19, 2025 Agenda
- VR-013 Monthly Statistics Report
- Map to represent the 2026 polling plan

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The Board Meeting will convene at 3:00 pm on December 17, 2025 in the Rising Sun Room of the Cecil County Administrative Building. Holiday festivities will be held before the meeting, starting at 1:30, with more details to come.

## ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Member Holcombe Grier motioned to adjourn the meeting  
SECOND: Secretary Krista Moretz seconded the motion  
ACTION: The meeting adjourned at 3:31 pm

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Krista Moretz, Secretary**

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**Stephen Stiles, Vice President**

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

December 25-26, 2025	Office closed for Christmas
January 1, 2026	Office closed for New Year's Day
January 19, 2026	Office closed for MLK Day
<b>January 21, 2026</b>	<b>Cecil County Board Meeting</b>
February 9, 2026	North East Municipal Election
February 16, 2026	Office closed for Presidents' Day
<b>February 18, 2026</b>	<b>Cecil County Board Meeting</b>
February 24, 2026	Candidate Filing Closes
March 3, 2026	Charlestown Municipal Election
<b>March 18, 2026</b>	<b>Cecil County Board Meeting</b>
<b>April 15, 2026</b>	<b>Cecil County Board Meeting</b>
May 4, 2026	Cecilton Municipal Election
May 12, 2026	Elkton Municipal Election
May 12, 2026	Perryville Municipal Election
<b>May 20, 2026</b>	<b>Cecil County Board Meeting</b>
May 25, 2026	Office closed for Memorial Day
May 27, 2026	Black Cart/Supply Verification Due to SBE
June 1, 2026	Chesapeake City Municipal Election
June 2, 2026	Close of Registration/Party Affiliation Deadline
June 11-18, 2026	Primary Early Voting
June 19, 2026	Office closed for Juneteenth
June 23, 2026	Primary Election Day
June 25, 2026	MIB 1 Canvass
July 1, 2026	Provisional Canvass
July 3, 2026	Office closed for Independence Day
July 6, 2026	MIB 2 Canvass
<b>July 15, 2026</b>	<b>Cecil County Board Meeting</b>
<i>July 14-21, 2026 (tent)</i>	<i>Risk Limiting Audit (RLA)</i>