



WASHTENAW COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

May 5, 2026

MINUTES

A meeting of the Washtenaw County Election Commission was held in-person, in the lower-level large conference room at 200 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register
Judge Darlene O'Brien
Latitia Lamelle Sharp, Treasurer

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Rena Basch, Director of Elections
James N. Allen, Deputy Clerk/Elections Program Manager

Members of the Public: Dan Wholihan
Fred Lucas
James Marion
Tom Hammond
Kelly Marion
Philip Goldsmith
Jane Finkbeiner
Dirk Mayhew
Hannah Humes
Kelly Coleman
Matthew Coleman
Jennifer Eberbach
Katherine Ferguson
Thomas Ferguson
Chuck Glaspie
Wendy Albers
Tim Bruneau
Fred Gall
Sarah Brabbs
Clara Ganun

Call to Order

Judge O'Brien called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Public Participation

None.

Approve Previous Minutes from February 11, 2026

Kestenbaum moved to approve the minutes of February 11, 2026. Lamelle Sharp seconded.

Recall petition review hearing for language pertaining to township master plan submitted by E. Frederick Gall against Saline Township Clerk Kelly Marion.

Because Kelly Marion voted in favor of a motion to move forward with the proposal from Carlisle/Wortman to begin the updating of the master plan, joint meetings will be held to include all Boards" at the Township Board meeting on October 15, 2025.

Recall petition review hearing for language pertaining to township master plan submitted by E. Frederick Gall against Saline Township Trustee Thomas Hammond.

Because Tom Hammond voted in favor of a motion to move forward with the proposal from Carlisle/Wortman to begin the updating of the master plan, joint meetings will be held to include all Boards" at the Township Board meeting on October 15, 2025.

Philip Goldsmith spoke on behalf of the Township Supervisor James Marion, Clerk Kelly Marion, and Trustee Hammond. He explained that the Township Trustees were acting in their statutory duties and raised concern when collecting signatures for a recall if a voter is going to know whether or not the subject(s) had done anything wrong. He further advised the week prior, the Monroe County Election Commission postponed a decision and requested both parties' attorneys present briefs over concerns regarding constitutional considerations, such as Equal Protection violations.

Dan Wholihan spoke for the sponsors that it was not clear the issue had constitutional matters, because recalls are more of a political question. He clarified the petitioner's issues are not with updating the master plan, but with the planning firm they chose to consult with, Carlisle-Wortman.

Judge O'Brien asked what the quote mark in the petition language was about. Saline Township Resident Tim Bruneau advised that the quotes come from a typo in the minutes and advised they are of no consequence as the words are clear of their face value.

Mr. Bruneau spoke in favor of the petition and his concerns regarding the Township's selection of the planning firm.

York Township Resident Sarah Brabbs spoke in favor of the petition and shared her concerns regarding the Saline Township Board's actions.

Saline Township Clerk Kelly Marion explained the Planning Commission's vote was incorrectly recorded and will be corrected in the minutes.

Township Trustee Tom Hammond explained he voted to abstain and that he acted as representation of the Township Board.

Dan Wholihan explained that how people voted isn't what is at issue.

Kestenbaum moved to approve the language as submitted.

Clerk Kestenbaum advised that the Commission must consider the petitions as a whole, and does not get to edit the language. He does not believe the stray quote mark interferes with the meaning.

Judge O'Brien gave her concerns regarding the petition's language being vague and how would the majority of electors know which lawsuit.

Clerk Kestenbaum advised the specific language will not be on the ballot.

Treasurer Lamelle Sharp expressed concern that petition signers should understand what the petition is about.

Kestenbaum withdrew his motion.

Lamelle Sharp, seconded by O'Brien, moved to not approve the language as submitted for Items 6 and 8.

Vote on the motion: 2 Yeas (O'Brien, Lamelle Sharp). 1 Nay (Kestenbaum). 0 Absent. Motion carried.

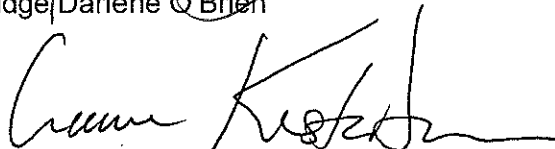
New Business

Elections Director Rena Basch mentioned to the Commission that they will need to discuss establishing more Commission Meetings in the coming weeks for approval of ballots, appointment of Election Inspectors, and Public Accuracy Testing.

Adjournment

The Election Commission adjourned the meeting at 10:03 am.



Judge Darlene O'Brien

Lawrence Kestenbaum, County Clerk/Register

Rena Basch, Director of Elections

Approved: 5/21/26