

Board of Supervisors
Sharon L. Hancock, President
Norma Jean Gibson, Vice President
Melanie Boston-Holland, Secretary
Jacqueline Gray, Member
Norris Hanes, Member
Karen Selby, Attorney



Office Staff
Tracy Dickerson, Acting Director II
Sharonda Munson, Acting Deputy Director II
D. Wade Beswick, Program Manager II
Vacant, Program Supervisor II
LaVon Brown, Program Assistant II
Charlene Yates, Program Assistant II
Alexandria Horn, Program Assistant I
Kevin Meador, IT Specialist I
Stephanie Ramos-Santos, Prog. Asst. I
Destinee Gibson, Program Assistant I

The Charles County Board of Elections held its regular monthly board meeting on October 16, 2025 at 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, Maryland, 20646 at 9 a.m.

- **Declaration of Quorum Present:** The meeting was called to order by Board President Hancock at 9:03 a.m. Attendees present were:

Board Members: Sharon L. Hancock
Norma Jean Gibson
Melanie Boston-Holland
Norris Hanes

Board Attorney: Karen Selby

Staff: Tracy Dickerson
Wade Beswick
Sharonda Munson
Stephanie Ramos-Santos

Public: Dyotha Sweat
Debra Davis
Isaiah Lucas
Alvin Stewart

- **Approval of September's Minutes:** A motion was made by Member Boston-Holland to accept September's minutes; motion seconded by Member Hanes; unanimously approved.
- **Additions to the Agenda:** President Hancock disclosed that on September 18, 2025 at 9:04am in the Charles County Board of Elections office, a closed session was held to discuss personnel. Members who voted to meet in closed session were Sharon Hancock, Norma Jean Gibson, Melanie Boston-Holland, Norris Hanes. Members who attended the closed session were Sharon Hancock, Norma Jean Gibson, Melanie Boston-Holland, Norris Hanes, and Karen Selby. Authority under §3-305 for the closed session was to discuss the Director appointment. The topic discussed was Director vacancy and the action taken was scheduling interviews for the vacant position.
- President Hancock informed the Board that there will be a closed session following adjournment of the meeting.

- **Old Business:** N/A
- **New Business:** President Hancock read a letter from the League of Women Voters of Maryland and Common Cause Maryland dated October 15, 2025 to the Board, as it was their first time seeing the letter. The letter discussed the use of Charles County Fairgrounds and Waldorf Jaycees and requested the Board to seek other sites.
- **Election Director's Report**
 - Acting Director Dickerson presented the recommended 2026 Election Plan. The presentation provided updates to the Election Plan from 2024. The updates are that there will be 32 polling locations and there is a temporary polling location change.
 - Acting Director Dickerson explained that in 2024 there were 31 polling locations because T.C. Martin Elementary School was under construction. After construction was completed, T.C. Martin Elementary School was surveyed and in April 2025 the Board approved to move the original precincts 8-1 and 8-4 back to that location.
 - The next update was that McDonough High School will be under construction for 2026. In August 2025, the Board approved the temporary use of St. Joseph's Parish Center for the precinct 6-1 for the 2026 Election.
 - The plan remains the same from the 2024 Election Plan. There will be 3 Early Voting sites, 6 Ballot Drop Boxes, and 32 polling locations.
 - The proposed Early Voting sites are Charles County Fairgrounds Commercial A Building, Waldorf Jaycees Geissenbier Room, and St. Joseph's Parish Center.
 - The proposed Ballot Drop Box locations are Charles County Board of Elections, Waldorf Jaycees, St. Joseph's Parish Center, Westlake High School, Henry E. Lackey High School, and Thomas Stone High School.
 - The presentation had population density maps with the locations of Early Voting Centers and Ballot Drop Boxes, all are within a few miles of major populated areas.
 - Acting Director Dickerson informed the Board that the office looked for other locations to use as potential Early Voting sites but there were none. A meeting was held with the Directors of the Waldorf Jaycees to review the lease and address issues from 2024. An agreement was reached and a lease was signed to use the facility for 2026.
 - The Board of Elections received a letter from the Maryland Delegation prior to the meeting, Delegate Debra Davis was welcomed to speak to the Board regarding the letter and proposed election plan.
 - Delegate Davis expressed concern about using the Charles County Fairgrounds and Waldorf Jaycees, she asked if the issue with getting a new site was money. Acting Director Dickerson replied that it may be an issue, but it is also the behavior of electioneers, Member Boston-Holland and Mr. Alvin Stewart agreed that behavior is an issue. Previous locations used have not wanted to resign leases.

- President Hancock added that one of the issues with leasing a building is needing a long-term lease for the primary and general dates, Acting Director Dickerson explained that the polling place plan needs to be submitted to the State Board of Elections seven months in advance thus the lease needs to be established by November of the previous year.
- Delegate Davis asked if there would be additional voting machines at the Waldorf Jaycees and if any from a smaller location could be moved to that Early Voting site. Acting Director Dickerson informed the Board and Delegate that the Waldorf Jaycees had 6 Ballot Marking Devices, 25 Voting Booths, and 3 Scanning Units for the 2024 election. The other two Early Voting sites had 3 Ballot Marking Devices, 25 Voting Booths, and 3 Scanning Units. Acting Director Dickerson advised that a Ballot Marking Device is an accessible voting unit and any voter can use it to mark their ballot independently, the other way to mark their ballot is by hand using a pen to mark a paper ballot. Acting Director Dickerson further informed that the office must request approval from the State Board of Elections if more than 4 Ballot Marking Devices are sent out to the Early Voting site. Since seeing the long lines in 2022, she requested approval to send 6 Ballot Marking Devices for the 2024 election. Acting Director Dickerson said she would request to send 8 Ballot Marking Devices to the Waldorf Jaycees. Program Manager Beswick added that the office has 87 Ballot Marking Devices in the warehouse, and on election day there are only 9 spares if there are any issues and the State Board's warehouse has a limited number of Ballot Marking Devices.
- Dyotha Sweat was welcomed to speak to the Board. She talked to the Board about an incident that occurred at the Waldorf Jaycees and expressed concern about the long lines and accommodations for voters. Acting Director Dickerson informed Ms. Sweat that there have been accommodations in place for voters and more election judges will be hired for line management and they will be thoroughly trained.
- Discussion was made about voter education and informing the public on the voting system and the two ways to mark a ballot. The Board is open to organizations requesting a demonstration/information.
- Acting Director Dickerson informed the Board that due to the retirement of Deputy Director, Sharonda Munson was appointed as Acting Deputy Director.
- Program Manager Beswick reported that the charging cycle for the fourth quarter started, Scanning Units were complete, Pollbooks are 25% complete, and Ballot Marking Devices were starting today.
- **Board Attorney Report:** Attorney Selby told the Board that she would review the letter from the League of Women Voters of Maryland and Common Cause Maryland to draft a response.
- **Next Board Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be November 20, 2025 at 9 a.m.
- **Adjournment:** At 10:05 a.m. Vice President Gibson made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Member Hanes; unanimously approved. Meeting then went into closed session to discuss personnel and was adjourned.

Uy Gibson