

# EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Howard County Board of Elections  
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200  
Columbia, MD 21046

**(To Be Held Virtually)**

**Google Meet Joining Info: [meet.google.com/pon-kxmi-qxs](https://meet.google.com/pon-kxmi-qxs)  
phone number: 1 (406) 530-5566 (Pin #390730039)  
YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/@HowardCountyBoardofElections-B>**

**May 21, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**

1. Call to Order, Declaration of Quorum
2. Introduction & Welcome Guests
3. Discussion/Approval of Challengers and Watchers Policy 2026.1

## **SB670/HB1001 – Election Law Authority at Polling Places, Early Voting Centers, and Counting Centers**

SB670/HB1001 was passed by the General Assembly during its 2026 session. Election Law §10-311 (c)(1)(III) states:

*“A designating person shall submit a copy of the certificate of an accredited challenger or watcher to the appropriate local board before the accredited challenger or watcher may enter the voting room.”*

It will be the policy of the Howard County Board of Elections to direct the Election Director to accept a certificate of an accredited challenger and watcher by no later than 4:30 pm the day before each day of early voting or the day before election day. If the Election Director does not receive the certificate of an accredited challenger and watcher by no later than 4:30 pm prior to each day of early voting or the day before election day, the chief judges at the early voting center or polling place will not permit access for the challenger/watcher to the voting location.

4. Adjournment

**\*Public Participation Note:** Pursuant to §3.2 C of the Board’s bylaws, public participation at Board meetings is allowed without advance notice. An individual may speak for no more than three (3) minutes. Written comments are accepted prior to the meeting or during the public comment portion. The public comment portion of the meeting shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes.

**\*\*This Agenda is subject to change.** Part of the Board Meeting may be conducted as an Executive Session regarding any subject permitted pursuant to Maryland’s Open Meetings Act, General Provisions Article Section §3-305(b) of the Annotated Code of Maryland.