



CAROLINE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

403 S. Seventh Street, Suite 247, Denton, MD 21629

Phone: (410) 479-8145

Fax: (410) 479-5736

Email: election@carolinemd.org

www.carolinemdelections.org

Caroline County Board of Elections Meeting
403 S. 7th Street, Suite 111, Denton, MD 21629
March 13, 2026 9:30 a.m.

The meeting will be held in-person and live streamed:

<https://www.carolinemd.org/667/Live-Meetings>

AGENDA

1. Declaration of Quorum Present
2. Welcome Members & Guests
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. February 13, 2026 Meeting
4. Request Changes to the Agenda
5. Election Director's Report
6. Board Members' Report/Disclosure of Campaign Contributions
7. Board Attorney's Report
8. Old Business
9. New Business
 - a. Appointment of the 2026 Primary Election Judges
 - b. Press Release: The Maryland State Administrator of Elections Addresses Mis/Disinformation of the "Nationalization of Elections" (February 6, 2026)
 - c. Press Release: State Administrator of Elections addresses recent statements regarding the role of the US Department of Homeland Security and elections (February 18, 2026)
10. Public Comments
11. Schedule Next Meeting
12. Adjournment

Public Participation: Members of the public may address the Board. Pursuant to §3.2B of the Board's bylaws, public participation at a meeting must be pre-scheduled and pre-approved by the President. To request approval to speak at a board meeting, contact Allison Murphy at 410-479-8145 or by email allison.murphy@maryland.gov no later than 4:00 pm the day before the meeting.

Caroline County Board of Elections
Monthly Board Meeting
Health & Public Services Building
403 S. Seventh Street, Suite 111, Denton, Maryland
Friday, February 13, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

In Attendance

Board:

James Bilbrough II, President
Suzanne Campos, Vice President
Dana Callahan, Member

Angel Perez, Member
Walter Palmer, Board Attorney

Staff:

Allison Murphy, Election Director
Tammy Willis, Election Program Specialist

Guests:

No guests were present.

Declaration of Quorum Present

Mr. Bilbrough called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and stated that there was a quorum present.

Closed Session Report Out

Mr. Bilbrough read the closed session report out. The closed session took place December 12, 2025, from 11:11 a.m. until 11:33 a.m., under General Provisions Art. §3-305(b)(1): To discuss the performance evaluation of an employee. Those in attendance were James Bilbrough, Margaret Thompson, Suzanne Campos, Dana Callahan, Walter Palmer. No votes were taken.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2025

Ms. Campos made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Request Changes to the Agenda

There were none.

Election Director's Report

Mrs. Murphy reviewed the Director's Report with the Board.

Administration/Meetings:

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that staff attended several Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) committee and State Board of Elections (SBE) meetings.

She stated that staff evaluations were completed in December.

The FY27 Budget Request was submitted to the County on 1/30/2026. Mr. Bilbrough complimented Mrs. Murphy on the letter that was submitted along with the FY27 budget.

Mrs. Murphy reminded the Board Members that their MD State Ethics Disclosure is due on 4/30/2026.

Voter Registration:

The voter registration counts reports from December 2025, and February 2026 were provided. Nursing home packets, which included registered residents and mail-in ballot requests, were sent on 2/3/2026. At a future board meeting, a date will be set to visit the nursing homes to administer the nursing home program.

Election Judges:

Mrs. Murphy explained SBE Policy 2026-01 regarding election judge parity. The required Election Judge Assignment report as of 2/2/2026 was included. Election Judge Assignments were mailed to the judges on 1/8/2026.

Equipment & Supplies

Mrs. Murphy stated the quarterly equipment charging was completed in December. Election judge supply packing has started. The FY26 Annual inventory has been completed by Mr. Larry Thomas. Mrs. Murphy stated the new pollbook solution is Tenex Software Solutions and will be used for the 2028 elections. The new voting system vendor has been selected but not announced yet. The new voting system will be used in the 2028 elections.

Legislation

Mrs. Murphy stated the 2026 Legislative session began 1/14/2026. She is monitoring election related bills. House Bill 621 and Senate Bill 443 were initiated to remove the county residency requirement for Board Counsel. Current law requires the board counsel to live in the county of the board of elections that they represent.

Candidate Filing:

Nineteen candidates have filed for local offices.

Board Member's Report/Disclosure of Campaign Contributions

No report.

Board Attorney's Report

Mr. Palmer stated the conference calls with the State Board of Elections will begin soon. He also stated he is following HB621/SB443 which, if passed, would open the pool of attorney's available to work for our county, allowing him to retire again.

Old Business

No old business to discuss.

New Business

FY2027 Budget Request

The FY27 budget request was reviewed. Mrs. Murphy stated she submitted an updated spreadsheet to the County due to information received from the State Board of Elections. She reviewed the budget request. After review and discussion, Ms. Campos made a motion to approve the FY27 Budget request. Mrs. Callahan seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Press Release: Maryland State Board of Elections Reassures Voters that MIB Voting is Secure and Convenient Option for Casting Your Vote (January 14, 2026)

Mrs. Murphy reviewed the State Board of Elections press release regarding postal service policy changes.

Public Comments

No public comment.

Schedule the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Health & Public Services Building, 403 S. 7th Street, Suite 111, Denton, Maryland.

Adjournment

Mrs. Callahan made a motion to adjourn the open meeting; Mr. Perez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bilbrough adjourned the open meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Signed: _____
Ms. Tammy Willis
Election Program Specialist

Approved: _____
Mr. James Bilbrough, II
Board President

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Election Director's Report

March 13, 2026

Administration/Meetings

- Staff virtually attended multiple SBE/MAEO committee meetings.
- The FY27 Budget Roundtable took place 3/3/2026.
- MD State Ethics Disclosure filings are due 4/30/2026.

Voter Registration

- Voter registration totals reports from February 2026 and March 2026 are included for review.

Election Judges

- An Election Judge Assignment report as of 3/4/2026 is included.

Election Administration

- Election supply packing has begun.
- Early voting forms have been customized and ready to be proofed/printed.
- Election day forms are in the process of being customized.
- Election Judge Manual has been submitted to SBE for approval.
- Specimen Ballot is being worked on.
- Risk Limiting Audit (RLA) Training is in progress.

Legislation

- HB621/SB443 – Local Board of Elections – Board Counsel – Qualifications
 - On 2/25/2026, I provided written and oral testimony to the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee in favor of SB443.
- Several election related bills have been introduced and are being monitored by MAEO.

Candidate Filing

- The list of statewide candidates can be viewed here:
https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/Primary_candidates/index.html
- As of 2/24/2026, 29 candidates have filed candidacy for local contests in Caroline County.
- The Board of Ed - District 3 contest will automatically go to the General Election because less than 3 candidates filed.

Contest	Last Name	First Name	Party
County Commissioner	Winston	Savannah	Democratic
County Commissioner	Breeding	J. Travis	Republican
County Commissioner	Friday	Linda	Republican
County Commissioner	Mann	Michael A.	Republican
County Commissioner	Porter	Larry C.	Republican
State's Attorney	Todd	Joel J.	Republican
Clerk of the Circuit Court	Gallagher	Peggy A.	Republican
Clerk of the Circuit Court	Hannawald	Margie S.	Republican
Clerk of the Circuit Court	Ramsey	Stephanie B.	Republican
Register of Wills	Andrew	Matthew R.	Republican
Register of Wills	Bartz	Frank	Republican
Register of Wills	Blakely	Rob	Republican
Register of Wills	Carmean	Beth Trice	Republican
Register of Wills	Dunn	Linda	Republican
Register of Wills	Eldredge	Zachary	Republican
Register of Wills	Scott	Wade	Republican
Judge of the Orphans' Court	Adams	Ellery	Republican
Judge of the Orphans' Court	Porter	Jeff	Republican
Judge of the Orphans' Court	Smith	Hugh	Republican
Sheriff	Baker	Donnie	Republican
Republican Central Committee	Adams	Wendy Jensen	Republican
Republican Central Committee	Quick	Julie	Republican
Republican Central Committee	Reynolds	Donald W.	Republican
Republican Central Committee	Smith	Hugh	Republican
Democratic Central Committee	Carter	Krista A.	Democratic
Democratic Central Committee	Crenshaw	Corinna Jeanne	Democratic
Democratic Central Committee	Mickelson	Alan	Democratic
Board of Education	Hayhurst	Jean	Non-Partisan
Board of Education	Plutschak	Patrick Troy	Non-Partisan

FEBRUARY 2026

Board of Elections: Caroline
User Name : Willis, Tammy L

Date : 02/02/2026
Report No. : DP-007

Precinct Voter Counts Report

Precinct : All Status : Active Inactive Status Reason: All Split : All

	TOTAL	DEM	REP	GRN	WCP	UNA	OTHERS
Dist/Prec: 01001	1606	302	839	0	4	429	32
Dist/Prec: 02001	4242	948	2188	8	6	1020	72
Dist/Prec: 03001	5575	1715	2480	7	8	1293	72
Dist/Prec: 04001	2953	738	1514	2	5	653	41
Dist/Prec: 05001	3270	1070	1307	7	10	809	67
Dist/Prec: 06001	1708	363	968	4	1	346	26
Dist/Prec: 07001	3038	791	1521	6	2	665	53
Dist/Prec: 08001	1591	299	924	3	0	343	22
Grand Total	23983	6226	11741	37	36	5558	385

MARCH 2026

Board of Elections: Caroline
User Name : Willis, Tammy L

Date : 03/02/2026
Report No. : DP-007

Precinct Voter Counts Report

Precinct : All Status : Active Inactive Status Reason: All Split : All

	TOTAL	DEM	REP	GRN	WCP	UNA	OTHERS
Dist/Prec: 01001	1601	299	837	0	4	428	33
Dist/Prec: 02001	4236	944	2177	9	7	1027	72
Dist/Prec: 03001	5577	1707	2489	6	8	1295	72
Dist/Prec: 04001	2956	740	1518	2	5	650	41
Dist/Prec: 05001	3281	1073	1309	7	10	815	67
Dist/Prec: 06001	1717	365	968	4	1	353	26
Dist/Prec: 07001	3046	788	1529	7	2	669	51
Dist/Prec: 08001	1587	298	923	2	0	345	19
Grand Total	24001	6214	11750	37	37	5582	381

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Caroline County Board of Elections

Election Judge Assignments
2026 Primary Election

Precinct	Total Positions	Assigned															
		Chief Judges			Check-in Judges			Ballot Issue Judges			Voting Judges			Provisional Judge			
		DEM	REP	UNA	DEM	REP	UNA	DEM	REP	UNA	DEM	REP	UNA	DEM	REP	UNA	Vacancy
06E/01 Early Voting	87	8	8	0	7	8	1	8	6	2	15	16	0	5	3	0	0
001-001 Goldsboro Fire Hall	11	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0
002-001 Greensboro VFC Community Hall	12	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0
003-001 Denton Fire Hall	12	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
004-001 Preston Fire Hall	12	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0
005-001 Federalsburg Fire Hall	12	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
006-001 Hillsboro Town Hall	11	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
007-001 Ridgely Fire Hall	12	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0
008-001 Col. Richardson High School	11	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL		16	16	0	14	20	3	16	13	3	33	30	0	9	7	0	0

Total Early Voting Positions 87
 Total Early Voting Positions Filled 87
 Total Early Voting Positions Vacant 0

 Total Election Day Positions 93
 Total Election Day Positions Filled 93
 Total Election Day Positions Vacant 0



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February 25, 2026

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB443 - Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Caroline County Board of Elections, I respectfully offer support for Senate Bill 443. This legislation would allow local board counsel to be a registered voter of the State of Maryland, rather than requiring residency within the specific county served by the local board of elections.

Our Board is currently experiencing firsthand the challenges created by the existing residency requirement. Our longtime Board Counsel retired and graciously agreed to return temporarily because we were unable to identify a qualified replacement who resides within Caroline County. In fact, we identified a qualified candidate who was ineligible solely because they live just across the county line. The restriction significantly limits the pool of eligible applicants, particularly in smaller or rural jurisdictions like ours.

Election administration is governed by Maryland law, and Board Counsel's responsibilities focus on interpreting and applying state statutes and regulations. Residency within a specific county does not impact the ability to provide sound, consistent legal advice.

Additionally, advisory work performed by Board Counsel could be conducted remotely, if needed. In-person attendance is generally required only for certain monthly board meetings and during canvasses. Expanding eligibility statewide would not diminish accessibility or service to the Board.

With the 2026 Primary Election approaching, it is critical that we ensure stable and qualified legal support is in place.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 443. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Allison Murphy,
Election Director



**MARYLAND STATE
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Jared DeMarinis
State Administrator

Katherine Berry
Deputy Administrator

Michael Summers,
Chairman

Jim Shalleck, Vice
Chairman

Diane Butler

Victoria Jackson-

Stanley

Eric Bryant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Maryland State Administrator of Elections Addresses Mis/Disinformation of the “Nationalization of Elections”

Annapolis, MD (February 6, 2026) — Recent events and high-profile press statements have suggested the possibility of nationalizing election administration in an attempt to cast doubts on election security maintained by the States. Before any misinformation or disinformation takes hold from these statements, the State Administrator of Elections, Jared DeMarinis, issued the following statement to provide corrective information:

The United States Constitution is clear: the authority to administer elections predominately resides with the States. The States administer and conduct elections each according to their laws and regulations, subject to limited Congressional authority. The President of the United States has no constitutional or statutory authority to nationalize Maryland’s elections and electoral processes.

As State Administrator of the Maryland State Board of Elections, I want to assure voters that we are dedicated to ensuring that all elections are run in a manner that is safe, secure, transparent and accessible for all eligible voters. We are guided by the principle enshrined in Maryland’s Declaration of Rights- “the right of the People to participate in the Legislature is the best security of liberty and the foundation of all free Government; . . . and every citizen having the qualifications prescribed by the Constitution, ought to have the right of suffrage.”

Additionally, statements on the presence of federal enforcement agents in and around polling locations may cause apprehension or anxiety for certain communities. This office is committed to protecting voters from undue harassment or intimidation regarding when they voted, how they voted, and who they voted for. Elections are the foundation of our democracy, and, in 2026, it is how we use our voice to determine the future of our State. All eligible voters have a Constitutional right to use their voice and their vote. Do not be deterred from voting due to a perceived threat against a community. Mail-in voting is a viable option and an alternative to in-person voting. Mail-in voting is safe, secure, convenient and legal. Don’t let the noise disenfranchise or silence your voice. This right was hard fought for over the course of our country’s history, and we do not take protecting that right lightly.

Again, Marylanders should feel confident in our election administration. Always verify the information you hear or see, whether on social media, from a friend, or any other source, with the trusted source of electoral information, the Maryland State Board of Elections. The Maryland State Board of Elections ensures Marylanders can exercise their constitutional right in a verified, open, transparent and empowering manner that is safe and secure.

For more information visit www.elections.maryland.gov .

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Media Contacts: Bruce Miller, bmiller@kopublicaffairs.com 410-916-6951
Lexy Rhoden, morgan.rhoden@maryland.gov 443-924-1644



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Administrator of Elections addresses recent statements regarding the role of the US Department of Homeland Security and elections

Annapolis, MD (February 18, 2026) — Recent high profile press statements have suggested the possibility of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) running elections in an attempt to cast doubts on election security and integrity by the States. Before any misinformation or disinformation takes hold from these statements, the State Administrator of Elections Jared DeMarinis issued the following statement to provide corrective information.

The law is clear: in the event of a state of emergency that interferes with the electoral process, the Governor of Maryland has the authority, not FEMA, to mandate any changes. FEMA cannot close polling places, alter the election date or change how or the manner we vote. Furthermore, if an emergency circumstance occurs but not a state of emergency, the State Board may petition the circuit court to take remedial actions in the public interest and to protect the integrity of the electoral process. Again, the authority rests with the State, not FEMA. The President, DHS or FEMA has no constitutional or statutory authority to take over Maryland's elections and electoral processes during a state of emergency or emergency circumstances.

Once again, Maryland's voter registration process and integrity have been called into question especially with regard to citizenship. As State Administrator of Elections, I want to reassure all Marylanders that the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) and our local election officials are unwavering in their commitment to maintaining an accurate, secure, and trustworthy voter registration list, fully compliant with both federal and State laws.

As State Administrator, I am legally charged with maintaining the accuracy and currency of the statewide voter registration list. This is a responsibility I do not take lightly. It is a privilege and honor to safeguard the right to vote. Public trust in the electoral process is paramount. It is the bedrock of our democracy and the foundation for any elected government.

*Voter registration list maintenance is not a static process. It is a daily effort with continuous updates and changes. In respect to citizenship updates, Maryland law sets forth two specific instances where SBE can act on information about potential noncitizens. The Administrative Office of the Court (AOC) sends SBE information about potential jurors who indicated they did not qualify for jury service because they were not a U.S. citizen, and SBE also accepts self-reporting directly from individuals. Before any individual is removed from the statewide voter registration list based on an AOC report, SBE verifies the information by sending a **written notification** to the individual requesting confirmation of their citizenship status.*

If information is received from a third party source regarding citizenship status of a registered voter, that information cannot be confirmed by SBE. Since SBE cannot take any administrative action to remove or cancel the individual based upon these third party reports, SBE forwards that information to the Office of the State Prosecutor (OSP) for further investigation.

Maryland's detailed and legally circumscribed process for removing a voter from the registration list is designed to be absolutely certain and remove any doubt in the cancellation. Without the necessary verification steps required by State law, election officials cannot cancel a voter registration record.

This office will not disenfranchise a voter based upon partial or unsubstantiated evidence. The right to vote is a sacred right that has been expanded through the sacrifices of many before us. Maryland does not want to erect artificial barriers in registering to vote or voting, nor does it want you to re-register to vote due to an improper or illegal cancellation. Remember voting is not an entitlement nor benefit program created or established by the government, but a constitutional right embedded in the principles of our nation's foundation, our Constitution and the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

Regarding the issue of SAVE (Systemic Alien Verification for Entitlements) and the possibility of mandating its use for verification of citizenship in the voter registration process, Maryland does not use the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) SAVE database in the voter registration or list maintenance processes. SAVE isn't designed and purposed for voter registration nor to assist in maintaining voter roll accuracy. Additionally, Maryland law does not provide SAVE as a permissible means for list maintenance. Furthermore, the SAVE database has been reported to produce erroneous information about registered voters' citizenship. Using SAVE could disenfranchise qualified voters. This is contrary to the intent of Maryland law that ensures the maximum number of eligible individuals can register rather than disenfranchising eligible individuals with unnecessary burdens to exercising their constitutional right to vote.

The State Administrator and SBE staff oversee our cybersecurity defensive efforts against bad actors, not the federal government or CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency). Our security team is an integral part of our daily operations and public facing voter services ensuring the highest levels of awareness and preparedness. Periodic updates on our security posture are presented to the bipartisan State Board members. Moreover, SBE works closely and collaboratively with our State partners as well as other states for sharing alerts on possible cyberthreats. This collaboration does not impair nor undermine our independence and nonpartisan mission.

Finally, every eligible Marylander is the right person to vote. Their voice will determine who will govern our State. Elections from all the votes cast decide the right leaders for Maryland's future. And every vote cast is counted. As our Declaration of Rights states so distinctly and clearly: "the right of the People to participate in the Legislature is the best security of liberty and the foundation of all free Government; . . . and every citizen having the qualifications prescribed by the Constitution, ought to have the right of suffrage."

As I stated before, Marylanders should feel confident in our election administration. Always verify the information you hear or see whether on social media, from a friend, or any other source with the trusted source of electoral information, the Maryland State Board of Elections. SBE ensures Marylanders can exercise their constitutional right in a verified, open, transparent and empowering manner that is safe and secure.

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