



*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

December 17, 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, Compliance Director Aurea Vazquez-Alexander, Review and Investigation Director Shreve Marshall, Information Technology (IT) Director Anthony Giancarli, IT Specialist Lou Solimeo, and Legal Secretary Maureen Tilbury were present. IT Specialists Elias Amaya and Ken Colandrea participated via Zoom. Commissioner Norma R. Evans was absent.

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 11:24 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 November 19, 2024**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the Public Session Minutes for November 19, 2024.

#### **4. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Haines presented the Executive Director's Report.

Next Commission Meeting

January 21, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

**5. Public Comments**

Chairman Prol opened the meeting to public comments.

- David Wildstein, Editor in Chief for the New Jersey Globe

Chairman Prol closed the meeting to public comments.

**6. 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 November 19, 2024;
- Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints;
- Complaint Recommendations;
- Additional Complaint Recommendation;
- Investigation Update;
- 2025 Gubernatorial Public Financing Program;
- Potential 2025 Primary Election Date Change from June 3 to June 10; and,
- AI in Election Campaigns.

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 3-0, 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.

**7. Return to Public Session**

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

- Discussion of Executive Session Minutes for November 19, 2024;
- Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints;
- Complaint Recommendations;
- Schedule for Complaint Release;
- 2025 Gubernatorial Public Financing Program;
- Primary Election Date Change from June 3 to June 10 and recommendations about a Public Funds Cap Adjustment; and,
- AI in Election Campaigns.

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 3-0, we are now in open session.

**8. 2023 General Election Non-Filer Complaints**

On December 4, 2024, 55 complaints were issued against candidates who failed to file election-cycle reports for the 2023 general election.

**9. 2025 Gubernatorial Primary Election and Public Financing Program**

The April Commission meeting, originally scheduled for April 15, 2025 will now be held on April 8, 2025.

**10. Approval of Executive Session Minutes for November 19, 2024**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the Executive Session Minutes for November 19, 2024.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints as follows:

- 2022 Primary Election: 1. Hailey, 2. Santoro, 3. Hirn Sr.;
- 2022 General Election: 4. Perpetua, 5. Matalucci, 6. Chianese, 7. Nocentino;
- 2023 Primary Election: 8. Sachdev, 9. Downs, 10. Lebovics, 11. Kurpis, 12. Nunziato, 13. Spencer.

**12. Complaint Recommendations**

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

Item 1. ELEC v. Raj Mukherji and Aurelio Vincitore

C-1 0032 02 01-P2023; and,

Item 2. ELEC v. Benjie E. Wimberley and David Cozart, Jr.

C-2 0035 02 01-P2023.

**13. Public Comments**

Chairman Prol opened the meeting to public comments.

No public comments.

Chairman Prol closed the meeting to public comments.

**14. Adjournment**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission resolved to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted as true  
and correct,

Amanda S. Haines  
Executive Director

ASH/mat