



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022 KENILWORTH SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Mary Ellen Harris at 2:04pm. The following were in attendance: Chair Mary Ellen Harris, Secretary / Commissioner of Registration Clara Harelik, Esq.; Commissioner James Foerst, Esq.; Commissioner Tony Teixeira; Commissioner Debra Varnerin; and Administrator Nicole DiRado. Commissioner Dennis Kobitz was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

### COUNTING BALLOTS FROM THE KENILWORTH SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION

The Board opened and counted vote by mail ballots voted in the Kenilworth Special School Election.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 16, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Harelik to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Varnerin seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.

## II. DISCUSSION MATTERS

- Poll Worker Management Software Contracts: Ms. DiRado provided an update to the Board regarding the situation with the county's former vendor, PollChief, which provided a Poll Worker Management software suite. The contract with PollChief was terminated yesterday and a new contract is being reviewed by the new vendor. The Board asked to be kept apprised of any developments with PollChief and whether or not Union County data was breached.
- Ballot Drop Box Guidelines – Updated: Ms. DiRado outlined the changes allowed for in the updated Ballot Drop Box Guidelines relative to the drop box pick up schedule. Ms. DiRado explained that at this late time, with 33 days before Election Day, it does not seem right to change the rules and amend the drop box pick up schedule, especially with so many locally contested races and the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional race. She recommended that the schedule be set at the beginning of next year for the year so everyone has fair notice. The Board agreed with the recommendation.



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- Ballot Counting Guide: Ms. DiRado advised the Board that the Ballot Counting Guide has been updated following new legislation signed in July. The new laws allow for Boards of Elections to start opening and counting ballots up to 5 days before election. Ms. DiRado advised the Board that, at this time, it is not necessary to start opening and counting ballots early. The office can comfortably process 25,000 ballots on Election Day. If the ballot returns significantly exceed 25,000, the Board will reconsider its position on the matter. Each member of the Board and staff must read and complete the certification in the guidelines.
- Ms. DiRado updated the Board on the number of ballots issued and received thus far for both the Kenilworth Special Election and the 2022 General Election. Ballots Sent / Received thus far: KE Special Election: 614 / 252; and General Election: 45,014 / 5,101.
- Next meetings:
  - October 12, 2022 – 10am - In Person – County KE Provisional Ballots & GE2022 Ballot Review
  - October 17, 2022 – 10am – Zoom - Final Ballot Count if necessary
  - October 19, 2022 – 12pm – In Person - Meeting of Board of County Canvassers

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Foerst to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Kobitz absent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.