



*State of New Jersey*

## **ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

THOMAS H. PROL  
Chairman

RYAN PETERS  
Commissioner

NORMA R. EVANS  
Commissioner

JON-HENRY BARR  
Commissioner

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AMANDA S. HAINES  
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JOSEPH W. DONOHUE  
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THERESA J. LELINSKI  
Legal Director

AUREA VAZQUEZ-ALEXANDER  
Compliance Director

EDWIN R. MATTHEWS  
Legal Counsel

### PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

November 19, 2024

Chairman Thomas H. Prol, Commissioner Ryan Peters, Commissioner Jon-Henry Barr, Legal Counsel Edwin R. Matthews, Executive Director Amanda Haines, Deputy Director Joseph Donohue, Legal Director Theresa Lelinski, Deputy Legal Director Scott Miccio, Assistant Legal Counsel Ben Kachuriner, Compliance Director Aurea Vazquez-Alexander, Review and Investigation Director Shreve Marshall, Information Technology (IT) Director Anthony Giancarli, IT Specialist Lou Solimeo, Executive Secretarial Assistant Elbia Zeppetelli, and Legal Secretary Maureen Tilbury were present. Commissioner Norma R. Evans, IT Specialist Elias Amaya, and Ken Colandrea participated via Zoom.

A court reporter was available to record the proceedings.

The Public Session Minutes will be available online on the Commission's website at: <http://www.elec.state.nj.us>.

Chairman Prol convened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. in Trenton.

#### **1. Open Public Meetings Statement**

Chairman Prol called the meeting to order and announced that pursuant to the "Open Public Meetings Act," N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notice of the meeting of the Commission had been filed with the Secretary of State's Office and distributed to the entire State House Press Corps. It was also posted on the Commission's website.

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **3. Approval of Public Session Minutes for October 15, 2024**

On a motion by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission approved the Public Session Minutes for October 15, 2024.

#### **4. Resolution of Appreciation**

Chairman Prol read a Resolution of Appreciation for Elbia Zeppetelli in acknowledgement of her retirement from ELEC.

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission approved the Resolution of Appreciation and presented it to Ms. Zeppetelli.

**5. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Haines presented the Executive Director's Report.

Next Commission Meeting

December 17, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Executive Director Haines introduced Aurea Vazquez-Alexander as ELEC's Compliance Director.

**6. Adoption of Amendments to Implement Cost-Index Adjustments for Gubernatorial and Non-Gubernatorial Candidates, Committees, and Political Party Entities and Proposed Independent Expenditure Committee Regulations and Amendments**

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Peters, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission adopted the Amendments to Implement Cost-Index Adjustments for Gubernatorial and Non-Gubernatorial Candidates, Committees, and Political Party Entities and Proposed Independent Expenditure Committee Regulations and Amendments.

**7. Public Comments**

Chairman Prol opened the meeting to public comments.

- Ronald Gravino, Treasurer

Chairman Prol closed the meeting to public comments.

**8. Chairman Prol Read Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session**

Whereas, there exists a need to hold an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the following matter/matters, which fall within the exceptions to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 et seq. to wit.

**Matter/Matters (OPMA Exception)**

- Discussion of Executive Session Minutes for October 15, 2024;
- Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints;
- Complaint Recommendations; and,
- Schedule for Complaint Release.

Whereas, it is unknown at this time when such discussion to take place in Executive Session may be disclosed to the public.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the Election Law Enforcement Commission as follows:

1. This Executive Session Meeting of the Election Law Enforcement Commission shall be closed to the public for discussion of the aforesaid referenced matters.
2. The matters discussed during this Executive Session Meeting shall be disclosed to the public at such time when reason for discussing and acting on same in Executive Session shall no longer exist.

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission resolved to enter Executive Session to discuss anticipated litigation and current litigation, which will become public as follows:

- A. Final Decision Recommendations in complaint proceedings which will not become public. However, the Final Decisions resulting from those recommendations will become public not later than seven business days after mailing to the named respondents.
- B. Matters under current litigation, the substance of discussions of which will not become public in order to protect the attorney-client privilege and the deliberative process. However, any litigation in which the Commission is currently a party is a public matter and will become public subject to the above limitations and privileges.

### **Return to Public Session**

Chairman Prol stated that the following items were discussed in Executive Session:

- Discussion of Executive Session Minutes for October 15, 2024;
- Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints;
- Complaint Recommendations; and,
- Schedule for Complaint Release.

### **9. Approval of Executive Session Minutes for October 15, 2024**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission approved the Executive Session Minutes for October 15, 2024.

**10. Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission approved the Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints as follows:

- 2019 Primary Election: 1. Rendeiro;
- 2020 Primary Election: 2. Graham;
- 2022 General Election: 3. Kosior, 4. Scott; and,
- 2023 Primary Election: 5. Catalano, 6. Spangenberg, 7. Exadaktilos, 8. LaBarbera, 9. Clute.

**11. Complaint Recommendations**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission approved the complaint recommendations as follows:

Item 1. ELEC v. Jamel C. Holley and Samuel Bishop (Treasurer)

C-G 2014 02 01-P2023;

Item 2. ELEC v. NJ Merit PAC and Karen Reiser (Organizational Treasurer)

C-T 0000 0030 33-Q2023; and,

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission temporarily appointed Commissioner Peters as Acting Chair while Chairman Prol recused himself from the next item.

Chairman Prol exited the meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the complaint recommendation as follows:

Item 3. ELEC v. Rosemary Pino and John M. Traier (Treasurer)

C-5 1600 02 02-G2023.

At this juncture, Chairman Prol returned to the meeting.

**12. Meeting Schedule for 2025**

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Peters, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission approved the 2025 Commission meeting schedule as follows:

January	21, 11:00 a.m.
February	18, 11:00 a.m.
March	18, 11:00 a.m.
April	15, 11:00 a.m.
May	20, 11:00 a.m.
June	17, 11:00 a.m.
July	15, 11:00 a.m.
August	19, 11:00 a.m. (if necessary)
September	16, 11:00 a.m.
October	21, 11:00 a.m.
November	18, 11:00 a.m.
December	16, 11:00 a.m.

**13. Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Barr and Commissioner Evans echoed the comments in the Resolution of Appreciation presented to Elbia Zeppetelli and expressed their gratitude for her service.

**14. Public Comments**

Chairman Prol opened the meeting to public comments.

No public comments.

Chairman Prol closed the meeting to public comments.

**15. Adjournment**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission resolved to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted as true  
and correct,

Amanda S. Haines  
Executive Director