



Cecil County Board of Elections

June 18, 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 June 18, 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
	Krista Moretz	Secretary
	Holcombe Grier	Board Member
	Eunice Grant	Board Member
	Gary Holmes	Director
	Karen Benecewicz	Deputy Director
	Sheri Woodruff	Election Supervisor
	Mary Nelson	Public (via web link)

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by President, Jennifer Graham at 3:03 pm. Quorum was established with three (3) Board Members. Eunice Grant arrived at 3:15 pm after the quorum was established. Vice President, Stephen Stiles and Board Counsel, Bradley Moore were absent from this meeting.

AGENDA

No additions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the May 21, 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 May 21, 2025.

SECOND: Krista Moretz, Board Secretary

ACTION: Minutes approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Jennifer Graham opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance. She reminded everyone that Juneteenth was the next day, and we should make it a day of service if possible. She also stated that she had attended an ethics training and would go into further detail in the new business section of the meeting.

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 over 700 records, DHMH contained 49 records and that the Critical Assessment assigned by SBE had been completed.

Gary stated that the staff continue to meet weekly on Wednesdays. The staff did a working lunch where Brenda trained the staff as Voter Registration Distributors (formerly Voter Registration Volunteers). Gary attended the last State Board of Elections Board meeting virtually, in addition to a Election Workforce meeting. Gary, Karen, and Sheri attend a TTX training in Baltimore County that was held in conjunction with the Elections Group. The training exercise simulated an election day with possible issues that may arise.

The staff continue to attend the meetings for their various MAEO committees. Most recently Karen and Sheri attended the Voter Outreach Committee meeting where Gilberto Zelaya from Montgomery County discussed their Future Voter program. The monthly MAEO meeting was held the previous day (June 17, 2025, in Harford County), some of the staff attended virtually and Christine and Farrah attended in person. Topics covered during the meeting included Nursing Homes (updating the guide for mail in voting) and future educational opportunities that the state is developing. The next MAEO meeting is being held on July 15, 2025.

Gary attended a tour of Aberdeen Proving Grounds in honor of the Army's 250th Birthday Celebration. This was the first time in 20 years that APG had been open to this type of tour. He attended as a representative of Cecil County, and there were state officials also in attendance.

Karen and Christine are scheduled to attend a community outreach event for Cecil Pride on June 22, we have a few other outreach events scheduled for later in the summer and fall.

Gary stated that the shredding company was onsite today to shred the materials from 2020 and 2022 that had been released from the lawsuits. All the electrical work in the office has been completed and desks set up after the office swap. We obtained four wheelchairs from the Maryland Department of Aging on behalf of the Maryland Durable Medical Equipment Re-Use. These wheelchairs will be used at early voting and on election day for voters needing assistance.

Gary discussed that more roof work had been done at the warehouse to repair leaks. The warehouse would be prepping for the battery testing with ES&S taking place at the end of the month. In addition, we are acquiring 2 additional black charts and 3 scanner bottoms (ballot compartment portion). Those will be delivered on July 9. There have been a few meetings with the county's IT Department over the last few weeks to discuss the website redesign that is taking place through Civic Plus. There will be a point in the next few weeks where we will be unable to update the website as the transition takes place. The website will be ADA compliant with forms that are both fillable and printable. In addition, the button links will be more prominent.

COUNSEL'S REPORT

While the counsel was not present, the most recent letter he shared regarding Canvass Minutes was shared. 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, Board Member motioned for the Canvass Minutes to be posted on the website for the 2026 election and going forward. Krista requested that the issue be tabled for a later date. She wanted to conduct some research on what counties post their canvass minutes and to also allow for absent members to weigh in. Since there was no hurry to decide, Holcombe agreed to wait.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Karen Benecewicz, Deputy Director discussed the upcoming 'I Voted' sticker contest that she and Sheri had been working on. The plan was from the contest to run from the start of the school year until mid- December. Holcombe suggested that we may want to shorten the length of the contest, to keep interest going.

Submissions will be taken through a link on our website – Jennifer made note that we way want to check with IT to test out the link because the fire wall could be an issue, as well as via email. Some voting may take place on social media, and since comments are blocked, we could use the number of likes to determine the finalist.

The board was asked if they had any recommendations for the panel of judges that would help to make the final decision on the winner. Suggestions for judges included Liz & Iris local Elkton artists on Church Street. A local photographer – may be ill and or no longer in the area. Eunice said she would share the name of a local children's author.

Jennifer Graham, President went into more detail on the recent state ethics training that is required of the board. The meeting was held via zoom and hosted by Pansy Wilson. Topics covered included finances, relationships, lobbying; everything was discussed in detail.

Jennifer asked that the Bylaws for the County Board be reviewed at either the July or August Board meeting. The county bylaws can supersede the states' bylaws if they are more stringent. It was also arranged for the board to be trained as Voter Registration Distributors at 1:30 on September 17(prior to the board meeting).

Jennifer also shared that Gary's PEP had been completed and it would be submitted timely.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISCLOSURES

None currently.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

As the public cannot ask questions during the stream, Jennifer Graham asked if the public has questions that they submit them prior to the meeting. This will afford us an opportunity to respond during the meeting or let you know if there is further research needed.

Board Folders:

- May 21,2025 – Board Meeting Minutes for approval
- Director's Report
- June 18, 2025, Agenda
- "I Voted" sticker contest packet.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board Meeting will convene at 3:00pm on July 16,2025 in the Rising Sun room in the Cecil County Administrative Bldg.

ADJOURNMENT

Krista Moretz motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Holcombe Grier

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Moretz, Secretary

Jennifer Graham, President

Meetings, Trainings, and Important Dates:

July 16, 2025 – Board Meeting
July 17, 2025- Directors Meeting with SBE
August 20, 2025 – Board Meeting
September 1, 2025 – Closed Labor Day
September 17, 2025 – Board Meeting
October 13, 2025 – Closed Columbus Day
October 15, 2025 – Board Meeting
October 20, 2025- Rising Sun Municipal Election
November 11, 2025 – Closed Veterans Day
November 19, 2025 – Board Meeting
November 27-28, 2025 – Closed Thanksgiving Holiday
December 17, 2025 – Board Meeting
December 25, 2025 – Closed Christmas Holiday