

BOARD MEETING
BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

The meeting of the Baltimore City Board of Elections was held at the Baltimore City Board of Elections Office at 417 East Fayette Street, Baltimore MD 21202.

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS IN FULL ATTENDANCE

Sam Novey, Board Secretary
Scherod Barnes, Board President
Hope Williams, Board Member

BOARD MEMBERS IN PARTIAL ATTENDANCE

Mr Threweatt was present from 3:05 pm to 3:06 pm in person and by phone from 3:13 pm to 3:18 pm.

Ms. Vismale was present by phone from 3:06 pm to 3:18 pm.

STAFF

Clifford Tatum, Election Director
Abigail Goldman, Deputy Director
Lisa Stanley, Election Program Manager II
Shawn Larson, Baltimore City Board of Elections Staff

GUESTS

Misti McKeehen, Baltimore Votes Coalition
Joselin Martin, League of Women Voters of Baltimore City
Javey Adams, Civic Engagement Director No Boundaries Coalition of
Central West Baltimore

Mr. Barnes declared a quorum at 3:05 pm consisting of himself, Mr. Novey, Mr. Threweatt, and Ms. Williams and asked for any additions to the agenda.

Mr. Threweatt asked if there would be a closed session to discuss management expectations for the election director. Mr. Barnes indicated that a closed session was not on the agenda as written. Mr. Threweatt stated, his belief that "there was no need for him to be here" if a closed session to discuss management expectations was not included on the agenda and left the meeting.

Baltimore City Board of Elections bylaws state that there must be members nominated by both major parties present to have a quorum and the meeting was adjourned at the time of his departure from the meeting (3:06 pm). At this point, Mr. Threweatt could be heard from the hallway stating that the Board needs

bipartisan representation to continue the meeting. Without a quorum, the board would be in violation of the Open Meetings Act and bylaws.

At 3:07 p.m. Ms. Vismale joined the meeting by phone. Mr. Barnes again declared a quorum. Mr. Barnes informed Ms. Vismale that Mr. Threweatt had walked out of the meeting and that her participation was necessary for a quorum. Ms. Vismale said, "sounds good" and affirmed that she was able to participate by phone to establish a quorum.

Ms. Williams made a motion to accept the minutes from our August 21, 2025 meeting. Mr. Novey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Mr. Barnes welcomed everyone - especially new Election Director Clifford Tatum to the meeting. Mr. Tatum was greeted with warm applause in the room.

Mr. Barnes shared that on Wednesday, Mr. Tatum began work and had the opportunity to meet with directors, staff, and tour the warehouse.

Mr. Barnes thanked Ms. Goldman and Ms. Stanley for their work as Acting Director and Acting Deputy Director in the preceding months.

Mr. Barnes announced that there would be a public meet and greet for Director Tatum in the lobby of the board of elections office following the board meeting. He also announced that individuals and organizations wishing to set up a meeting with Mr. Tatum should reach out to Deputy Director Abigail Goldman at Abigail.Goldman@baltimorecity.gov. Mr. Barnes asked everyone to give Mr. Tatum some patience and grace as he works through the many meeting requests that have come in.

Mr. Barnes thanked all board members for being present at the State Ethics Training that was provided at the August board meeting and shared his feeling that the training was useful and helpful for board members.

PAST ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Barnes shared that Ms. Goldman would be giving the director's report and that Mr. Tatum would begin giving Director's Reports at the October meeting.

Ms. Goldman welcomed Mr. Tatum and looks forward to working with him. She then shared that staff had established several community outreach efforts. There are several outreach events planned with colleges including with Hopkins, BCCC, Loyola, and Coppin State University. She also shared that through the agency's ongoing partnership with the Baltimore Orioles the staff would again be present that evening at Camden Yards to register voters and invite people to serve as election judges.

Ms. Goldman shared her intention to present all drobox locations, early vote locations, and polling places changes for the 2026 election at the next board meeting. She shared that she expected to present 7 polling place changes for a vote. She also shared that she expected to be able to use the Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center in Cherry Hill for early voting and that the University of Maryland Baltimore Community Engagement Center would again be available for early voting.

Mr. Barnes clarified that some of these proposals were being held for a period of time so that Mr. Tatum would have a chance to onboard and review them before they were presented to the board for approval.

Mr. Barnes again thanked Ms. Goldman and Ms. Stanley for their incredible service as Acting Director and Deputy Director both over the past few months and on several occasions over the preceding years.

Mr. Tatum gave brief remarks thanking the board for selecting and thanking Ms. Goldman and Ms. Stanley for their work briefing him and getting him up to speed on the plan for the 2026 election. Mr. Barnes welcomed Mr. Tatum and emphasized that all of us are a team working together to provide great service to Baltimore voters.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barnes opened the floor for board member comments. Ms. Vismale said she looked forward to working with Mr. Tatum and was sure they would be able to work as a team in the way Mr. Barnes had described. Mr. Novey and Ms. Williams declined to make a comment.

Ms. Stanley said she looked forward to working with Mr. Tatum and increasing the visibility of the board of elections in the election's community.

Mr. Barnes asked guests to introduce themselves.

- Javey Adams, Civic Engagement Director No Boundaries Coalition of Central West Baltimore
- Misti McKeehen, Consultant with Baltimore Votes Coalition
- Joselin Martin, League of Women Voters of Baltimore City

Mr. Barnes mentioned the meet and greet for the new director would begin at 4 pm.

Ms. Vismale left the meeting at 3:15 pm at which point a quorum was no longer present.

Mr. Barnes called Ms. Vismale's phone at that time to reestablish quorum and continue the meeting. Mr. Threweatt answered Ms. Vismale's phone and immediately began participating in the meeting which restarted with the new quorum. Mr.

Threweatt said "we" would not be participating in the meeting until Mr. Barnes held a closed session to discuss management expectations for the new director. He implied that Ms. Vismale also would not be participating.

Mr. Barnes asked for clarification regarding whether Mr. Threweatt was speaking just for himself or for himself and Ms. Vismale. Ms. Vismale said she was parking at the moment and apologized for being late to the meeting and said she would be walking into the meeting room shortly with Mr. Threweatt.

Mr. Threweatt again expressed his desire to not participate in the meeting unless the closed session to discuss management expectations and implied that Ms. Vismale would also not participate although she did not confirm this.

Mr. Novey expressed his feeling that if Mr. Threweatt or Ms. Vismale felt strongly about having a closed session to discuss management expectations, the appropriate action would be to make a motion to amend the agenda to include a closed session or just directly make a motion to go into closed session.

Mr. Threweatt expressed his understanding that he had an agreement with Mr. Barnes to have a closed session at this meeting. Ms. Williams said she did not think such an agreement had been made.

Mr. Barnes stated that he had made an agreement with all board members to have the regular board meeting at 3:00 pm and then have a meet and greet for the new director at 4:00 pm. Mr. Barnes also expressed his feeling that this was not the appropriate time to discuss management expectations since Mr. Tatum had just begun the day before.

Mr. Barnes expressed his concern that Mr. Threweatt was seeking to influence another member of the board to not participate. He clarified that if Ms. Vismale was not planning to participate, she needed to express that herself and not have Mr. Threweatt make that statement on her behalf.

Ms. Vismale again apologized for arriving late at the meeting in person. Ms. Vismale then ended the call at 3:18 pm at which point the meeting was adjourned and did not reconvene.