



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

## MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Chair Clara Harelik, Esq. at 10:33am. 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; and Administrator Nicole DiRado. Commissioner Debra Varnerin was not present.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- May 28, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.
- May 28, 2025 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.
- June 6, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.
- June 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.
- June 13, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.
- June 18, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.
- June 18, 2025 - Executive Session Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.
- July 18, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Kobitz to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative with Commissioner Foerst abstaining. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.



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## RESOLUTIONS

- A Resolution amending the 2025 Meeting Schedule to include the following meeting dates of the Union County Board of Elections for the administration of the Clark Special School Election on September 16, 2025:
  - August 26, 2025 – 10:30 – Signature review if necessary
  - September 4, 2025 – 10:30 – Signature review if necessary
  - September 16, 2025 – 10:30 – Election Day
  - September 19, 2025 – 10:30 – Count mail-in Ballots
  - September 23, 2025 – 10:30 – Count mail-in Ballots and Provisional Ballots
  - September 29, 2025 – 12:30 – Count cured ballots
  - October 1, 2025 – 12:00pm – Certification (In Person)

A motion was made by Commissioner Szpond to amend the 2025 Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foerst. All members present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.

- A Resolution moving polling locations for the Township of Union, Districts 4 and 35 to the Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Avenue, Union, Room 8 (through the front entrance).

A motion was made by Commissioner Szpond to update the polling locations for the Township of Union, Districts 4 and 35. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stanzone. All members present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.

- A Resolution approving the following Early Voting Locations for the 2025 General Election:
  - Berkeley Heights: Berkeley Heights Municipal Building, 29 Park Avenue
  - Elizabeth: Sampson Center, 800 Anna Street
  - New Providence: DeCorso Center, 15 E. Fourth St.
  - Plainfield: Union College of Union College, Church Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aves.
  - Rahway: Rahway Recreation Center, 275 E. Milton Avenue
  - Roselle: Amalfe Center, 1268 Shaffer Avenue
  - Union Twp: Union Township Senior Center, 652 Rahway Ave.
  - Union Twp: Kean University, 1000 Morris Avenue: General Election: North Avenue Academic Building (corner of Morris & North Avenues)
  - Union Township: Payne Community Meeting Center, 333 Russell Ave., Vauxhall
  - Westfield: Westfield Memorial Pool, 713 Cumberland Street

A motion was made by Commissioner Szpond to approve the early voting locations for the 2025 General Election. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foerst. All members present voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.



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## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Demo: Mr. Demo commended the Board's comprehensive drop box surveillance system. He also asked the Board's position on open primaries and ranked choice voting. The Board responded that they do not have an opinion; they follow the statutes. Chair Hareluk commended Ms. DiRado for seeking grant funds which funded the surveillance system.

Yelena Zolotarsky, Springfield: Ms. Zolotarsky asked if the Board has written policies relative to who can vote in the primary and who shows up in the poll books. Ms. DiRado responded that the voters permitted to vote in a primary are guided by statute.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Foerst and seconded by Commissioner Kobitz. All members present voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 10:48am. Commissioner Varnerin was not present.