



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Mary Ellen Harris at 10:09am. The following were in attendance: Chair Mary Ellen Harris; Secretary / Commissioner of Registration Clara Harelík, Esq.; Commissioner James Foerst, Esq.; Commissioner Dennis Kobitz; Commissioner Debra Varnerin; Administrator Nicole DiRado; and Deputy Administrator Linda Wise. Commissioner Tony Teixeira was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

### PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harelík. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Teixeira absent.

Commissioner Teixeira entered the meeting at this time.

Patricia Stolc, Allentown, NJ, New Jersey Liberty Project: Ms. Stolc explained that the purpose of NJ Liberty Project is to raise voter awareness and confidence in elections. She indicated that her colleagues will be presenting data for the Board's review.

Peg Harton, Bernardsville, NJ, New Jersey Liberty Project: Ms. Harton explained that the New Jersey Liberty Project has reviewed voter registration data throughout the State and specifically in Union County, over 102% of eligible voters are registered. Her colleagues will further explain the statistics.

Kevin Gemmel, Ocean City, New Jersey Liberty Project: Mr. Gemmel advised that he is the research lead and has reviewed the data correlation relative to registered voters and is concerned the data he has reviewed. He advised that there is an uptick in population and registered voters and the uptick in registered voters outpaces the population increase.

Mary Logan, Lebanon, NJ New Jersey Liberty Project: Ms. Logan explained that their interpretation of the data shows that every County in New Jersey has more registered voters than population and that they have met with legislators about the matter.

Wanda Opdyke, New Jersey Liberty Project: Ms. Opdyke also made comments relative to the findings of the New Jersey Liberty Project.



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Commissioner Kobitz made a motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Teixeira. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.

## ADJUDICATION OF CERTAIN VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS

Commissioner Varnerin announced that she will abstain from review of all Berkeley Heights ballots.

The Commissioners rejected ballots for the following reasons: unaffiliated voters voted both the democratic and republican ballot; no certificate was contained in the envelope; and no ballot was contained in the envelope.

The Commissioners approved ballots for the following reasons: the voter did not include the outer envelope; there is no inner envelope in the outer envelope – just the ballot and certificate; and the certificate was ripped.

The Commissioners voted to send ballot cure letters to certain voters.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Foerst to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36am.