

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025 AT 1:00 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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PRESENT: President Frederic M. Umane  
Secretary Jodi Morales

Commissioners Jose M. Araujo, \*Michael J. Coppotelli, Gino A. Marmorato,  
Frank R. Seddio, Simon Shamoun, Michele A. Sileo, Keith Sullivan

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director  
Vincent M. Ignizio, Deputy Executive Director  
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager  
Michael D. Corbett, Administrative Manager  
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners  
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners  
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel  
Eric Butkiewicz, Associate General Counsel

New York County:  
Stephen M. Evans III, Chief Clerk  
Rhonda Evans, Acting Deputy Chief Clerk

Kings County:  
Salvatore Barrera, Acting Chief Clerk  
Daniel Ortiz, Deputy Chief Clerk

\*Commissioner Coppotelli appeared remotely, but not at a publicly accessible location, and therefore did not cast any votes.

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Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director, called the meeting to order, highlighting that this is the first meeting of the year for the Commissioners of Elections, in the City of New York.

Mr. Ryan welcomed Frank R. Seddio, the newly appointed Democratic Commissioner from the borough of Brooklyn.

Commissioner Shamoun welcomed Commissioner Seddio to the Board and, as the Republican Brooklyn Commissioner, expressed his eagerness to work together in the coming years for the betterment of the voters in Brooklyn and the City of New York as a whole.

Commissioner Seddio recognized his long history of collaboration with Commissioner Shamoun and their many discussions, expressing his enthusiasm to continue that partnership. He also expressed hope that this Board will function more effectively and cohesively than their counterparts in the various legislatures.

Commissioner Shamoun also acknowledged former Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir, with whom he worked closely for many years. He praised their strong working relationship and highlighted the significant contributions she made to the voters of Kings County and the City of New York. He expressed gratitude for her dedicated service.

Commissioner Umane announced that, for those who may not be aware, Commissioner Carol R. Edmead, his Democratic counterpart for the borough of Manhattan, has passed away. The Commissioner shared that she served with

tremendous dignity and humility, always striving to help everyone in the borough of Manhattan vote, and she did so with great distinction. On behalf of the Manhattan Office staff and the entire Board of Elections, we deeply miss her and send our best wishes to her family.

Before continuing with agenda item #1, Mr. Ryan first continued with agenda item #2 as we are required by NYS Election Law § 3-212(1), to elect Board Officers for the Year of 2025 in the first meeting of the year.

Commissioner Shamoun moved to nominate Commissioner Frederic Umane for the position of President. He has served the Board with honor and distinction for nearly 30 years, and him serving as President in his 30<sup>th</sup> year would be a great way to continue his service. We look forward to his leadership. Commissioner Coppotelli seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Araujo moved to nominate Commissioner Jodi Morales for the position of Secretary for the upcoming year. She has been a great steward so far and knows that she will be a great Secretary, and future President. Commissioner Marmorato seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Sileo noted her presence as well as her vote in favor of the appointment of both President Umane and Secretary Morales for Year 2025.

Before moving on to the remaining agenda items, Mr. Ryan conducted a roll call of the Board staff for the meeting record.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #3 of the meeting agenda - Scheduling a Hearing Date for Nominating Petition Matters Pertaining to the March 25, 2025 Special Election in the 44<sup>th</sup> New York City Council District.

Mr. Ryan acknowledged the Office of the General Counsel, and turned to Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel, to present the matter.

Mr. Savino stated that in terms of a date for the Independent Nominating Petitions for the Special Election that is upcoming, the Office of the General Counsel recommends that the hearing be held next week on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> during the regularly scheduled meeting. There are two items, a clerk's report and a prima facie defect.

Commissioner Shamoun moved to schedule the hearing date for Tuesday, February 4, 2025. Commissioner Araujo seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ryan continued and moved back to item #1 of the meeting agenda, the approval of the minutes of the December 3, 2024 Commissioners Meeting.

Mr. Ryan explained for Commissioner Seddio's benefit that the meeting minutes are voted on, and unless there is an objection or change, they are approved without objection and no roll call vote is required.

Hearing no objections or amendments, the minutes of the December 3, 2024 Commissioners' Meeting were adopted.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #4 of the meeting agenda – Request for Testimony New York City Council Budget and Oversight Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 – Friday, March 21, 2025.

Mr. Ryan stated that we received an early notification from the City Council that our testimony date is set for March 21, 2025, as required by law. While we have quite a bit of time to prepare our testimony for the budget hearing, it is the practice of this Board staff to request the permission of the Commissioners to attend the budget hearing and present our testimony.

President Umame moved that we allow, and recommend, that the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and appropriate staff to attend and provide

testimony at the New York City Council Hearing. The Commissioner asked that a copy of the testimony be distributed to the Commissioners at least a day or so in advance so they may have the opportunity to review the Board's suggestions for additional funding. Commissioner Coppotelli seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #5 of the meeting agenda – Challenges to Voter Registrations NYS Election Law § 5-220.

The Brooklyn Borough Managers, Salvatore Barrera, Acting Chief Clerk and Daniel Ortiz, Deputy Chief Clerk, have joined the meeting from the Brooklyn Office. Meanwhile, the Manhattan Borough Managers, Stephen Evans, Chief Clerk and Rhonda Evans, Acting Deputy Chief Clerk, are present here in the Hearing Room.

Vincent Ignizio, Deputy Executive Director, asked that the Manhattan Borough Managers, being present in the Hearing Room, step forward to present their matter. Eric Butkiewicz, Associate General Counsel, confirmed that two investigations were conducted and asked that they step forward to present the results.

Mr. Evans stated that the first challenge was to the registration of Victor Susana, VSN# 414652904, whose registration was challenged at the December 3, 2024 Commissioners Meeting. A certified letter was sent to the address in which the voter was registered, but no response was received. A bipartisan team was sent on January 7, 2025 to that address, 721 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the doorperson confirmed that nobody by that name lives there. The apartment number given, Apt. 2618, does not exist in the building. It is inconsistent with the nomenclature for numbering apartments in that building. The bipartisan team concluded that nobody named Victor Susana lives at that address. It is the consensus of the Manhattan Borough Managers that this voter registration record be canceled.

President Umane moved to cancel the voter registration record of Victor Susana, VSN# 414652904. Commissioner Shamoun seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Evans presented the results of the second challenge to the voter registration of Miriam Hoffman, VSN# 414652409, highlighting that the situation was identical to the first challenge. The voter registration of Miriam Hoffman was also challenged at the December 3, 2025 Commissioners Meeting. A bipartisan team went to the same address, 721 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Apt. 2618, on January 7, 2025 and again nobody by that name lives there. That apartment number is inconsistent with the numbering of apartments in that building. The bipartisan team concluded that

there is no Miriam Hoffman at that address, and the Manhattan Borough Managers agreed that the voter registration record should be canceled.

President Umame moved to cancel the voter registration record of Miriam Hoffman, VSN# 414652409. Commissioner Shamoun seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Brooklyn Borough Managers presented the results of their investigation into the voter registration of Peter Anthony Lee, VSN# 411459971, which was challenged at the September 10, 2024 Commissioners Meeting. Mr. Barrera stated that a certified letter was sent to the address in which the voter was registered, which was returned as undeliverable. A bipartisan team was sent to the address on October 11, 2024 and determined that the voter did not live at the address indicated. The voter also listed a mailing address which the bipartisan team also visited, and did not find the voter in residence at that location either. It is the determination of the Brooklyn Borough Managers that the voter should be canceled.

Commissioner Shamoun moved to cancel the voter registration record of Peter Anthony Lee, VSN# 411459971. Commissioner Coppotelli seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.



Mr. Butkiewicz confirmed that this concludes the voter challenges on the agenda. Mr. Ryan stated that the Office of the General Counsel will prepare an email confirming the Commissioners' findings and forward it to the Manhattan and Brooklyn staff to finalize the documentation.

Commissioner Araujo asked that Executive Management circulate a list of the Commissioners' Committees from past years and provide a blank list for Commissioners to select their committees for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Araujo also suggested that the Board appoint a subcommittee of the Brooklyn Commissioners for next Tuesday's hearings on Nominating Petition Matters, in case there is no quorum.

Commissioner Shamoun moved to appoint an even number of Commissioners for a subcommittee meeting for Brooklyn hearings if necessary. President Umane seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Umane moved to convene an Executive Session for Personnel Matters and Litigation. Secretary Morales seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Umame moved to set the date of the next meeting for Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. Commissioner Coppotelli seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Following the Executive Session the open meeting resumed.

The following actions were taken by the unanimous decision of the Board of Commissioners:

1. Beth Fossella, the Coordinator of Voter Registration Services, was granted 210 hours of an Advance of Time retroactively. Beth Fossella's agency start date is June 8, 1997.
2. Gail Kearney, a Trainer Assistant, was granted 210 hours of an Advance of Time retroactively. Gail Kearney's agency start date is January 31, 2016.
3. Michael Watson, a Senior Voting Machine Technician, was granted 210 hours of an Advance of Time retroactively. Michael Watson's agency start date is June 17, 2013.

4. Nancy McLaurin, an Administrative Associate, was granted 210 hours of an Advance of Time retroactively. Nancy McLaurin's agency start date is May 8, 2006.
  
5. Jeannel Vicioso-Holguin, an Administrative Assistant, was granted 56 hours of an Advance of Time retroactively. Jeannel Vicioso-Holguin's agency start date is August 1, 2022.
  
6. Rayvon Weaver, a Project Coordinator, was granted 210 hours of an Advance of Time. Rayvon Weaver's agency start date is December 10, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners of Elections is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 1:00 P.M.