TALBOT COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE
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NOVEMBER 10, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street, Suite 7
Easton, Maryland 21601
Telephone: 410-770-8099

Re: Observer accommodations at the November 12, 13, 18, and 24, 2026 canvass proceedings and provisional ballot data by precinct and reason code

Dear Members of the Talbot County Board of Elections:

The Talbot County Republican Central Committee writes to you directly regarding the canvass proceedings scheduled for November 12, 13, 18, and 24, 2026. Our members and designated observers attend the Board's canvass proceedings, and we appreciate the work your staff is doing on a short timeline. The Committee raises these points in a cooperative spirit, since we both want this canvass to be as smooth and transparent as possible, and it would much rather settle the mechanics of the room with the Board in a timely fashion rather than Thursday morning. This letter sets out three points and a records preservation expectation, and closes with how the Committee intends to proceed.

According to the Board's public notice dated September 25, 2026, the Board will conduct a Provisional Ballot Canvass and Mail-In Ballot Canvass II on November 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.; the final Mail-In Ballot Canvass II and Certification of Election on November 13, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.; a post-certification canvass on November 18, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.; and a risk-limiting audit on November 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. The deadline for receipt of mail ballots is 10:00 a.m. on November 13, 2026.

We respectfully request a response by 3:00 p.m. today, Tuesday, November 10, 2026, so that any accommodation can be in place before the first of those proceedings begins, since tomorrow is a federal holiday.

On November 5, 2026, representatives from the Committee attended the mail-in canvass as observers. The arrangement of the tables in the canvass room meant our observers could not confirm that an envelope was sealed, could not read the postmark date on the face of the envelope, and could not follow the batch identification as envelopes moved through opening and review, even after we asked for and were given a different position in the room. As a result, the Committee's observers could not meaningfully observe the determinations being made on the canvass floor. The Committee intends to have observers present at each of the remaining canvass dates.

A mail ballot counts only if it was timely, and the postmark and the receipt deadline are what determines this criteria. An observer who cannot read the postmark, and cannot see which batch an envelope came from, cannot validate that decision. Watching without these legal parameters being met is not observation. It is the appearance of observation. The batch number is also how any member of the public can later locate, and test, the Board's account of how a group of envelopes was handled.

Accordingly, the Committee looks forward to cooperation on the following.

1. **Layout of the canvass room.** By 3:00 p.m. today, Tuesday, November 10, 2026, the Committee is suggesting a solution and looks forward to a written response in agreement that the tables in the canvass room for the November 12, 13, 18, and 24, 2026 proceedings will be arranged so that an observer is able to conduct our legal right for a reasonable review of the faces of outer absentee and mail-in envelopes, critically including the ability to read postmark dates, in accordance with Maryland law. Enclosed as Exhibit A is a drawing prepared by the Committee of a proposed optimal layout. We are open to flipping the layout to the other side of the room if that is more amenable.

2. **Read-aloud batch identification and postmark on each envelope/ballot.** By 3:00 p.m. today, Tuesday, November 10, 2026, the Committee looks forward to the Board's written confirmation that, for each envelope reviewed at those proceedings, both the postmark and the batch number will be presented for reasonable visual review by observers and read aloud by the canvasser or judge prior to being put through the envelope cutting machine, in accordance with Maryland law.

3. **Provisional ballot data by precinct and provisional reason code.** By 3:00 p.m. today, Tuesday, November 10, 2026, the Committee looks forward to the count of provisional ballots broken out by precinct and reason code, showing the number received under each code and whether each category is recommended for acceptance, rejection, or board review, in accordance with Maryland law. The Committee needs this before the November 12, 2026 provisional ballot canvass, while those ballots can still be reviewed, and not after the canvass is over. If the Board is unable to provide the data, we believe it is reasonable to have that stated in writing by the same deadline, together with the Board's reasons, so that it may be addressed before the November 12 canvass.

Preservation of records. The Committee also has the expectation, based upon law, that the Board preserve all outer envelopes, batch logs, scanner tapes, adjudication sheets, and provisional reason code records relating to the 2026 General Election, in native format and with all metadata intact, in accordance with Maryland law, through the conclusion of the canvass and certification period.

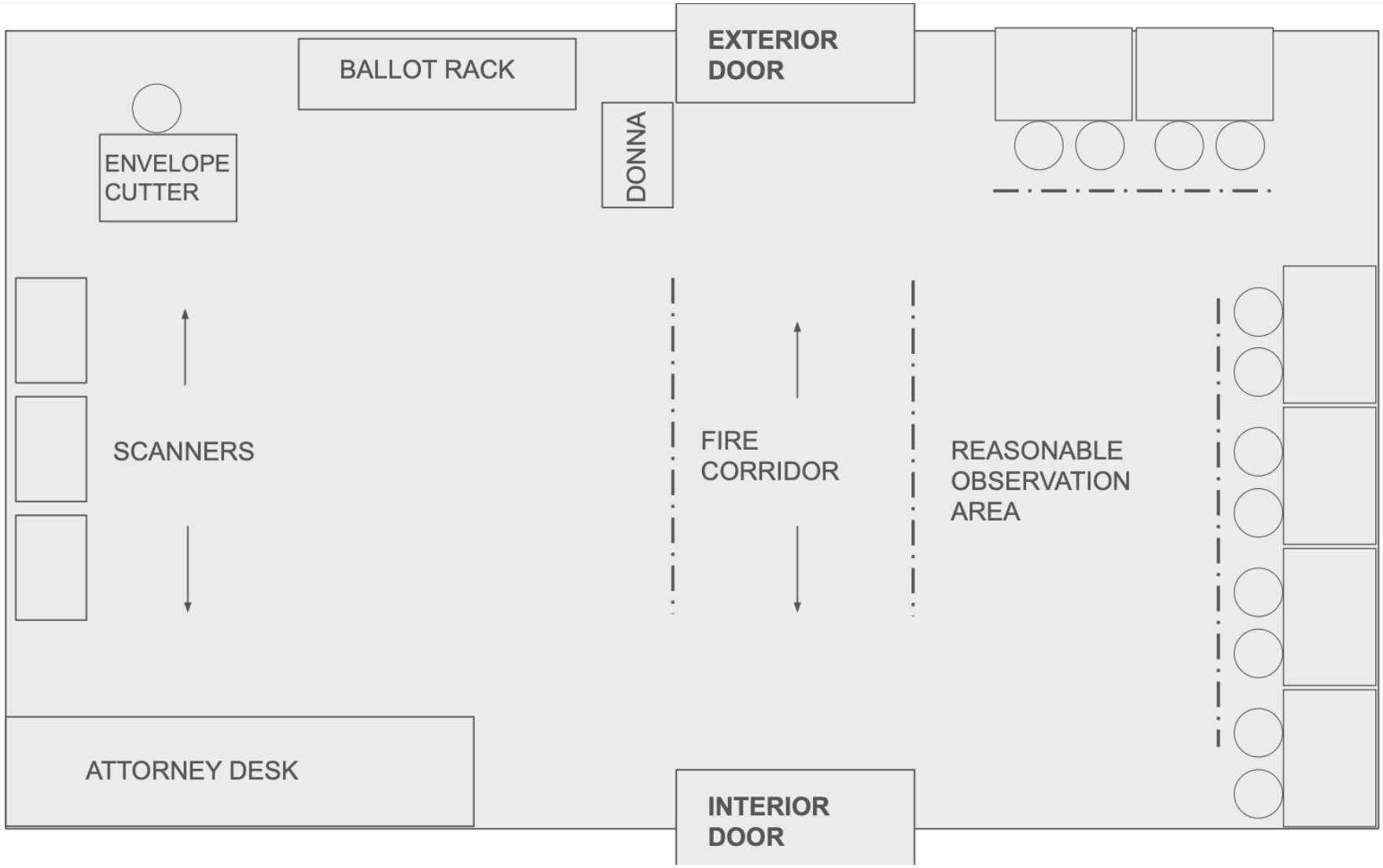
Going forward. The Committee's plan is to proceed amenably with the accommodations described above, and we would much rather work through any difference with the Board than see the canvass become a legal dispute. If any part of this presents a difficulty for the Board or its staff, tell us early and we will work it out together. Our aim, and we believe the Board's, is a transparent canvass the public can see and trust.

We look forward to the Board's written response at talbotcountygop@gmail.com or 410-310-4669. Thank you for the Board's attention to this matter, and for the care your staff brings to it.

Respectfully,

Shari Wilcoxon
Chairman, Talbot County Republican Central Committee
talbotcountygop@gmail.com
410-310-4669

Enclosure: Exhibit A, Proposed Canvass Room Layout


EXTERIOR DOOR
BALLOT RACK
ENVELOPE CUTTER
DONNA
SCANNERS
FIRE CORRIDOR
REASONABLE OBSERVATION AREA
ATTORNEY DESK
INTERIOR DOOR