

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

#### **In Person Attendance Board Members:**

David A. Naimon, President  
Daniel A. Koroma, Vice President  
Amoretta (Amie) M. Hoeber, Secretary  
Keyna I. Anyiam, Board Member  
Alexander C. Vincent, Board Member  
Margie C. Delao, Substitute Member  
Lawrence J. Halloran, Substitute Member

#### **Virtual Attendance Board Attorney:**

Kevin Karpinski

#### **Staff Attendance:**

Boris Brajkovic, Election Director  
Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist  
Sandra Prudenti, Voter Services Manager  
Janet Ross, Voting Systems and Information Technology Manager  
Mindy Williams, Operations Manager  
Gilberto Zelaya, Outreach Coordinator/Public Information Officer

A video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the following link:

[February 2, 2026 Board Meeting Audio and Video](#)

#### **Convene Board of Elections Meeting (00:04)**

Mr. Naimon called the meeting of the Board of Elections to order at 3:00 P.M. and declared a quorum present.

#### **President's Remarks (00:24)**

Mr. Naimon thanked Board members and staff for their participation in the annual staff appreciation lunch held earlier that day. He noted that the event has become an annual tradition to recognize staff contributions and stated that the Board was honored to be joined by former County Executive Isaiah "Ike" Leggett and former Congresswoman Connie Morella, who addressed the staff. Mr. Naimon expressed appreciation to all involved in making the event successful.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda (1:40)**

Mr. Brajkovic requested and Mr. Naimon agreed that an item concerning the language assistance program and a related waiver request be discussed under New Business later in the meeting. No other additions or changes to the agenda were proposed.

**Disclosure of Campaign Contributions and Fundraiser Attendance (5:35)**

No disclosures were made.

**Public Comments (5:50)**

Download the [Public Comments](#) from Mr. Michael Fletcher.

During the public comment period, Michael Fletcher addressed the Board regarding voter registration list maintenance and the accuracy of Maryland's voter rolls. Mr. Fletcher stated that he has provided public comments to the Board since 2022 concerning duplicate registrations, deceased voters, and voters who may have moved out of the county or state. He asserted that, in his view, existing processes have not resulted in meaningful improvements to list accuracy.

Mr. Fletcher referenced litigation filed by the Republican National Committee and the Maryland Republican Party, stating that the lawsuit alleges inaccurate voter registration lists impede voter outreach and could enable improper voting. He further asserted that inflated voter rolls could dilute valid votes. Mr. Fletcher cited a January 12, 2026, media advisory issued by the Board and stated that he believed it reflected the position that existing list maintenance processes are sufficient. He advised that he submitted more detailed written comments for the record due to time limitations.

Mr. Naimon responded that he disagreed with several of Mr. Fletcher's assertions. He clarified that the January 12 media advisory was intended to summarize existing practices and correct public misunderstandings, not to claim that election administration cannot be improved. Mr. Naimon emphasized that the Board remains open to improving processes while balancing voter access, list accuracy, and compliance with federal and state law. He cautioned against assumptions that same-day registration eliminates the harm of erroneous removals, noting that discovering one's registration is missing at a polling place can be a negative experience for voters.

Mr. Naimon further stated that allegations of vote dilution require factual support and reiterated that the Board must rely on verified, legally permissible processes rather than speculation or generalized assumptions.

Mr. Vincent asked Mr. Fletcher whether he could identify specific actions that the Board could legally take, under existing Maryland law, that it is not already undertaking. Mr. Fletcher responded that reliance on ERIC is limited because not all states participate and suggested that other data analysis methods may identify duplicate or outdated registrations. Mr. Naimon responded that ERIC is one tool among many and shared examples illustrating its benefits and limitations when voters move to non-ERIC states.

Mr. Naimon and Mr. Vincent emphasized the need for specific, legally permissible actions rather than third-party analyses that could be selective or inconsistent. Mr. Fletcher stated that he would consider the question further and return to a future meeting with more specific recommendations. The Board thanked Mr. Fletcher for his comments.

### **Election Director's Report (20:10)**

Download the [Election Director's Report](#) for February 2026.

Mr. Brajkovic reported that all meeting materials were distributed and published in advance. He reviewed voter registration statistics, noting a decline in registrations during December attributable to routine list maintenance, outreach emails, ERIC and NCOA data processing, and seasonal trends. The county currently has just over 702,000 registered voters.

Mr. Brajkovic reported that the State Board of Elections unanimously approved Montgomery County's 2026 Election Plan on December 18, 2025. He also advised that the State Board approved a new electronic poll book vendor for future elections beginning in 2028 and that Montgomery County will continue using existing equipment for the 2026 elections.

He reported that, pursuant to legislation enacted in 2025, the State Election Administrator identified additional languages (Chinese, Amharic and Vietnamese) for which Montgomery County must provide voter assistance. He also reported on a new State Board policy requiring monthly reporting on election judge party parity, noting that no parity data is available yet because training has not begun.

Mr. Brajkovic provided updates on staffing, budget status, vote-by-mail list maintenance, candidate filing, voting system maintenance, warehouse preparation, outreach and recruitment, training updates, and coordination with USPS and media outreach efforts.

### **Board Attorney's Report (1:00:18)**

Board Attorney Kevin Karpinski reported on a lawsuit filed by four plaintiffs, including the Republican National Committee (RNC), against [the](#) State Board of Election, the Howard County Board of Elections, and the Montgomery County Board of Elections. The lawsuit asserts a violation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), alleging inadequate voter registration list maintenance practices. Mr. Karpinski informed the Board that on Friday, January 30, 2026, all defendants filed a motion to dismiss, adding that the Democratic National Committee also moved to intervene in the case and filed a motion to dismiss. Mr. Karpinski does not anticipate the matter will be decided before October 2026.

### **2026 Election Legislation Update (1:08:12)**

Download the [legislation tracking report](#) as of January 28, 2026.

Mr. Naimon provided an update on election-related legislation pending before the Maryland General Assembly. He identified local legislation concerning the substitute members of the Montgomery County Board of Elections, as well as additional bills scheduled for hearings in the House of Delegates and Senate that could affect election administration. The Education, Elections, and Housing Committee of the Montgomery County Delegation of the Maryland House of Delegates will meet on February 4, 2026, to discuss the bill pertaining to the Montgomery County Board of Elections substitute board members.

Mr. Naimon first discussed House Bill 156 (HB0156), which would authorize a voter who is unaffiliated with a political party to request to affiliate with a political party at an early voting center during a primary election and to vote a provisional ballot for the voter's preferred political party on that day. Mr. Naimon noted that this emergency bill addresses the ability of unaffiliated voters to participate in partisan primaries and that its hearing is scheduled in the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee. Several Board Members raised concerns regarding the administrative burden that this bill would place on the Montgomery County Board of Elections, including the number of Provisional Ballots that would be issued.

Mr. Naimon requested formal authorization from the Board to testify on an informational basis on behalf of the Montgomery County Board of Elections on House Bill 156 and the administrative impacts the bill would have.

Ms. Hoeber made a motion to authorize Mr. Naimon to testify on behalf of the Montgomery County Board of Elections regarding House Bill 156 and offer insight on the logistical impact this bill would have on the Montgomery County Board of Elections without taking a stance on the bill. The motion was seconded by Ms. Delao and passed unanimously.

#### **Website Update (1:47:00)**

Download the [Website Usage Statistics Report](#) for February 2026.

Mr. Brajkovic provided a brief update on website accessibility and coordination with county partners to ensure the Board's website remains compliant and accessible. Website usage is trending up as the 2026 election cycle approaches and will continue to rise. Mr. Naimon requested that information regarding the March 16, 2026, Board meeting, during which the Board will meet candidates and campaigns for the 2026 primary election, be prominently displayed on the Board's homepage.

#### **Outreach Update (1:49:56)**

Download the [list of outreach events](#) for December 2025 and January 2026.

Dr. Zelaya reported on outreach and recruitment efforts, including renewed engagement with schools, community groups, and election worker recruitment activities as preparations for the 2026 election cycle increase.

Additionally, Dr. Zelaya highlighted a recent media tour of the new Training and Canvass Center. While media coverage was limited due to weather-related events, Dr. Zelaya expressed optimism regarding future coverage.

**Old Business (1:55:10)**

No old business was discussed.

**New Business (1:55:16)**

Mr. Brajkovic formally requested the Board's approval to seek a waiver from the State Board of Elections to provide expanded language assistance beyond the requirements of the new language assistance program. He explained the operational plan to provide translated voter guides on the Board's website and stated that Board approval was required before submitting the waiver request.

Mr. Naimon moved to authorize Mr. Brajkovic to provide supplemental assistance for any additional languages as determined to be within the capacity and means of the County and to apply for and complete any necessary waivers from the State in order to do so.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Halloran and passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes (2:07:00)**

Ms. Hoeber moved to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on December 15, 2025, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koroma and passed unanimously.

**Future Action Items (2:08:51)**

- Staff will publish information about the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting with campaigns and candidates on the Board's website.
- Dr. Zelaya will continue to monitor media coverage regarding the Board of Elections.
- Staff and Board will schedule a meeting with Postmasters around April.

**Future Meetings (2:09:20)**

All meetings begin at 3:00 P.M. unless otherwise indicated. Dates and times are subject to change.

- Monday, March 16, 2026 (Virtual, including meeting with candidates and campaigns)
- Monday, April 20, 2026 (Format TBD)
- Monday, May 18, 2026 (Format TBD)

**Adjournment (2:10:01)**

Ms. Anyiam moved to adjourn the public meeting of the Board of Elections and move into an executive session for the Board to protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business and to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a proceeding or matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vincent and passed unanimously. The public meeting of the Board of Elections was adjourned at 5:14 P.M.

**Report on Executive Session**

The Montgomery County Board of Elections moved into an executive session at 5:17 P.M., pursuant to §3-305(b)(2), General Provisions Article, for the Board to protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business and to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a proceeding or matter. The Board considered and approved a confidential vote request.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Approved by the Board,

*The Board President's signature appears on the original document.*

David A. Naimon  
Board President