



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Clara Harelik, Esq. at 10:40am. The following were in attendance: Chair Clara Harelik, Esq.; Secretary / Commissioner of Registration James Foerst, Esq.; Commissioner Richard Fortunato, Esq.; Commissioner Dennis Kobitz; Commissioner Raymond Szpond; Commissioner Debra Varnerin; and Administrator Nicole DiRado.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- September 12, 2023 – Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Fortunato to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- September 12, 2023 – Executive Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Fortunato to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All members present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTIONS

- A resolution amending the 2023 Union County Polling Locations to move Union Twp. Districts 5 and 39 to Franklin School, 1550 Lindy Terrace.

On a motion made by Commissioner Varnerin and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all members present voted in the affirmative.

- A resolution amending the Annual Meeting Schedule to include dates necessary for the Hillside Run-Off Election
 - November 28, 2023 – 10:30am (In Person): Review Mail-In Ballots
 - December 5, 2023 – 10:30am (Via Zoom / In Person): Election Day
 - December 8, 2023 – 10:30am (Via Zoom): Count Drop Box & USPS Ballots
 - December 12, 2023 – 10:30am (Via Zoom / In Person): Count USPS & Provisional Ballots
 - December 16, 2023 – 10:30am (Via Zoom): Count Cure Ballots

On a motion made by Commissioner Varnerin and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all members present voted in the affirmative.

- A resolution approving the ballot drop box located at the Hillside Senior Center, 265 Hollywood Avenue, as the certified drop box for the Hillside Run-Off Election.

On a motion made by Commissioner Varnerin and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all members present voted in the affirmative.



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REVIEW OF MAIL-IN BALLOTS VOTED IN THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION

As of this date, a total of 45,464 mail-in ballots have been mailed. The Board has received 10,247.

The Board reviewed ballots for signature deficiencies and voted to issue cure letters.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chair Harelik requested that correspondence be sent to school administrators ahead of the 2024 election cycles, specifically those schools which are open and used as polling locations on Election Day.

Grant Award Updates: Ms. DiRado advised the Board that all grant awards for 2024 have been secured including the following: 2023 Bilingual Captions for Virtual Poll Worker Training (\$9,487.50); 2024 Poll Worker & State Reimbursement Grant (\$1,035,125); 2024 Early Voting & EPB Grant Award (\$1,266,556.30); and 2024 Ballot Drop Box Grant Award (\$122,345.50)

Ms. DiRado advised the Board that as of this date, the Board is in compliance with the USDOJ requirements for bilingual poll workers in polling places.

A discussion ensued relative to the air quality in the Election Board building and environmental reports provided by PEOSH and the pending testing to be done by the County. The Commissioners also met with the employees, who voiced their concerns relative to their health, and the conditions in the building.

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. Commissioner Szpond was absent for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:51pm.