



State of New Jersey

THOMAS H. PROL
Chairman

RYAN PETERS
Commissioner

NORMA R. EVANS
Commissioner

JON-HENRY BARR
Commissioner

ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

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Legal Counsel

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

March 28, 2025

Chairman Thomas H. Prol, Commissioner Ryan Peters, Commissioner Norma R. Evans, 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, Information Technology (IT) Director Anthony Giancarli, IT Specialist Lou Solimeo, Elias Amaya, Ken Colandrea and Executive Assistant Secretary Maureen Tilbury participated via Zoom.

A court reporter was present to transcribe 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 2:02 p.m. via Zoom.

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. Selection of 2025 Gubernatorial Primary Election Debate Sponsors

Chairman Prol opened the meeting to public comments.

2025 primary election debates sponsors applications were heard from:

- William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy/Stockton University;
- PIX 11/WPIX TV;
- New Jersey Globe/On New Jersey/Rider University/County of Essex/Save Jersey;
- NJ PBS/NJ Spotlight News and,
- News 12 New Jersey.

Public comments were made from the following speakers:

- John Tunmino;
- Dan Mannarino;
- Tina Zappile;
- Briana Vannozzi;
- Brooke Rothenberg;
- Tom Martello;
- David Wildstein;
- Gerald D'Ambra;
- Micah Rasmussen;
- Alyssa Maurice;
- Jen Eckert; and
- Shannon Maurice.

Chairman Prol closed the meeting to public comments.

4. 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 (OPMA Exception)

- Legal discussion of statutes and regulation regarding selection of debate sponsors.

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 matters within the attorney-client privilege.

5. Return to Public Session

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission returned to public session.

Commissioner Peters made a motion to award one Republican debate and one Democratic debate to New Jersey Globe and one Republican and one Democratic debate to NJ PBS/New Jersey Spotlight News. In addition, Commissioner Peters announced ELEC's preference that no debates be scheduled after May 20th and debate sponsors conduct live fact checking during the debate. Commissioner Barr seconded and it passed by a vote of 4-0.

6. Public Comments

Chairman Prol opened the meeting to public comments.

Brooke Rothenberg – News 12

Chairman Prol closed the meeting to public comments.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission resolved to adjourn the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted as true
and correct,

Amanda S. Haines
Executive Director

ASH/mat