



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2024

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Clara Harelik, Esq. at 10:35am. 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.

ADJUDICATION OF MAIL-IN BALLOTS VOTED IN THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

The Board voted to approve ballots which were not enclosed in an outer envelope and certifications which were switched by voters living in the same household.

The Board voted to reject ballots for the following reasons: a certification was not returned with the ballot; the ballot was not enclosed in the certificate envelope; the bearer exceeded the statutory limit; the voters moved out of county; the voter was required to return identification with their ballot and identification was not returned and the voter voted their sample ballot and the voter passed away after voting the ballot.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Edward Atkins, a former poll worker, addressed the Board about his poll worker history. He asked to be reinstated as a poll worker. Ms. DiRado discussed his behavior at the polls and recommended that he not be reinstated. Chair Harelik advised Mr. Atkins he would not be reinstated for this election.

Yelena Zolotarsky, Springfield: Ms. Zolotarsky asked for clarification regarding a discussion which ensued during the ballot review process.

The Board asked for clarification from the Attorney General's Office for the next election on the matter of identification in the polling place.

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 12:30pm.