



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 BERKELEY HEIGHTS SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION DAY

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.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- August 12, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Szpond to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All members present voted in the affirmative, with Commissioner Varnerin abstaining.
- February 17, 2026 - Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Szpond to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- February 17, 2026 - Executive Session Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Szpond to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- February 24, 2026 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Szpond to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All members present voted in the affirmative.
- February 24, 2026 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Szpond to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Varnerin. All members present voted in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

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

The Board voted to reject certificate envelopes which were returned without ballots.

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

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

The Board tallied mail-in ballots voted in the Berkeley Heights Special School Election.



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DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2026 Early Voting Locations: The Board discussed geographic merits of early voting locations and approved the following sites for 2026:
 - Berkeley Heights: Berkeley Heights Municipal Building, 29 Park Avenue
 - Cranford: Union College of Union College, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Room N4
 - Elizabeth: Sampson Center, 800 Anna Street
 - New Providence: DeCorso Center, 15 E. Fourth St.
 - Plainfield: Union College of Union College, Church Street between 2nd and 3rd Aves.
 - Rahway: Rahway Recreation Center, 275 E. Milton Avenue
 - Roselle: Amalfe Center, 1268 Shaffer Avenue
 - Scotch Plains: Ponderosa Farm Park, 1600 Cooper Road
 - Union Twp: Kean University, 1000 Morris Avenue, North Avenue Academic Building
 - Union Twp: Payne Vauxhall Community Center, 333 Russell Avenue

- Poll Worker Assignments: Ms. DiRado discussed certain poll workers and their behavior during the 2025 General Election and it was determined that the poll workers would not be appointed. Additionally, the Board agreed that poll workers who create a difficult work environment for fellow poll workers and those who continue to make mistakes should not be rehired.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Foerst made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Szpond seconded the motion. All members present voted in the affirmative. Chair Harelik was not present. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.