

Minutes, Jackson County Board of Elections
June 2, 2026

Members present: Bill Thompson, Chair; Jay Pavey; Roy Osborn, Betsy Swift

Meeting called to order: by Bill Thompson at 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jay Pavey

Public comment: one member of the public spoke in support of the proposed polling place at the WCU Health and Human Sciences building, from the perspective of a poll worker/judge at multiple precincts.

Agenda: Agenda for this meeting was approved. Motion by Jay, seconded by Roy. Unanimous vote yes.

Minutes of BOE meeting of 5/13/2026 approved. Motion by Jay, seconded by Roy. Unanimous vote yes.

Secretary appointed - Betsy volunteered for interim appointment, to be re-determined when new member appointed. Motion by Bill to appoint Betsy Swift as temporary secretary, seconded by Jay. No discussion. Unanimous vote yes.

Director's Report:

1. Resignation of Wes Hanemayer acknowledged with gratitude for his service. Vacancy will be filled after a nomination by the local Republican Party and appointment by the State Board of Elections. The process is underway but there is no timeline at this point.
2. Downtime projects - emergency planning contingencies
3. Legislative update - no movement this week. Four bills being monitored that impact elections operations (provisional deadlines, DMV voter registration, Early Voting schedule); also state rules in process re absentee ballot cures, recounts, electioneering outside polling places.
4. County replied to BOE budget request, will probably be finalized June 16, 2026. A \$15,000 reduction to election expense line item. Need to be aware of somewhat smaller cushion in this area.

2026 Early Voting Plan discussion:

Decision to be made re Cullowhee polling place. Two sites in consideration are the Cullowhee Recreation Center and the WCU Health and Human Sciences building.

The Chair cites "pressure" from Auditor's Office to keep polling place at the Rec Center

Jay has worked with WCU on a Memorandum of Understanding addressing all of the BOE concerns re access, parking, and signage. The MOU has been finalized and signed by the Chancellor.

Jay notes the Rec Center has disadvantages for the general election with greater numbers of voters and a potentially shortened time frame (if SB 1084 enacted).

Jay made a motion to establish four voting sites for Early Voting in the 2026 general election, as follows:

- Cashiers Recreation Center
- Health and Human Sciences Building, Savannah Rd.
- Skyland Services Center
- Qualla Community Center

To be open during the designated days of Early Voting as determined by law at the time, to be operating the last two Saturdays of the Early Voting period and no Sundays. Hours to be 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Motion seconded by Betsy after discussion. Vote was 3 aye, one nay.

Director will submit the plan; as this is a non-unanimous vote, the SBE will review and advise the Jackson County BOE of next step.

Roy made a motion to disallow the Pool Room at the Rec Center to be used for voting; Jay recommended addressing this at a later date. The motion was tabled.

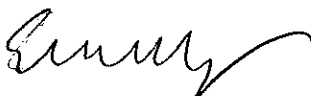
Resolution re Changing Election Day Site tabled.

Next meeting: deferred setting a date as no pressing business at this time.

Motion to adjourn by Jay, seconded by Roy. Unanimous vote yes.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Betsy Swift, Interim Secretary



Bill Thompson, Chair