



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Clara Harelik, Esq. at 10:01am. 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.

ADJUDICATION OF MAIL-IN BALLOTS VOTED IN THE BERKELEY HEIGHTS SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION

The Board voted to issue a signature cure letter to a voter whose ballot contained a signature deficiency.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Demo, Citizens of NJ Election Integrity Group: Mr. Demo submitted a list of voters he believes have moved based on USPS data. He asked if the Board has investigated the data. Ms. DiRado explained that USPS data is not sufficient evidence to challenge a voter. She also explained voter status based on thousands of returned sample ballots is investigated after each election and if appropriate, the voter is put in an inactive status. Chair Harelik commented that the information relative to investigations resulting from returned sample ballots is pertinent and addresses Mr. Demo's concerns. Mr. Demo indicated that he will do a sample mailing of his own and report the results. Chair Harelik advised she will further discuss with Ms. DiRado.

Yelena Zolotarsky, Springfield: Ms. Zolotarsky stressed that she and the NJ Election Integrity Group believe the UCBOE is working to keep the rolls updated. She stressed they do not want to disenfranchise voters, just help fill in gaps and instill trust in the system. Chair Harelik commented that she did not perceive their comments to be criticisms but wanted to make sure they are aware that work is happening behind the scenes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- Personnel Matters
- Attorney-Client Privileged Communications

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Stanzione. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foerst. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 10:58am.