



CAROLINE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

Phone: (410) 479-8145

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Email: election@carolinemd.org

www.carolinemdelections.org

Caroline County Board of Elections Meeting
403 S. 7th Street, Suite 111, Denton, MD 21629
April 10, 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. March 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. Memo from MD Republican Party re: compliance with MD Code, EL 10-20 & SBE Policy 2025-04, Election Judge Parity
 - b. Memo from MD State Ethics Commission: Ethics Law Requirements for Board of Election Members (6/13/2025)
 - c. Press Release: The Maryland State Board of Elections Uses National Problem Gambling Awareness Month to Educate the Public on an Important Topic (3/20/2026)
 - d. Press Release: The Maryland State Board of Elections announces the launch of their voter resource phone app, Go Vote Maryland! (3/25/2026)
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, March 13, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

In Attendance:

James Bilbrough II, Board President
Suzanne Campos, Board Vice President
Margaret Thompson, Board Member
Walter Palmer, Board Attorney

Allison Murphy, Election Director
Larry Thomas, Election Program Specialist

Absent:

Angel Perez, Board Member
Dana Callahan, Board Member

Guests:

No guests were present.

Declaration of Quorum Present

Mr. Bilbrough called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. and stated that there was a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2026

Ms. Campos made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, with corrections. Mrs. Thompson 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.

Mrs. Murphy shared the revised FY27 budget request with the County Commissioners during the budget roundtable on 3/3/2026. There were very few questions from the commissioners as they understand much of our budget is out of our control.

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 February and March 2026 were provided. Mr. Bilbrough noted a spacing issue that needed to be made in the totals section.

Election Judges:

Mrs. Murphy provided the required Election Judge Assignment Report dated 3/4/2026, showing parity between the two principal political parties.

Election Administration

Mrs. Murphy reviewed items that staff are working on for the upcoming election. Election judges' supply bag packing has begun. Early voting forms have been customized and are ready to be proofed. Election day forms are in the process of being customized.

The 2026 Election Judge Manual has been customized with county specific edits and submitted to SBE for approval. Once approval is given, Mrs. Murphy will send the manual to the printing company.

Mrs. Murphy has begun working on the 2026 Primary Election specimen ballot using the State's template.

Mrs. Murphy explained the Risk Limiting Audit (RLA) process. She stated that staff completed a training of the RLA process and it went smoothly.

Mrs. Murphy submitted Caroline County's 2026 Disaster Recovery Plan to SBE.

Legislation

Mrs. Murphy discussed providing written and oral testimony to the Education, Energy & the Environment Committee in favor of SB443. This bill would allow an attorney who does not reside in the County to serve as counsel for a Board of Elections. We are hopeful that this bill will pass.

She also reviewed other proposed election-related legislation.

Candidate Filing:

Twenty-nine candidates have filed for local offices. The Board of Education, District 3 contest only had 2 candidates file, so we will not have a non-partisan ballot for the 2026 Primary Election. This contest will go straight to the General Election ballot.

Board Member's Report/Disclosure of Campaign Contributions

No report.

Board Attorney's Report

Mr. Palmer thanked Mrs. Murphy for her testimony on SB443. He will provide the name of someone who previously expressed interest in serving as the Board Attorney.

Old Business

No old business to discuss.

New Business

Appointment of the 2026 Primary Election Judges

Mrs. Murphy asked for the Board’s approval to appoint the election judges for the 2026 Primary Election. Mrs. Thompson made the motion to appoint the 2026 election judges. Ms. Campos seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Press Release: The MD Administrator of Elections Addresses Mis/Disinformation of the “Nationalism of Elections”

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

Ms. Campos asked if a link to these press releases could be added to our website so members of the public could be referred there if they have questions. Mrs. Murphy stated she would link SBE’s press release webpage to our website.

Public Comments

No public comment.

Schedule the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Health & Public Services Building, 403 S. 7th Street, Suite 111, Denton, Maryland.

Adjournment

Mrs. Thompson made a motion to adjourn the open meeting; Ms. Campos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bilbrough adjourned the open meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Signed: _____
Ms. Tammy Willis
Election Program Specialist

Approved: _____
Mr. James Bilbrough, II
Board President

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Election Director's Report

April 10, 2026

Administration/Meetings

- Staff virtually attended multiple SBE/MAEO committee meetings.
- MD State Ethics Disclosure filings are due 4/30/2026.
- Staff viewed the new voting system demonstration provided by ES&S in Kent Island on 3/23/2026.

Voter Registration

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

Election Judges

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

Election Administration

- Election supply packing continues.
- Election day forms are ready to be proofed/printed.
- Election Judge Manual has been sent to the printing company.
- Specimen Ballot is being worked on.
- Ballot proofing has been completed.
- The ballot order has been sent to SBE.
- Quarterly equipment charging is taking place.
- Meeting with the Transportation company took place.
- Documents that met the State retention schedule were shredded.
- The website was updated to add a link to SBE's press room webpage.
- Preparation for election judge training has begun.
- Letters were sent to 139 underage voters on 4/2/2026.
- Multiple towns have elections this month. We will provide them with their voter lists.
- During the 5/8/2026 Board meeting, Board Members will:
 - Pick polling places for supply verification and schedule a date
 - Schedule nursing home visits to assist with mail-in ballots
 - Be sworn in as the Board of Canvassers (10:00 a.m.)
 - Receive their election day schedule

Legislation

- SB443 – Local Board of Elections – Board Counsel – Qualifications
 - Unanimously passed the Senate and crossed over to the House. It was presented to the Government, Labor and Elections (House) Committee on 4/1/2026.
- Several election related bills have been introduced and are being monitored by MAEO.

MARCH 2026

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

Precinct Voter Counts Report

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

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

APRIL 2026

Board of Elections: Caroline
User Name : Murphy, Allison M

Precinct Voter Counts Report

Date : 04/01/2026
Report No. : DP-007

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

	TOTAL	DEM	REP	GRN	WCP	UNA	OTHERS
Dist/Prec: 01001	1604	299	838	0	5	429	33
Dist/Prec: 02001	4230	939	2173	9	7	1031	71
Dist/Prec: 03001	5596	1713	2494	6	8	1303	72
Dist/Prec: 04001	2947	732	1518	2	5	649	41
Dist/Prec: 05001	3281	1070	1308	7	10	818	68
Dist/Prec: 06001	1720	364	973	4	1	352	26
Dist/Prec: 07001	3047	782	1530	6	2	677	50
Dist/Prec: 08001	1589	298	924	2	1	344	20
Grand Total	24014	6197	11758	36	39	5603	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
06EY01	87	8	8	0	7	8	1	8	6	2	15	16	0	5	3	0	0
Early Voting																	
001-001	11	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0
Goldsboro Fire Hall																	
002-001	12	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0
Greensboro VFC Community Hall																	
003-001	12	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
Denton Fire Hall																	
004-001	12	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0
Preston Fire Hall																	
005-001	12	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0
Federalsburg Fire Hall																	
006-001	11	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
Hillsboro Town Hall																	
007-001	12	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0
Ridgely Fire Hall																	
008-001	11	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
Col. Richardson High School																	
TOTAL		16	16	0	14	20	3	16	13	3	33	30	0	9	7	0	0
		32	37	32	63	16											

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



MARYLAND
REPUBLICAN
PARTY

9a.

March 12, 2026

CAROLINE CO BRD OF ELE
MAR 24 '26 AM9:01

Ms. Margaret Ann Thompson
Caroline County
403 S. Seventh St Suite 247
Denton, MD 21629

Ms. Suzanne Campos
Ms. Margaret A. Thompson
Mr. James Bilbrough, II
Ms. Dana Callahan
Ms. Allison Murphy, Director

Dear Caroline County Board of Elections Members & Election Director,

On behalf of the Maryland Republican Party, I want to express our sincere appreciation for the continued work of your local Board of Elections in administering fair, transparent, and orderly elections. We share that commitment, and would welcome the opportunity to support your efforts by helping to recruit qualified Republican volunteers who are willing to serve as election judges.

Attached with this note is a letter from our Maryland GOP General Counsel reviewing election judge parity requirements.

One of the key principles that strengthens confidence in our election system is the commitment to partisan parity in the administration of elections. Ensuring that both major political parties are represented at polling places helps reinforce transparency, accountability, and public trust in the electoral process. Both our local party and the Maryland GOP are committed to assist in identifying individuals who are prepared to take on this responsibility and contribute to the integrity of the election process.

Our goal is to establish a clear channel of communication on this and all election integrity related issues. We look forward to partnering with you on this important effort and stand ready to assist.

Thank you again for your service and commitment to this critical responsibility.

Sincerely,
Nicole Beus Harris
Chairwoman, MDGOP

cc: County Republican Party

George S. Robinson, IV, General Counsel
grobinson@robinsonfirmllc.com



MARYLAND
REPUBLICAN
PARTY

CARDLINE CO BRD OF ELE
MAR 24 '26 AM9:01

9a.

March 6, 2026

VIA U.S. and Electronic Mail

Jared De Marinis, Director
Maryland State Board of Elections
151 West Street
Suite 200
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Republican Election Judge Applicants & Compliance with MD Code, Election Law § 10-201 (Effective October 1, 2025) and Policy 2025-04

Dear Director DeMarinis:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Maryland Republican Party regarding Republican election judge applicants and their compliance with the above-referenced election laws and policies. Our primary objective is to address the issues and proposals related to electoral parity set forth below.

We wish to emphasize the importance of ensuring fair and equitable electoral processes. There are several key areas where improvements are necessary to achieve this goal. We urge the Board to consider these recommendations seriously and to implement changes that will enhance the integrity and fairness of our elections.

A prime example is the language promulgated in Section 10-201(b)(1), effective October 1, 2025, which states:

“Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, to the extent practicable, each polling place shall have an equal number of election judges, including chief judges designated under § 10-203, from: (i) the majority party; and

(ii) the principal minority party.” Although the statute now includes the phrase “to the extent practicable,” this language does not dilute the obligation. It imposes a duty of affirmative effort and documented good-faith compliance. Parity remains the governing standard.

Where parity is not achieved, the Board must be prepared to demonstrate that it took all reasonable efforts to secure a balanced representation of the Parties. This is crucial for maintaining public confidence in the electoral system.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF MARYLANDWES MOORE
GOVERNOR**COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

CRAIG D. ROSWELL, *Chair*
 KAREN D. MORGAN
 MARIELA OLIVARES
 JAMES N. ROBAY, JR.
 GENEAU M. THAMES

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

45 CALVERT STREET, 3rd FLOOR
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
 410-260-7770 / 1-877-669-6085
<https://ethics.maryland.gov>

JENNIFER K. ALLGAIR
Executive Director
 WILLIAM J. COLQUHOUN
General Counsel
 KATHERINE P. THOMPSON
Staff Counsel
 ANA L. HENRY
Assistant General Counsel
 PANSY S. WATSON
Assistant Counsel

June 13, 2025

TO: Central Committee Members**SUBJECT: Ethics Law Requirements for Board of Election Members**

Members serving on boards and commissions subject to the Public Ethics Law (Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Article, Title 5) are "public officials," and, for the purpose of board activities, have a fiduciary responsibility to the State and are bound by the conflict of interest provisions of the law. This includes all members of the local boards of elections. The nature of the member's employment and his or her role in that organization will have an impact on the degree of potential conflicts of interest related to board responsibilities. Additional restrictions may be set by local boards or by the State Board of Elections. For purposes of appointments, Election Law 2-301 states that any individual serving as an Election Board member "may not...hold or be a candidate for any elective public or political party office or any other office created under the Constitution or laws of this State, use the individual's official authority for the purpose of influencing or affecting the result of an election, or...be a campaign manager...treasurer...or take any other active part in political management or a political campaign."

Section 5-501 of the Public Ethics Law states that a board or commission member is required to recuse him or herself if the board is considering a matter that would have a specific impact on the member's employer or on an entity in which the member has an ownership interest. A board or commission member is also required to recuse him or herself if the board is considering a matter that would have a specific impact on a qualifying relative, which includes a parent, child, sibling, or a spouse.

Generally, disqualification is not required as to matters in which a qualifying relative or an employer is only generally interested, but recusal is required as to those matters in which the board member's qualifying relative or their employer has some specific and clearly defined interest that is unique, or nearly unique, to it. If that nonparticipation creates a quorum issue, then the board member can participate or act, as long as they disclose the nature and circumstances of the conflict. In these instances, the appearance of a possible conflict of interest can remain even after the board member discloses the conflict to participate. The Commission advises the board that the determination of whether the integrity of the agency will be affected in a negative way is within the board's discretion at that point and beyond the Commission's jurisdiction. There are times when appearance issues cannot be alleviated completely. In those instances, the local board of elections will have to decide how best to mitigate some of those potential appearance issues.

Section 5-502 of the Ethics Law recognizes that persons appointed to boards or commissions may have affiliations resulting in prohibited conflicts of interest. The law allows these individuals to be appointed despite these otherwise disqualifying affiliations provided they file public "time of

appointment” exemption forms with the Commission disclosing the conflict to the appointing authority and the Senate, if confirmation is required. The decision to accept the conflict and make the appointment under these particular disclosure procedures is the function of the appointing authority rather than the State Ethics Commission, although the Commission does have a role in determining the scope of the exemption. The exemption process is available only for **conflicts that exist at the time of appointment** and does not apply to conflicts that develop after appointment. Generally, board memberships on private entities (both for profit and non-profit), even if non-compensated, are considered employment for the purposes of the Public Ethics Law. While private board membership conflicts most often occur in grant or procurement situations, they also may occur in other situations in which people are on professional or trade association boards.

Lobbyists may serve on boards and commissions provided that, within 5 days of the dual status, the member/lobbyist discloses to the Commission their relationships with the state and entities doing business with or before the state, among multiple additional disclosures. Additionally, the regulated member/lobbyist shall update the information required to reflect the lobbyist’s current registrations throughout each reporting period, and, whenever an issue arises within the board or commission related to the disclosed information, the regulated member/lobbyist shall submit a statement, on the record of the board or commission, of recusal from, discussion of, voting on, or any other action required by the circumstances concerning the issue.

Section 5-609 requires members of boards and commissions that are not purely advisory to file annual public financial disclosure statements. Board members generally file the Form 2 financial disclosure statement, which is due annually by April 30th. Initial filings, within 30 days of appointment, and end of service filings, within 60 days of leaving the board, are also required.

This memorandum highlights some of the provisions that will affect all proposed candidates to local boards of elections. This should serve as a resource so that board members are aware, in advance of their appointment, of their limitations and requirements under the Public Ethics Law. The State Ethics Commission may be contacted for advice by any potential or current board members at (410)260-7770 or ethics.public@maryland.gov.



Jared DeMarinis
State Administrator

Katherine Berry
Deputy Administrator

Michael Summers,
Chairman
Jim Shalleck, Vice
Chairman
Diane Butler
Victoria Jackson-
Stanley
Eric Bryant

9c.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Maryland State Board of Elections Uses National Problem Gambling Awareness Month to Educate the Public on an Important Topic

Annapolis, MD (March 20, 2026) — March is **National Problem Gambling Awareness Month**. While the State Board of Elections takes no position on gambling or iGaming, it is important to inform the public regarding wagering on the outcome of Maryland elections.

Gambling on elections is illegal in Maryland. A person may not make a bet or wager on election results. Unlike sports betting, which is regulated and permitted through licensed operators, betting on elections is not authorized and falls outside the scope of legal gambling activities. Maryland law is designed to protect the integrity and public trust of the electoral processes. Engaging in election-related wagering within the State could expose individuals to legal penalties.

Despite this prohibition, some platforms, known as prediction markets, operate in a limited, regulated capacity at the federal level. These platforms are structured differently from traditional gambling sites and are framed as “forecasting” rather than betting. These platforms allow users to trade contracts based on the outcomes of events, including elections.

It is important for Maryland residents to understand that even though such platforms are accessible online, participation may still conflict with state law. Users should exercise caution and stay informed about both state and federal regulations before engaging with any prediction market involving elections. At best, engaging in these election prediction markets goes against the spirit and intent of the prohibition and at worst, it is wagering on electoral outcomes and carries criminal and civil penalties.

Again, the integrity of elections must be preserved. Financial incentives should not influence or appear to influence election results. Artificial online markets don't determine electoral outcomes; only voters using their voice can determine electoral outcomes.

Please remember to rely on your state and local government election officials as your trusted sources for election information. Visit SBE's [website](#), follow SBE on social media, or contact your local elections office for accurate election information. Report any suspicious information to SBE's disinformation [portal](#).

###

Media Contacts:

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Lexy Rhoden, morgan.rhoden@maryland.gov 443-924-1644



Jared DeMarinis
State Administrator

Katherine Berry
Deputy Administrator

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Chairman
Jim Shalleck, Vice
Chairman
Diane Butler
Victoria Jackson-
Stanley
Eric Bryant

9d.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Maryland State Board of Elections announces the launch of their voter resource phone app, Go Vote Maryland!

Annapolis, MD (March 25, 2026) — The Maryland State Board of Elections is excited to announce the launch of their voter resource phone app, Go Vote Maryland! Go Vote MD was developed through a collaborative effort involving researchers and students from the Empowering Secure Elections research lab Towson University and the Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement at the University of Maryland, in partnership with the Maryland State Board of Elections. The free app is now available for download on the [Google Play store](#) and the [Apple store](#).

The Go Vote Maryland! app aims to be the voter's new go-to source for election information! The app was designed to help voters easily access important, trusted information right at their fingertips. On the app, voters can view the election calendar, report misinformation, find their voting location, check their voter registration, get answers to frequently asked questions and more.

"We're excited about the release of this app. The app will be an invaluable tool helping voters access pertinent information to use their voice in the upcoming election," said Jared DeMarinis, State Administrator of Elections. "The Maryland State Board of Elections continues to prioritize voter outreach, voter education and election transparency. This app is another tool in our mission to ensure elections are verified, open, transparent and empowering."

Please remember to rely on your state and local government election officials as your trusted sources for election information. Visit SBE's [website](#), follow SBE on social media, download our new app, Go Vote Maryland, or contact your local elections office for accurate election information. Report any suspicious information to SBE's disinformation [portal](#).

XXXX

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Lexy Rhoden, morgan.rhoden@maryland.gov 443-924-1644

