

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

ABSENTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2026

Chair Cruickshank called the meeting of the Transylvania County Board of Elections to order at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 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:	Laura Owen
	Nona Walker	Deputy Director:	Julie Dennis
	Phyllis Owen		
	Thomas A. Smith III		

Visitors: Barb Jackson, Kelly Gee

Consideration of absentee ballots

Deputy Director Owen presented the Board with 19 civilian (CIV) absentee ballot applications to consider and approve. **Member Smith made a motion to approve the executed absentee ballots. The motion carried unanimously.**

Approved: 19 CIV
 Disapproved: 0
 Curable: 0

Board comments

Chair Cruickshank asked the director about parking availability for early voting. Director Storey indicated parking was congested due to court activities at the county administrative building but has been manageable. Based on historical turnout data, the director identified Friday as a potential issue if court has not concluded. The Board discussed invoking §163-129(b) for Friday to ensure adequate parking for early voting. **On a motion by Member Smith, the Board unanimously approved to designate 16 parking spaces for exclusive voter use at the Election Center, effective Friday, February 27, 2026 in the event court has not concluded.** The director will notify county administration and the clerk of court.

On a motion by Chair Cruickshank, the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be at 3 p.m. on March 2, 2026, at 150 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC 28712.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith West

Judith West, Secretary

Nona Walker

Nona Walker, Member

Thomas A. Smith III, Member

Jim Cruickshank

 Jim Cruickshank, Chair

Phyllis Owen

 Phyllis Owen, Member

Approved by Board on: 4/9/26