

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2026

Chair Cruickshank called the meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections to order at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Attendance

Board Members:	Staff Members:
Chair: Jim Cruickshank	Director: Jeff Storey
Secretary: Judith West	Deputy Director: Julie Dennis
Nona Walker	
Phyllis Owen	
Thomas A. Smith III	

Visitors: Barb Jackson, Kelly Gee, Debbie Lanier

Review and approval of agenda

On a motion by Member Owen, the Board unanimously approved the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS : Ms. Jackson asked for an overview of the registration repair project and how voters were contacted. The director responded there were 56 voters currently on the list from Transylvania County, down from 102.

Ms. Gee asked if poll worker training was bi-partisan. The director responded that poll workers are appointed in a bi-partisan manner by the Board as recommended by the parties and trained together to include electronic poll book, precinct, and judge trainings.

Consideration of absentee ballots

Director Storey presented the Board with 6 civilian (CIV) overseas absentee ballot applications to consider and approve. **Member West made a motion to approve the executed absentee ballots. The motion carried unanimously.**

Approved: 6 CIV
Disapproved: 0
Curable: 0

Review and approval of previous minutes

The Board reviewed the prepared meeting minutes for January 8 through February 3, 2026. The minutes were approved as follows:

January 8, 2026: Member Owen made a motion to approve: Passed: unanimously
January 27, 2026: Secretary West made a motion to approve: Passed: unanimously
February 3, 2026: Member Owen made a motion to approve: Passed: unanimously

Appointment of precinct workers

Director Storey provided the Board with additional recommendations for Election Day assistants in the Boyd, Rosman Eastatoe, TC1, and TC7 precincts. There was discussion regarding Jane Burns' appointment to Rosman Eastatoe. For transparency, she had voluntarily disclosed involvement with a voter outreach group in the initial stages of organization in the Lake Toxaway

precinct. After discussion, the Board elected to not disqualify Ms. Burns pending future clarification of her role and the organization's mission. **On a motion by Member Owen, the Board unanimously approved to appoint the recommended workers.**

Appointment of MAT team

Director Storey provided the Board with recommendations for the (MAT) multi-partisan assistance teams. The director explained MATs provide help upon request from voters residing in assisted living facilities for absentee ballots. Vanessa Cowie (Democrat) and Patricia Leitch (Republican) were recommended by staff. **On a motion by Member Walker, the Board unanimously approved to appoint the recommended workers.**

Resolution re: early voting winter weather policy

The State Board of Elections recommended county boards have a resolution in place regarding adverse weather for the early voting period. The county board reviewed and discussed the proposed resolution to adhere to the county emergency management office's guidance as related to closures and safety of the voters. **On a motion by Member Walker, the resolution passed unanimously.**

Review policy re: public comments in hearings

Chair Cruickshank asked the Board to consider the state auditor's suggested procedural guidelines relating to large crowds wishing to speak on the same topic. Suggested protocol would involve a short recess and having a delegate speak on behalf of the public on the topic. No action was taken at this time. Board members will consider and add to the agenda at a future date, if needed.


Budget review

The director reviewed the proposed FY 26-27 budget with the Board with explanations on line-items over 5% including a DS300 for early voting. There was discussion on early voting site staffing and voting equipment. **On a motion by Member West, the Board unanimously approved the proposed budget for submission to the county.**


Director updates

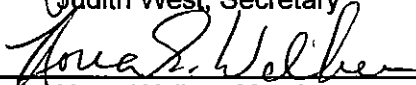
The director provided updates on early voting, upcoming department head presentations, precinct sites, the registration repair project, and campaign finance reports.

On a motion by Chair Cruickshank, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be at 3 p.m. on February 17, 2026, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.



Jim Cruickshank, Chair

Respectfully submitted,


Judith West, Secretary


Nona Walker, Member

Phyllis Owen
Phyllis Owen, Member

Thomas A. Smith III, Member

Approved by Board on: 4/9/26