



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Clara Harelik, Esq. at 10:31am. 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 Deputy Administrator Linda Wise.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- July 24, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes, with Commissioner Foerst abstaining.
- July 24, 2025 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes, with Commissioner Foerst abstaining.
- August 4, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes.
- August 26, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes, with Chair Harelik abstaining.
- September 9, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes.
- September 9, 2025 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes.
- September 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes, with Commissioner Foerst abstaining.
- September 10, 2025 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes, with Commissioner Foerst abstaining.
- September 16, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes, with Commissioner Varnerin abstaining.



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- September 18, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes.
- September 18, 2025 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes.
- September 19, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: On a motion made by Commissioner Stanzione and seconded by Commissioner Szpond, all Commissioners voted to adopt the minutes, with Commissioner Stanzione 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: a certificate envelope was not contained in an outer envelope.

The Board voted to reject ballots for the following reasons: The envelope did not contain a certification; the certificate envelope did not contain a ballot; there was a break in the chain of custody; a voter who identified as ID needed did not return ID; and a voter moved out of county.

The Board voted to issue cure letters to voters whose ballots contained a signature deficiency.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- Potential Litigation

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Szpond and seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.