



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Clara Harelik, Esq. at 10:06am. The following 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- September 23, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Chair Harelik and Commissioner Foerst abstaining.
- September 23, 2025 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Chair Harelik and Commissioner Foerst abstaining.
- October 1, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- October 10, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- October 10, 2025 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- October 17, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- October 17, 2025 - Executive Session Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- October 24, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- October 30, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Foerst abstaining.
- November 1, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- November 2, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- November 4, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- November 4, 2025 – Executive Session Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- November 7, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- November 11, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Foerst and Commissioner Szpond abstaining.
- November 15, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- November 16, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Foerst abstaining.
- November 17, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- November 19, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Kobitz abstaining.
- December 2, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- December 5, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Chair Harelik and Commissioner Varnerin abstaining.
- December 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- December 10, 2025 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- December 16, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.
- January 13, 2026 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Varnerin to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Foerst abstaining.

RESOLUTIONS

- A Resolution certifying the 2026 secure ballot drop boxes for the 2026 Primary and General Elections:
 - Berkeley Heights: Snyder Ave. Park, 240 Snyder Ave.
 - Clark: Clark Recreation Center, 430 Westfield Ave.
 - Cranford: Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.
 - Cranford: Union College of Union County, 1033 Springfield Ave., Nomahegan Building Entrance near Lot 1
 - Elizabeth: Union County Administration Bldg Complex, Corner of Elizabethtown Plz. and Rahway Ave.
 - Elizabeth: Union County Board of Elections, 271 North Broad St.
 - Fanwood: Fanwood Historic Train Station & Museum, 230 North Ave.
 - Garwood: Garwood Public Library, 411 Third Ave.
 - Hillside: Conant Park, 320 Conant Street
 - Kenilworth: Kenilworth Recreation Center, 575 Boulevard
 - Linden: Raymond Wood Bauer Promenade, 400 North Wood Ave.
 - Mountainside: Mountainside Public Library-, 1 Constitution Plaza
 - New Providence: New Providence Memorial Library, 377 Elkwood Ave.
 - Plainfield: Plainfield Municipal Building Parking Lot, 515 Watchung Ave.
 - Rahway: Rahway Recreation Center, 275 East Milton Ave.
 - Roselle: Roselle Borough Hall Annex, 108 West 3rd Ave.
 - Roselle Park: Union County EMS Building, 535 Laurel Ave.
 - Scotch Plains: Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Ave.
 - Springfield: Chisholm Recreation Center, 100 South Springfield Ave.
 - Summit: Summit Community Center, 100 Morris Ave.
 - Union: Union Township Municipal Building Rear Entrance, 1976 Morris Ave.
 - Union: Kean University, Wilkins Theater, Morris Ave.
 - Westfield: Fraser Building, 300 North Ave. East
 - Winfield: Winfield Park Mutual Housing Building, 1 Roosevelt Dr.



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

A motion was made by Commissioner Foerst to certify the locations of the 2026 Secure Ballot Drop Boxes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- Personnel Matters

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Gilda Rodriguez, Supervisor of Voter Registration and Ballot Processing: Ms. Rodriguez asked the Board to consider whether or not her brother's candidacy for County Commissioner will have an effect on her step-daughter's ability to work with the Election Board during the election season. The Board advised Ms. Rodriguez that they will seek the advice from counsel on the matter.

Ms. DiRado advised the Board that one early voting location will need to be eliminated in 2026 as the Board's budget is being reduced. A debate ensued relative to the merits of which locations shall be maintained in 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Foerst. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 11:03am.