

## Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections  
215 Bay Street, Easton, MD 21601  
Conference Room 1

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

### Present:

#### Board

Susan J. MacKinnon, President  
Gugy Irving, III, Secretary  
Barbara H. Perry, Member

#### Staff

Tammy Stafford, Election Director  
Donna Kegley-Hacker, Election Program Manager II

#### Members of the Public

Terrence Bernard, Citizen  
Mary Jordan, Citizen  
Mark Harrison, Citizen  
Shari Wilcoxon, Citizen  
Gary Judy, Citizen

### Absent/Excused:

#### Board

Denise Lovelady, Vice President  
Walter W. Black, Member

#### Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Ms. Stafford announced that the Board meeting would be streaming on the TCLBE YouTube channel. She added that the meeting is being recorded and if anyone in attendance was not in favor of being recorded they should leave the meeting. Ms. MacKinnon stated that she would wait to call the meeting to order until Ms. Stafford said it was ok to do (the streaming had started).

### **DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT**

Ms. MacKinnon called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. She welcomed the public, announced that a sign-in sheet and copies of the agenda were available, and reviewed key elements of the Public Comment protocols, which are also listed in the next to the last paragraph on the agenda.

Ms. MacKinnon announced that though two Board members were not in attendance, a quorum was present and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **APPROVAL OF OPEN MINUTES- 03/19/2025**

Minutes from the Open Meeting held 03/19/2025 were mailed in Board packets to members, allowing for review prior to this meeting. Ms. MacKinnon called for any corrections to the minutes. There were none. Ms. Perry motioned to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Irving. The motion passed unanimously by all members present.

### **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Ms. MacKinnon asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Irving motioned to approve the agenda as written. Ms. Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all members present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. MacKinnon opened the floor for public comments. Four members of the public spoke.

1. Mr. Harrison commented on the need for requiring voter id when voting. Ms. MacKinnon acknowledged his comment but reminded everyone that the Board is not a legislative body. Mr. Harrison replied that he knew this.
2. Ms. Wilcoxon stated that she had been attending the Board meetings for about two years and that the citizens have requested that Public Comments be moved to the end of the meeting, especially now that you meet every three months and as it is on the agenda now (in the beginning) we have to wait three months to respond to what occurred in the meeting. She added that they need to be able to comment and it would be more effective.

Ms. Wilcoxon added that they had asked repeatedly for the meetings to be recorded and are thankful that they now will be.

Ms. MacKinnon responded that the Board previously discussed the order of the agenda and voted to keep Public Comments at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. MacKinnon also stated that the Board does not have a policy to meet every three months; this is incorrect.

3. Mr. Judy stated he was glad the meeting was being live streamed and thanked the Board for this.

Mr. Judy passed out and read a one-page press release dated 05/12/2025 from Secure the Vote Maryland. This press release was in response to the Maryland Attorney General's May 5<sup>th</sup> lawsuit announcement.

Ms. Stafford thanked Mr. Judy for his comments and reminded everyone that the Board is not a legislative body and his comments should be directed to the agency that is handling this specific issue.

4. Mr. Bernard commented that he had been attending these meetings for approximately three years and it is nice that these meetings are going to be recorded data.

Mr. Bernard stated that the minutes in the past were inaccurate and cited an example of the April 2024 minutes, which he stated were missing about thirty minutes of information. He detailed his interpretation of an interaction between a citizen and the TCLBE Director.

Ms. Stafford thanked Mr. Bernard for his comments. She stated that public comments should be related to scheduled agenda items and not to rehash previous minutes of Board meetings or meetings with staff outside of Board meetings. She reminded the public that going forward, all public comments should be related to agenda items.

#### **ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. MacKinnon congratulated Ms. Stafford on being recognized as the Maryland Election Official of the Year and stated that it was well deserved and a job well done. Ms. Stafford thanked Ms. MacKinnon for her comments.

Ms. Stafford's written report which was mailed in the Board packets for review prior to the meeting is attached to these minutes. Ms. Stafford highlighted all key areas of the report.

Two date corrections were made. Under Personnel- the date should be April 3, 2025 (not 2024 as typed). Under Candidate Filing- the deadline to file is February 24, 2026 (not 2025 as typed).

#### **BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Ms. Stafford announced that Ms. Ryan was unable to attend the meeting. She did however provide a written report which Ms. Stafford passed out and verbally reviewed. The report highlighted legislation from the 2025 Legislative Session which may impact the State Board of Elections and/or the Local Board of Elections including the following:

SB 337

SB 259

SB 308

HB 586

SB 313/ HB 426

SB 685/ HB 983

SB 93

HB 322  
SB 267/ HB 41  
HB 75  
HB 199  
HB 839  
SB 645/ HB 945  
The SAVE Act

Ms. Stafford also stated that a legislative review was also provided at the SBE Biennial Conference by Mr. Jared DeMarinis, State Administrator of Elections.

Ms. Perry asked if all of the legislation just reviewed was passed. Ms. Stafford replied yes. Ms. Perry then asked if all had also been signed by the Governor. Ms. Stafford replied yes.

Ms. MacKinnon stated that she was reviewing the Election Calendar that had been previously given to the Board to see if the date change for the Primary Election was recorded. Ms. Stafford stated that she had updated Election Calendars to pass out at the end of the meeting and that the updated Election Calendar was also posted on SBE's website.

**OLD BUSINESS (inadvertently discussed out of order)**

A. Facility for the Election Office

Ms. Stafford stated that she had no updates for this meeting.

B. FY 2026 Budget

Ms. Stafford stated that the FY 2026 budget request has been submitted to the County. It is an item on the County Council's May 25, 2025, agenda

C. Legislative Update

Ms. Stafford stated this has been covered by the Board Attorney's report.

D. Streaming Meetings

Ms. MacKinnon asked if there were any additional updates on streaming meetings. Ms. Stafford replied that for this meeting Google Meet (streaming platform) and YouTube (to archive the video) were being utilized. She added that going forward, changes can be made if needed. Ms. Stafford also stated that the streaming is only available to view; members of the public viewing virtually are not able to make public comments. She added that anyone wishing to make public comment and attending virtually would need to contact the office in advance. Lastly, Ms. Stafford stated that the webpage was updated and will make sure that it continues to be updated with Board meeting information.

Ms. MacKinnon stated that though there are only three Board members present she wanted to ask if those in attendance are comfortable continuing our streaming discussion (from a previous work session) that was tabled until the legislative session concluded or are we comfortable with what we have thus far.

Mr. Irving asked for clarification of the question. Ms. MacKinnon elaborated that there may be additional elements that need to be ironed out, topics that we started to discuss in our work session but then tabled.

Mr. Irving stated that maybe they should wait and see how the live streaming of today's meeting went. He added that he did notice that "the Owl" did not rotate when Ms. Perry was speaking earlier.

Ms. Stafford reported that the equipment she has is a 360-degree camera with a microphone built in. It is sitting in the center of the table and will pick up audio as a speaker speaks. She added that after watching the video from today's meeting the Board can determine if there are other needs.

Ms. Stafford stated that she determined the equipment needed based on its mobility as it may need to be moved to multiple room locations depending on where meetings take place. She added that she also consulted with other local Board of Elections to determine what was best and most cost effective. This is a starting point; enhancements can be made.

Ms. MacKinnon asked if the equipment being used today can be used in the TCLBE office space. Ms. Stafford replied yes. Ms. MacKinnon further inquired if the acoustics in the TCLBE would be appropriate. Ms. Stafford replied yes, she thought so.

Ms. Perry asked if the camera was supposed to show all faces. Mr. Irving replied yes. He added that it didn't capture Ms. Perry earlier but did seem to be recording others. Ms. Stafford added that "the Owl" was supposed to zoom in on the person speaking. She added that the equipment may be sitting too close to the Board.

Ms. MacKinnon stated that they could see how today worked. Ms. Perry added that they could then discuss later if they want to try something different.

Ms. MacKinnon declared that the streaming work session would remain tabled, at least until the Board has a chance to review the live stream from today's meeting.

## 1. Public Participation

Ms. MacKinnon stated that in the mailed Board documents was a packet of examples of public comment protocols. Ms. MacKinnon announced that she is proposing a work session on this topic to allow members to review these materials and do research on their own. Ms. MacKinnon would like the Board to discuss improving and standardizing this portion of the meeting agenda.

A few dates in June were presented.

Ms. Perry made a motion to establish a work session on public comment protocols. Mr. Irving seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by all members present.

Ms. MacKinnon will send an email to the Board to set a final date.

Ms. Stafford asked if she could provide a brief overview of the documents provided and was allowed to do so. Ms. Stafford stated that examples were from the State Board of Elections, other local Board of Elections, and the Talbot County Board of Education. She added that some of these examples matched the protocols as currently written in the TCLBE bylaws.

Ms. MacKinnon stated that she wants the Board to review existing bylaws as well as have a general discussion about practices such as pre-approval, and time limits, as well as determine what public comment protocols should be posted on the website.

E. 2025 Biennial/ MAEO Conference

Ms. MacKinnon reported that almost all Board members attended the SBE Biennial meeting. Her thoughts were that it was well organized and she appreciated that it was held in one location. Mr. Irving added that the conference was fine; it was the first one he had attended.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business discussed.

**DISCLOSURES**

Ms. MacKinnon asked if there were any Board disclosures to report. There were none.

**CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING**

Ms. MacKinnon announced that the next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Irving. The motion passed unanimously by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Minutes prepared by: Donna Kegley-Hacker

Attested,

Reviewed and submitted,



Susan J. MacKinnon, President



Gagy Irving III, Secretary