



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY CANVASSERS

### MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025

The meeting of the Union County Board of County Canvassers was called to order by Chair Clara Harelik, Esq. at 12:07 pm. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Chair Clara Harelik, Esq.; Secretary / Commissioner of Registration James Foerst, Esq.; Commissioner Dennis Kobitz; Commissioner Donald Stanzione, Esq.; Commissioner Raymond Szpond; Commissioner Debra Varnerin; Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi 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 CLARK SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION

The Board voted to reject ballots received after the statutory deadline.

#### CERTIFICATION OF THE CLARK SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION

The Board of County Canvassers certified the results of the Clark Special School Election.

Ms. Rajoppi left the meeting.

#### ADJUDICATION OF MAIL-IN BALLOTS VOTED IN THE 2025 GENERAL ELECTION

Commissioner Kobitz announced he would abstain from taking action on all ballots from Hillside as he has a conflict.

The Board voted to issue Cure Letters to voters whose ballots contained a signature deficiency.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

Mark Demo: Mr. Demo followed up on an email he sent earlier in the week.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. DiRado advised the Board that there was a mistake in the printing of the Berkeley Heights ballots noting that the mistake was not made by the Board of Elections as we do not print the ballots. The ballots were reprinted and corrected ballots were mailed to voters. Ms. DiRado suggested the Board may need to postpone counting mail-in ballots on Election Day, depending on how many corrected ballots are returned, in order to ensure that voter anonymity is not jeopardized. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Kobitz and Ms. DiRado discussed with the Board the statute relative to duplicating damaged ballots to be counted by the electronic tabulation equipment as hand-counting is no longer permissible under the statute. Ms. DiRado advised she will be setting up an in-person vendor demonstration for the Board to aid in compliance with the new law.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Foerst and seconded by Commissioner Stanzione. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 pm.