

MINUTES

The Mecklenburg County Board of Elections met in person on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026. Mr. Michael Peretz, Chair, Ms. Melisa Taylor, Ms. Liz McDowell, Mr. Chris Fialko, Ms. Beverly Earle, Mr. Michael Dickerson, Director of Elections, Ms. Carol Hill Williams, Deputy Director joined by phone, and several staff members were in attendance.

Mr. Peretz called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

The Board approved and Mr. Fialko signed the minutes from the Board meeting held on Tuesday, May 12th, 2026.

Voting Panel Allocation – November General Election

Mr. Dickerson discussed with the Board the allocation of ExpressVote panels to put at each precinct for Election Day. Mr. Dickerson stated that we are hoping for a 65% turnout this year for the recommended allocation. Mr. Peretz made a motion to approve Mr. Dickerson's recommendation for a 65% ExpressVote allocation for the November General Election. Ms. Taylor seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Voting Equipment Upgrade Discussion

The Board discussed the current plan for the equipment and firmware upgrade. After Mr. Dickerson discussed that the upgrades would not perform recounts as expected, he reviewed upgrading options including purchasing ExpressLink printers for the upcoming General Election and the purchase of a DS950 and firmware upgrade after the General Election in November. Ms. McDowell asked Mr. Dickerson if we continue to use the DS850s currently owned, how can we make sure there will be no problems with the DS850 that has jamming issues. Mr. Dickerson mentioned leasing a backup DS850 from the vendor for the upcoming election. After further discussion, Mr. Fialko made the motion to authorize Mr. Dickerson to purchase 300 ExpressLink printers and corresponding software pursuant to the ES&S quote totaling \$304,900. Ms. McDowell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 5-0. Next, Mr. Peretz made the motion for Mr. Dickerson to seek approval from the County Commissioners for the upgrade of the 6.3 software and the remainder of the equipment purchase. Mr. Fialko seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Preliminary Early Voting Plan Discussion

The Board discussed Early Voting locations presented by Mr. Dickerson and the Precinct Management Team. The Board reviewed a list of sites used in past elections and what may be possible for the November General Election as well as ExpressVote allotments. Mr. Dickerson mentioned he would work with County leadership about the use of gymnasiums as Park and Recreation has not allowed the use of any for Early Voting for the November election. Precinct Management is also searching for a location west of I-77 in the Cornelius area.

The Board was at ease at 6:14 and returned at 6:17 pm.

The Board also discussed options in the Matthews area between the Masonic temple and the fire department. Currently it isn't known if the Pineville Library will be reopened in time due to an automobile accident. Mr. Peretz mentioned he would like to have a formal plan in place to vote on for the June 23rd Board meeting. Mr. Fialko said that he would put together a recommended list of 27 or 28 sites and submit the list to Mr. Dickerson to circulate to the Board. The Board also mentioned reviewing Early Voting hours.

The Board scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026, at 5:15 pm. Mr. Peretz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Earle seconded, and the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Peretz adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Fialko', written in a cursive style.

Chris Fialko
Secretary

Approval date: 6/23/2026