

Robert C. Jackson

Chairman

Nicki T. Artis

Secretary

Tristian K. Beard

Member

County of Wayne

Board of Elections



Eddie L. Edwards

Member

Charles Wright

Member

Anne C. Risku

Director

Wayne County Board of Elections Absentee Meeting October 28, 2025

Robert C. Jackson, Chairman

Eddie L. Edwards, Member

Tristian K. Beard, Member

Anne C. Risku, Director

Nicki T. Artis, Secretary

Charles Wright, Member

Andrew Neal, County Attorney

The meeting was held at the properly noticed date and time, and a quorum was present. Mr. Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

I. Approval of the October 28, 2025 Meeting Agenda

- a. Mr. Beard made a motion to approve the October 28, 2025 meeting agenda. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- b. Mr. Edwards made a motion to amend the agenda to remove approval of the October 21, 2025 meeting minutes from the agenda. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

II. Director's Update

- a. Ms. Risku updated the Board on Early Voting, Election Day supply distribution and preparation, and updated filing fees for 2026.

III. Absentee by Mail Ballot Applications:

- a. Approval: Ms. Risku presented the Board with (2) properly executed Military absentee ballots.
 - i. Mr. Beard made a motion to approve (2) properly executed Military absentee ballots. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
 - ii. Mr. Artis made a motion to approve the duplication of (2) approved Military absentee ballots. Mr. Beard seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- b. Processing: Ms. Risku processed the ballots in the DS200.
- c. Reconciliation: The Board reviewed the *Executed Absentee Ballot List* and signed the *Cover Sheet for List of Envelopes Acted Upon and Approved or Disapproved in Lieu of Signing Individual Envelopes* and the *Absentee Processing Log*.

IV. Early Voting Schedule March 3, 2026 Primary Election

- a. Board Discussion: Ms. Risku presented the Board with a recommended schedule, historical data, and reviewed the statutes governing Early Voting schedules. Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Risku for her thoughts on the number of sites. Ms. Risku stated she recommended three sites in various parts of the County due to possible uptick in turnout because of US House redistricting, known local primaries, and a countywide referendum on the ballot. Mr. Artis

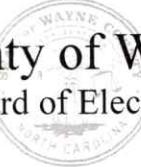
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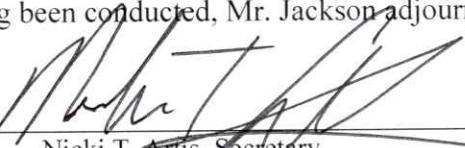
Anne C. Risku
Director

and Mr. Edwards both stated that they were supportive of three sites. Mr. Jackson asked if there were budget constraints. Ms. Risku answered that staff had budgeted for three fully staffed sites for the Primary Election. Mr. Jackson stated he was fine with voting on Saturday but preferred no Sunday Voting. Mr. Beard stated that based on previous data, he did not see the need for a second weekend of voting. Mr. Wright expressed support for at least one Saturday and one Sunday on the schedule. Ms. Risku explained the process for non-unanimous plans. Mr. Beard stated he was supportive of three sites but based on past election cycles, Sunday turnout is very low. Mr. Artis stated he was okay with Saturdays and agreed with not being open on Sundays. Mr. Jackson reiterated he preferred not to have Early Voting on Sundays but that it was up to the entire Board. Mr. Neal reviewed the process to approve the schedule.

- b. Public Comment: There was none.
- c. Board Vote: Mr. Beard made a motion to approve the Early Voting schedule for the March 3, 2026 Primary Election with three sites, Wayne County Public Library, Mt. Olive Train Depot, and Farm Credit Farmer's Market, open weekdays 8am-7:30pm February 12th-13th, 16th-20th, and 23rd-27th, and 8am-3pm on Saturdays February 21st and 28th. Mr. Artis seconded the motion, and the vote was 4-1: Mr. Jackson, Mr. Artis, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Beard in favor; Mr. Wright opposed.
 - i. Mr. Wright noted that he was supportive of the three sites but submitted a minority plan with the addition of voting 12-4pm on Sunday February 22nd. He stated that he understood the lack of turnout but did not want to limit opportunities for voters as some individuals only have transportation on Sundays.
 - ii. Mr. Jackson asked about the process for non-unanimous plans. Ms. Risku, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Neal provided legal and historic guidance to the Board.

V. Adjournment

- a. With all business having been conducted, Mr. Jackson adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.



Nicki T. Artis, Secretary