



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Mary Ellen Harris at 10:05am. The following were in attendance: Chair Mary Ellen Harris; Secretary / Commissioner of Registration Clara Harelik, Esq.; Commissioner James Foerst, Esq.; Commissioner Dennis Kobitz; Commissioner Raymond Szpond; Commissioner Debra Varnerin (via zoom); and Administrator Nicole DiRado.

The Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by Chair Harris.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION I

- Potential Litigation: USDOJ v. Union County Board of Elections

A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All members present voted in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to return to the Public Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All members present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

- A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to accept the proposed election district map for Berkeley Heights which adjusted the district lines for Districts 8 and 11. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative with Chair Harris absent.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to accept the proposed election district map for New Providence which creates a new district, District 12. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All members present voted in the affirmative with Chair Harris absent.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to accept the proposed election district map for Springfield which creates a new district, District 15. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All members present voted in the affirmative with Chair Harris absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION II

- Potential Litigation: USDOJ v. Union County Board of Elections

A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to return to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All members present voted in the affirmative.

A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to return to the Public Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All members present voted in the affirmative.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- October 12, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative with Chair Harris and Commissioner Szpond abstaining.
- October 19, 2022 – Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of County Canvassers: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative with Chair Harris and Commissioner Szpond abstaining.
- October 24, 2022 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative with Chair Harris and Commissioner Szpond abstaining.
- October 31, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Szpond abstaining.
- November 7, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- November 8, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- November 11, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative with Chair Harris abstaining.
- November 14, 2022 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- November 19, 2022 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Harelik abstaining.
- November 21, 2022 – Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of County Canvassers Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- November 28, 2022- Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- November 29, 2022- Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- December 2, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- December 2, 2022 – Executive Session Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- December 20, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the aforementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Foerst abstaining.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

- A Resolution amending the 2023 Meeting Schedule to include meeting dates for the Springfield Special School Election on March 14, 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to accept the updated meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All members present voted in the affirmative.

- A Resolution approving the Ballot Drop Box pick up Schedule for 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Foerst to accept the Ballot Drop Box pick up schedule for 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All members present voted in the affirmative.

- A Resolution designating the following Ballot Drop Box for the Springfield Special School Election on March 14, 2023: Chisholm Community Center, Springfield.

A motion was made by Commissioner Foerst to designate the Chisholm Recreation Center drop box as the depository for mail-in ballots for the Springfield Special School Election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All members present voted in the affirmative.

- A Resolution designating the following Ballot Drop Box for the Westfield School Board Election on April 25, 2023: Colleen Fraser Building, Westfield.

A motion was made by Commissioner Foerst to designate the Colleen Fraser Building drop box as the depository for mail-in ballots for the Westfield Annual School Election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All members present voted in the affirmative.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. DiRado advised the Board that she secured a commitment from the New Jersey Division of Elections to fund an ongoing lease for the Board of Elections Electronic Poll Book warehouse space. The landlord agreed to an additional five year lease.

Commissioner Kobitz announced that he will not be at the meeting in February, but wanted to express his love to Chair Harris upon the occasion of her retirement at the end of February. Commissioner Kobitz thanked Chair Harris on behalf of all the voters of Union County.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Foerst to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelik. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.