



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Clara Harelik, Esq. at 10:30am. 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.

RESOLUTIONS

- Amending the Schedule of Meetings for the Union County Board of Elections for the year 2025 to include the following dates:
 - February 11, 2025 at 12:30pm (count cure ballots for Scotch Plains -Fanwood Election)
 - April 28, 2025 at 12:30pm (count cure ballots for Westfield Annual School Board Election)
 - June 18, 2025 (Count on time mail-in ballots, provisional ballots & cured ballots. Delete June 17 meeting)

A motion to amend the meeting schedule of 2025 was made by Commissioner Kobitz and seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.

- A Resolution approving the ballot drop boxes for the Westfield Annual School Board Election:
 - Fraser Building, Westfield
 - UC Administration Building, Elizabeth
 - UCBOE, Elizabeth

A motion to approve the ballot drop boxes for the Westfield Annual School Board Election was made by Commissioner Szpond and seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.

- A Resolution certifying the ballot drop boxes for the 2025 Primary and General Elections
 - Berkeley Heights: Snyder Ave. Park, 240 Snyder Ave.
 - Clark: Clark Recreation Center, 430 Westfield Ave.
 - Cranford: Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.
 - Cranford: Union College of Union County, Richel Commons Courtyard, 1033 Springfield Ave.
 - Elizabeth: Union County Administration Bldg Complex, Corner of Elizabethtown Plz. and Rahway Ave.
 - Elizabeth: Union County Board of Elections, 271 North Broad St.
 - Fanwood: Fanwood Historic Train Station & Museum, 230 North Ave.
 - Garwood: Garwood Public Library, 411 Third Ave.
 - Hillside: Hillside Senior Center, 265 Hollywood Ave.
 - Kenilworth: Kenilworth Recreation Center, 575 Boulevard



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- Linden: Raymond Wood Bauer Promenade, 400 North Wood Ave.
- Mountainside: Mountainside Public Library, 1 Constitution Plaza
- New Providence: New Providence Memorial Library, 377 Elkwood Ave.
- Plainfield: Plainfield Municipal Building Parking Lot, 515 Watchung Ave.
- Rahway: Rahway Recreation Center, 275 East Milton Ave.
- Roselle: Roselle Borough Hall Annex, 108 West 3rd Ave.
- Roselle Park: Union County EMS Building, 535 Laurel Ave.
- Scotch Plains: Scotch Plains Public Library 1927 Bartle Ave.
- Springfield: Chisholm Recreation Center, 100 South Springfield Ave.
- Summit: Chestnut St. Parking Lot {Adjacent to Fire Department}, 406 Broad St. (Corner of Morris Ave. and Broad St.)
- Union: Union Township Municipal Building Rear Entrance, 1976 Morris Ave.
- Union: Kean University, Wilkins Theater, Morris Ave.
- Westfield: Fraser Building, 300 North Ave. East
- Winfield: Winfield Park Mutual Housing Building, Wincrest Ave.

A motion to approve the ballot drop boxes for the 2025 Primary and General Elections was made by Commissioner Szpond and seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.

- A Resolution to certify the Early Voting Locations for the 2025 Primary and General Elections:
 - Cranford: Union College of Union College, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Room N4
 - Elizabeth: Sampson Center, 800 Anna Street
 - New Providence: DeCorso Center, 15 E. Fourth St.
 - Plainfield: Union College of Union College, Church Street between 2nd and 3rd Aves.
 - Rahway: Rahway Recreation Center, 275 E. Milton Avenue
 - Roselle: Amalfe Center, 1268 Shaffer Avenue
 - Union Twp: Union Township Senior Center, 652 Rahway Ave.
 - Union Twp: Kean University, 1000 Morris Avenue
 1. Primary Election: Green Lane Academic Building (1040 Morris Ave.)
 2. General Election: North Avenue Academic Building (corner of Morris & North Avenues)

A motion to approve the Early Voting sites for the 2025 Primary and General Elections was made by Commissioner Szpond and seconded by Commissioner Fortunato. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.



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DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Potential redistricting: Roselle Park Ward 5: Ms. DiRado advised the Board that the Municipal Clerk of Roselle Park requested the Board review the district lines of Roselle Park Ward 5 Districts 1 and 2. The number of voters in 5-2 is significantly greater than 5-1 which results in long lines at the polls on Election Day. The Board agreed to review the district lines for a possible redistricting.
- UCBOE EPB Warehouse: Ms. DiRado advised the Board that the property which houses the Electronic Poll Books Warehouse is being sold. It is likely that our new landlord would maintain the lease. Chair Harelik and Commissioner Fortunato both advised that the lease needs to be honored. The Board will be updated as information is available.
- In Memory of Commissioner Mary Ellen Harris:

Chair Harelik remembered Commissioner Harris as having served the Board of Elections and the Republican party well. She was intelligent, strong and led an amazing personal life. She will be remembered always for what she did for the Board of Elections. She extends her most sincere condolences to the family.

Commissioner Kobitz commented that he will miss Commissioner Harris so much. She was kind-hearted and always did what was best for the voters of Union County.

Commissioner Szpond will remember Commissioner Harris as she welcomed him to the Board and taught him the ropes. She will most certainly be missed.

Commissioner Foerst recalled the first time he met Commissioner Harris in 2001. He was a young volunteer attorney working on Election Day and she was a Commissioner. It was a great honor to be able to serve with Commissioner Harris so many years later.

Commissioner Varnerin remembers Commissioner Harris as a wonderful and warm woman. Having grown up in Kenilworth, Commissioner Varnerin commented on all the heart-warming memories being shared in Town about Commissioner Harris.

Commissioner Fortunato commented that he appreciates her service to the Union County Board of Elections.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Foerst and seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52.



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Voter Registration and Turn Out Data for Roselle Park Ward 5

RP 5-1	GE2024	GE2023	GE2022	GE2021
TTL Registered Voters	717	685	654	610
TTL Voters on EDay	442	153	252	257
RP 5-2	GE2024	GE2023	GE2022	GE2021
TTL Registered Voters	1276	1187	1145	1089
TTL Voters on EDay	811	319	480	446