



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026 WESTFIELD ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION DAY

The meeting of the Union County Board of Elections was called to order by Secretary / Commissioner of Registration James Foerst, Esq. at 10:05am. The following were in attendance: Secretary / Commissioner of Registration James Foerst, Esq.; Commissioner Dennis Kobitz; Commissioner Donald Stanzione, Esq.; Commissioner Raymond Szpond; Commissioner Debra Varnerin; and Administrator Nicole DiRado. Chair Clara Harelik, Esq. was not present.

The Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read by Commissioner Foerst.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ADJUDICATION OF BALLOTS VOTED IN THE WESTFIELD ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

The Board voted to reject a ballot envelope which did not contain a ballot.

TALLY OF MAIL-IN BALLOTS VOTED IN THE WESTFIELD ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

The Board tallied mail-in ballots voted in the Westfield Annual School Board Election.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Demo, Citizens for NJ Election Integrity: Mr. Demo asked questions relative to the process of adjudicating duplicate voters provided through ERIC. Ms. DiRado responded to all questions including how many pairs of duplicate voters were provided through ERIC, the research process to determine if a duplicate exists and how the Board works with other counties on administering this project. Commissioner Varnerin noted there are 393,000 voters and a possible 442 duplicates in Union County.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chair Harelik entered the meeting.

- Early Voting & Election Day Poll Worker Assignments: A discussion ensued relative to the early voting and election day poll worker application and selection process.

Mr. Carlos Santos, Chair of the Union County Republican Party made comments regarding the parity of poll worker assignments in early voting and the disparity of election day poll worker assignments. Commissioner Foerst noted that in a county wherein voter registration favors the Democratic party, it has been difficult securing Republican participation. He acknowledged it is the Board goal to have at least one Republican in every polling location. Ms. DiRado noted that every Republican applicant which has been received by the Board has already been assigned. Poll worker assignments will be mailed the first week in May.



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A discussion followed relative to the assignment of Early Voting poll workers and recommendations for making assignments in the 2026 General Election.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Foerst. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Szpond. All Commissioners present voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.