



*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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Deputy Director

STEPHANIE A. OLIVO  
Compliance Director

EDWIN R. MATTHEWS  
Legal Counsel

### PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

June 18, 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, Compliance Director Stephanie Olivo, Review and Investigation Director Shreve Marshall, Legal Administrator of Review and Investigation Theresa Lelinski, Information Technology (IT) Director Anthony Giancarli, Administrative Analyst Christine Clevenger, IT Specialist Lou Solimeo, and Executive Secretarial Assistant Elbia Zeppetelli were present. IT Specialist Elias Amaya 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 11:00 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 May 21, 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 May 21, 2024.

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

Executive Director Haines presented the Executive Director's Report.

Next Commission Meeting  
July 16, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

**5. 2025 Cost Index Report**

Deputy Director Donohue presented the 2025 Cost Index Report. The report described calculation of the New Jersey Campaign Cost Index (NJCCI), which measures inflation in the costs of campaigns during the period from 2021 to 2024, and the resulting adjustments of the limits and thresholds applicable to gubernatorial candidates and committees, and adjustments of the thresholds applicable to non-gubernatorial candidates and committees.

**6. Public Comments**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission voted to open the meeting for public comments.

- David Wildstein, New Jersey Globe.

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission resolved to close public comments.

**7. 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 May 21, 2024;
- Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints;
- Chris Christie for Governor 2013 Campaign;
- Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Elections;
- 2025 Cost Index Report; and,
- Personnel Matter (Retention of General Counsel).

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.
- C. Personnel matters concerning the hiring of outside legal counsel, which will become public upon appointment of such counsel.

### **Return to Public Session**

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

- Discussion of Executive Session Minutes for May 21, 2024;
- Final Decision Recommendations for Non-Filer Complaints;
- Chris Christie for Governor 2013 Campaign;
- Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Elections;
- Personnel Matter (Retention of General Counsel);
- 2025 Cost Index Report/Gubernatorial Contribution/Expenditure Limits; and,
- Use of Media Resources by Declared Candidates as a Campaign Contribution.

### **8. Approval of Executive Session Minutes for May 21, 2024**

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Peters, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the Executive Session Minutes for May 21, 2024.

### **9. 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 Recommendation as follows:

- 2019 Primary Election: 1. Weaver, 2. Organ; and,
- P2020 Primary Election: 3. Schroth.

### **10. Chris Christie for Governor 2013 Campaign**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the application of Chris Christie for Governor 2013 campaign for termination with net liabilities.

**11. Personnel Matter (Retention of Legal Counsel)**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the reappointment of Edwin R. Matthews of Bourne Noll & Kenyon as Legal Counsel to the Election Law Enforcement Commission.

**12. Order to Show Cause**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission voted to issue an Order to Show Cause regarding the use of media resources by declared candidates as campaign contributions and other ancillary issues related to that matter.

**13. 2025 Cost Index Report**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission authorized the issuance of the 2025 Cost Index Report.

**14. Public Comments**

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission voted to open the meeting for public comments.

- David Wildstein, New Jersey Globe; and,
- Ron Gravino, Treasurer for Chris Christie for Governor.

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Peters, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Commission voted to close public comments.

**15. 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 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted as true  
and correct,

Amanda S. Haines  
Executive Director