



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## MEETING MINUTES FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Clara Harelik, Esq. at 10:36am. 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; 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.

### PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

#### ▪ NJSA 19:53A-8 & ENHANCED VOTING

The Board discussed the provisions of NJSA 19:53A-8 and participated in a demonstration provided by Enhanced Voting of their ballot remake solution. The Board decided to test the equipment in the General Election assuming all approvals by the State were received.

### RESOLUTIONS

- A Resolution to certify the Brayton Elementary School, 89 Tulip St., (Art Room, Entrance on Myrtle Avenue), Summit as a polling location on Election Day for voters in Summit Ward 2 Districts 5 & 10.

A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the change in polling location for Summit Ward 2 Districts 5 & 10. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stanzione. All members present voted in the affirmative.

- A Resolution amending the 2025 Union County Board of Elections Meeting Schedule to include the following dates for the Hillside Runoff Election:
  - November 24, 2025 at 10:30am – Signature Review if Necessary
  - December 2, 2025 at 10:30am - Election Day
  - December 5, 2025 at 10:30am – Count Drop Box & 48 hour VBMs
  - December 10, 2025 at 12:30pm – Count on time VBM, Provisional & Cure Ballots

A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the additional dates to the Annual Meeting Schedule in anticipation of the Hillside Runoff Election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foerst. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Kobitz abstaining.



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- A Resolution to certify the following drop boxes for the Hillside Runoff Election:
  - Fraser Building, 300 North Avenue East, Westfield
  - Hillside Senior Center, 265 Hollywood Avenue
  - Union County Administration Building, corner of Rahway Avenue & Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth
  - Union County Board of Elections, 271 No. Broad Street, Elizabeth

A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to certify the ballot drop boxes available to voters for the Hillside Runoff Election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stanzone. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Kobitz abstaining.

## 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 approve ballots for the following reasons: family members switched certifications and both ballots were received; and a certificate envelope was not contained in an outer envelope.

The Board voted to reject ballots for the following reasons: original, misprinted Berkeley Heights ballots were disapproved because the duplicate ballots were received; ballots did not contain a certification; and certificate envelopes did not contain a ballot.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varnerin and all Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.

- Potential Litigation

A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to return to the Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz and all Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Foerst and seconded by Commissioner Stanzone. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Chair Harelik and Commissioner Szpond were not present. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25pm.