

BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor  
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

February 9, 2021

1:30 p.m. - 2:27 p.m.

February 9, 2021

**PRESENT:**

President Frederic Umane  
Secretary Miguelina Camilo  
Commissioner Jose Araujo  
Commissioner Gino Marmorato  
Commissioner Michael Michel  
Commissioner Rodney Pepe-Souvenir  
Commissioner Simon Shamoun  
Commissioner Patricia Anne Taylor  
Commissioner Tiffany Townsend  
Commissioner John Wm. Zaccone

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director  
Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director  
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager  
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager  
Rafael Savino, Deputy General Counsel  
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to Commissioners  
Steven Denkberg, Counsel to Commissioners  
John Naudus,

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2 (The meeting commenced at 1:39 p.m.)

3 PRESIDENT FREDERIC UMANE: Okay, this is  
4 the meeting of the Board of Elections for  
5 February 9, 2021. My name is Fred Umane. I am the  
6 president for the year 2021, and the Manhattan  
7 Republican. I'd ask my colleagues to introduce  
8 themselves, I guess starting with the Bronx  
9 commissioners.

10 SECRETARY MIGUELINA CAMILO: Good  
11 afternoon, Miguelina Camilo for the Bronx Dem.

12 COMMISSIONER GINO MARMORATO: Good  
13 afternoon, everyone. Gino Marmorato, Bronx  
14 Republican.

15 PRESIDENT UMANE: And the Brooklyn  
16 commissioners?

17 COMMISSIONER SIMON SHAMOUN: Simon  
18 Shamoun, Brooklyn Republican.

19 SECRETARY CAMILO: Commissioner Pepe-  
20 Souvenir, you're on mute.

21 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay, I think  
22 Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir is here.

23 MR. RAFAEL SAVINO: I see her name.

24 PRESIDENT UMANE: And [unintelligible]

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2 [00:10:11].

3 MR. SAVINO: Can you hear us now?

4 PRESIDENT UMANE: The other Manhattan  
5 commissioner, Tiffany?

6 COMMISSIONER TIFFANY TOWNSEND: Hi, good  
7 afternoon, Tiffany Townsend, Manhattan, New York  
8 County.

9 PRESIDENT UMANE: The Queens  
10 commissioners.

11 COMMISSIONER JOSE ARAUJO: Jose Araujo,  
12 Queens Democratic commissioner, good afternoon.

13 COMMISSIONER MICHAEL MICHEL: Michael  
14 Michel, Queens Republican.

15 PRESIDENT UMANE: And the Staten Island  
16 commissioners?

17 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Patricia Anne  
18 Taylor, Democrat.

19 COMMISSIONER JOHN WM. ZACCONE: Good  
20 afternoon, everyone, John Zaccone, Republican  
21 commissioner for Richmond County.

22 PRESIDENT UMANE: Yeah, we usually do  
23 that with the right side and then the wrong side,  
24 but we decided to switch it up today. And

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2 executive management that's present?

3 MS. PAMELA PERKINS: Pamela Perkins,  
4 administrative manager.

5 MS. GEORGEA KONTZAMANIS: Georgea  
6 Kontzamanis, operations manager.

7 MR. JOHN NAUDUS: John Naudus, director  
8 of the electronic voting systems.

9 PRESIDENT UMANE: Rafael?

10 MR. SAVINO: Rafael Savino, deputy  
11 general counsel.

12 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay.

13 MR. KENNETH MOLTNER: Kenneth Moltner,  
14 counsel to commissioners.

15 PRESIDENT UMANE: And our counsel?

16 MR. STEVE DENKBERG: Steve Denkberg,  
17 counsel to the commissioners.

18 PRESIDENT UMANE: Good, thanks, so we're  
19 all here. We do not seem to have an elaborate  
20 agenda today. The first thing is a draft of the  
21 RCV manual canvas procedures that was sent out to  
22 us. Perhaps Mr. Naudus could give us just a brief  
23 explanation of how the manual count is supposed  
24 to work and then we can perhaps entertain a

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2 motion to adopt them.

3 MR. NAUDUS: Good afternoon,  
4 commissioners. Basically, the premise with the  
5 RCV procedures is all of the ballots need to be  
6 gathered into one place. The procedures go into  
7 detail about how to keep track, make sure you can  
8 put the ballots back to which bin or ED they come  
9 from. Once the ballots are all together, they're  
10 counted and then the grand total, and then the  
11 process of moving them to basically the voters  
12 first choice to the individual candidates, write  
13 in or if no choice is clear, to the exhausted  
14 box. Once the ballots have been redistributed by  
15 a bipartisan team, it's each, for each of the  
16 individual candidate, write in or exhausted box,  
17 those boxes are counted to determine totals.

18 If an individual candidate has received  
19 more than the 50 percent plus one vote that's  
20 required, then the process stops and you have  
21 your winner. Otherwise, the box -- the candidate  
22 that received the lowest number of votes is  
23 deemed eliminated. Their votes are then taken  
24 from them and retransferred ballot by ballot to

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2 each voter's second or next available choice,  
3 which could be one of the other candidates or if  
4 it's a candidate that's already eliminated, moved  
5 on and exhausted. That process moves until there  
6 are only two candidates left with ballots and  
7 then out of those candidates, the one with the  
8 majority of the votes, or basically the one with  
9 the most votes of those two is then declared the  
10 winner of the process.

11 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay.

12 MR. NAUDUS: Thank you, commissioners.

13 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay. And all of that  
14 is supposed to happen in what? Five minutes or  
15 so? With over a million ballots?

16 MR. NAUDUS: With people and manual,  
17 depending on the amount of votes, the ballots.

18 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay. Is there a  
19 motion to adopt the proposed draft canvas  
20 procedures?

21 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Yeah, this is  
22 Commissioner Araujo. I move that we adopt the  
23 procedures.

24 PRESIDENT UMANE: Is there a second?

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2 SECRETARY CAMILO: I would second that.

3 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay. Is there any  
4 opposition? Any abstentions, okay.

5 MR. SAVINO: Commissioner, if I may, I  
6 thought it was worth pointing out that Maine  
7 apparently was one of the first states to do RCV  
8 and they resolve ties with drawing lots. In this,  
9 we have a coin toss, we looked into it. I know  
10 there's a coin toss done upstate. I don't  
11 remember the specifics. But there also is  
12 legislation that has been signed by both houses  
13 that does also talk about drawing lots. So if  
14 that passes, we will obviously have that section  
15 changed, well, if it gets signed by the governor,  
16 I should say.

17 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay. I had heard they  
18 were going with either foul shots or arm  
19 wrestling, but I'm not sure, I [unintelligible]  
20 [00:14:59] came out. Okay. Thank you for that.

21 MR. SAVINO: Again, that's only if  
22 there's a tie, so.

23 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay. Does anybody  
24 else have any business? There does not seem to be



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2 anything else on the agenda. I would like to move  
3 to into executive session for the purposes of  
4 discussing potential litigation.

5 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: I'll second.

6 PRESIDENT UMANE: I don't know if we  
7 need a second for that, but we're going to go  
8 into executive session to discuss potential  
9 litigation.

10 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Actually, if I  
11 can make a suggestion?

12 PRESIDENT UMANE: So I will just, I  
13 would move that our next meeting be at 1:30 next  
14 Tuesday, the 16th day of February 202 at 1:30,  
15 and somebody will report out whatever we decided  
16 to do that needs to be reported out subsequent to  
17 our executive session, so thank you all, and  
18 we'll see you all next week. We'll all go into  
19 executive session.

20 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Thank you.

21 [slate - There was nothing to report  
22 from the executive session.]

23 (The meeting concluded at 2:27 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Claudia Marques, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Board of Elections in The City of New York on February 9, 2021 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



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Date: June 23, 2021

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