



Carroll County Board of Elections



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Carroll County Board of Elections Board Minutes July 15, 2026

Present

Board

Samuel Foster, President, in person
Karen Donaldson, Vice-President, in person
Mitch Edelman, Secretary, in person
Gina Miller, Member, in person,
Ben Watson, Member, in person
Jay Gullo, Attorney, virtual

Staff

Erin Perrone, Election Director, in person
Jennifer Bartholow, Deputy Director, in person

Public

Cheryl Steinbacher, League of Women Voters Carroll County, in person

Call to Order & Declaration of Quorum

Mr. Foster called the meeting to order at 10:01 am and declared a quorum was present.

Welcome

Mr. Foster welcomed the members of the public who were in attendance, Ms. Steinbacher.

Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Foster asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the May 20, 2026, meeting on a motion from Mr. Edelman, seconded by Ms. Donaldson. The motion was carried out unanimously.

The Board approved the minutes of the June 23, 2026, meeting on a motion from Mr. Edelman, seconded by Ms. Donaldson. The motion was carried out unanimously.

Correspondence

Mr. Foster asked if there were any correspondence to share. Ms. Perrone shared an announcement from the Carroll County Board of Elections office regarding the Risk-Limiting Audit (RLA). The RLA is scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2026, at 9 am. The announcement details the audit process and outlines the rules of conduct for post-election risk-limiting audit observers.

Attorney Report

Mr. Gullo had nothing new to report. He plans to discuss lessons learned from the primary election with attorneys from other counties and will report back afterward.

Election Director's Report

Public Information Requests

- Nothing to report

Important Meetings and Events

- July 16th – Erin & Jen – Collaboration Meeting with SBE
- July 22nd – Deadline to complete Risk Limiting Audit (RLA)
- July 23rd – Statewide Certification of Results
- July 23rd – State Board Meeting at 2 pm
- August 19th – Board Meeting @ 10 am

Ms. Perrone stated that the Town of Mt Airy will have a special election in the fall since Mayor Hushour is retiring effective 8/31/26. Ms. Perrone spoke to the Elections Administrator, Holly McDaniels, regarding details about having a special election during the general election. Ms. Perrone will be attending a meeting of the Mt Airy elections team in the coming weeks.

Voter Registration

- Monthly statistical reports are available on our website. The link to the reports is <https://elections.carrollcountymd.gov/monthlyStats.aspx>.

As of 06/30/2026	DEM	REP	UNA & OTHER	TOTAL
Active Voters	32,973	64,336	34,460	131,769
Inactive Voters	1,659	3,248	2,111	7,018
TOTAL	34,632	67,584	36,571	138,787

Volunteer Registration Virtual Training

- Nothing to report

Mail-in Ballots

2026 Gubernatorial General Election

Date	Total MIBs	Domestic	UOCAVA	Non- Perm MIBs	Perm MIBs	Mailed	Print-at- Home	In Person	Agent	Large Print
07/08/2026	15,832	15,701	131	301	15,531	14,109	1,719	2	1	1

Election Judges

- Developing refresher training
- Developing refresher training schedule
- Providing election judge parity report

Ms. Bartholow shared the statistics for the primary election:

- 465 election judges hired – 198 Democratic, 195 Republican, 72 Other
- 344 returning election judges
- 194 election judges quit; some will return for the general election

IT/Warehouse

- Cleaning up from the primary election
- Getting everything ready for the general election

Legislation

- Nothing to report
- General Assembly having a special session. Redistricting would not take effect until the 2028 election.

Personnel

- Performance Evaluation Program (PEPs) – due in June for all employees – deadline extended to July due to the election
- Primary lessons learned – will implement some new practices as discussed

County Government

- Nothing to report
- Erin will be speaking during open session at the Carroll County Commissioners meeting on July 30, 2026, at 10 am to thank everyone who assisted in the election process.

2026 Gubernatorial Primary

- Certification – Monday, July 6th
- Primary Lessons Learned – Thursday, July 9th
- Recount – Deadline was Thursday, July 9th at 4:30 pm
- Risk-Limiting Audit – Monday, July 20th at 9 am

2026 Board Meetings

- August 19, 2026
- September 16, 2026
- October 21, 2026 - ?
- November 18, 2026
- December 16, 2026

2026 Gubernatorial General Elections – Important Dates

- Pre-Election Day MIB Canvass – Tuesday, October 13, 2026
- General Advanced Deadline to Register – Tuesday, October 13, 2026
- General Early Voting – Thursday, October 22 through Thursday, October 29, 2026
- General Election – Tuesday, November 3, 2026
- Early Voting and MIB Pre-Election Day Canvass – Tuesday, November 3, 2026 @ 2 pm
- Pick precincts for post-election verification and audits-Tuesday, November 3, 2026, after 8 pm
- MIB Canvass 1 – Thursday, November 5, 2026
- Provisional Canvass – Thursday, November 12, 2026 (Usually 2nd Wednesday but that is Veteran's Day)
- MIB Canvass 2 & Certification – Friday, November 13, 2026

Unfinished Business

There is no unfinished business.

New Business

a. Discussion – Ballot Drop Box in Hampstead/Manchester Area

Ms. Perrone emailed Hampstead Mayor Nevin asking for the contact information for the landlord of the North Carroll Plaza where the North Carroll Senior Center is located. Mayor Nevin contacted Mr. John Peters directly. Ms. Perrone reached out to Mr. Peters who is willing to allow the ballot drop box to be placed outside of the North Carroll Senior Center for the 2026 general election. Mr. Peters is aware that candidate signs would be placed on the property. Ms. Donaldson asked if the other businesses in the complex are aware of this. Ms. Perrone will contact Mr. Peters to find out this information.

b. Discussion – Observation Area during Canvass

Mr. Watson has no concerns about the allotted area.

Ms. Donaldson has concerns about there not being caution tape on the floor. She has spoken with other counties who had to alter their setup to accommodate watchers. Mr. Foster remarked that we need to focus on Carroll County and not how other counties run their canvass.

Mr. Edelman suggested that the tables need to be rotated, and the space used more wisely.

Mr. Gullo suggested getting a document viewer so the challengers and watchers as well as the board could see the items being discussed all at the same time instead of individually. Mr. Watson stated that the board should not be engaging in conversation with the challengers and watchers. Ms. Perrone stated that the board needs to maintain control of the challengers and watchers. Mr. Gullo reminded the board that a challenge form should be completed by the challengers and watchers if they would like further discussion.

Mr. Watson asked about the watchers being allowed to video record and the concerns of voter privacy. What guidance does SBE offer? Mr. Gullo replied that while most watchers used decorum some chose to video the faces of the election judges, which is not acceptable. He would like guidance from SBE.

c. Discussion – Westminster Senior Center - Review of No Electioneering Zone

Ms. Perrone detailed phone calls and emails she received from voters, elected officials and staff at the Westminster Senior Center. There were numerous complaints about the no electioneering zone not being sufficient. The path of the current lines allows electioneers to stand directly in the line of traffic flow and is causing handicapped parking spaces to be blocked. Ms. Perrone consulted with Deputy State Administrator and former Carroll County Director Katherine Berry as well as former Carroll County Deputy Director Paula Troxell on changes that were made to the no electioneering zone at Westminster Senior Center during the time they were on staff. Ms. Perrone proposed a revision to the no electioneering zone that would prohibit electioneers from blocking the handicapped parking areas and to eliminate the public in direct flow of traffic. An increase in 'no electioneering' signs may be necessary.

Mr. Edelman pointed out that there is also a concern at the South Carroll Senior Center as well as Sykesville Middle School.

The board can revisit this topic in August.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions

Ms. Miller disclosed a \$73 contribution in addition to the recurring campaign contribution to Maryland State Delegate Dayana Bergman for \$10.80 per month, \$25 contribution to Johnny Olszewski, \$37 contribution to Jamie Raskin, \$27 contribution to Sharon Wilhide and \$10 contribution to Wes Moore.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting scheduled is August 19, 2026, at 10 am.

Adjournment – Open Meeting

The motion for adjournment was made at 11:12 am by Ms. Donaldson and seconded by Mr. Watson. The motion passed unanimously.