



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025 GENERAL ELECTION DAY

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Clara Harelik, Esq. at 6:30 am. The following were in attendance: Chair Clara Harelik, Esq.; Secretary / Commissioner of Registration James Foerst, Esq.; Commissioner Donald Stanzione, 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.

PROCESS AND TALLY OF MAIL-IN BALLOTS VOTED IN THE 2025 GENERAL ELECTION

The Board opened, prepped and tallied mail-in ballots voted in the 2025 General Election.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. DiRado provided the Board with updates relative to the opening of the polls and turnout throughout the day.

Ms. DiRado advised the Board that there had been 17 reported incidents of bomb threats made via email at polling locations in large, predominately democratic cities. A bomb threat was also made to a polling location in Hillside. Ms. DiRado took steps outlined in the Continuity of Operations Plan to coordinate with state, county and local law enforcement and election partners. The polling location and the UCBOE office were secure. It was determined that the threats were not credible.

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

The Board voted to approve ballots wherein the certificate envelope was not included in an outer envelope.

The Board voted to reject ballots for the following reasons: a certification was not returned with the ballot; there was a break in the chain of custody; and the voter was required to return identification with their ballot and identification was not returned.

The Board voted to issue cure letters for ballots which contained signature deficiencies.

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 8:01 pm.