

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024 AT 1:30 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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PRESENT: President Rodney L. Pepe-Souvenir

Commissioners Jose M. Araujo, Michael J. Coppotelli, Carol R. Edmead, Gino A. Marmorato, Jodi Morales, 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

Hemalee J. Patel, General Counsel

Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel

Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners

Tom Sattie, Director – Candidate Records Unit

Troy Johnson, Coordinator – Candidate Records Unit

Stephen M. Evans III, Chief Clerk – Manhattan

Charles Stimson, Supervisor – Manhattan

GUESTS: Emily YueXin Miller

Theo Chino

Alan Flacks

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Mr. Ryan opened the meeting with item #1 of the meeting agenda, Hearings on Designating Petitions for the April 2, 2024 Presidential Primary and then turned the proceedings over to President Pepe-Souvenir to commence the Meeting of the Board of Canvassers.

Following the Meeting of the Board of Canvassers the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was convened.

Mr. Ryan provided the following update on the Special Elections in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District in Queens and the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in the Bronx:

Today is the 4<sup>th</sup> day of early voting for the two ongoing Special Elections. The polls open today at 8:00 A.M. and will close at 4:00 P.M.

As of the close of polls last night, 3,578 New Yorkers have voted early. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District that was a total of 3,519, and a total of 59 voters in the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

Early voting will continue until Sunday, February 11, 2024. The hours and poll site locations can be found on the Board's website at [www.vote.nyc](http://www.vote.nyc) or by calling the Board Offices.

Preparations and voting equipment testing are still ongoing for Election Day, and all targets will be met.

The last day to register to vote for these Special Elections was this past Saturday, the first day of early voting. We received a total of 8 first time registrants

in the Bronx and 6 in Queens, 4 of which were completed through the online portal.

In the Bronx Special Election, we have mailed out 563 ballots. As of the close of business last night 58 have been returned, 6 have been canvassed and deemed valid, and the canvass is ongoing. In the Queens Special Election 3,549 ballots were mailed, 1,744 ballots were returned as of the close of business last night. 1,414 have been canvassed and deemed valid, 102 were deemed invalid and the cure process is ongoing.

We continue to receive and process mail ballots for the two Special Elections. The last day to apply in person is Monday, February 12, 2024.

As a final reminder, the last day to change your party enrollment for the upcoming elections is Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #2 of the meeting agenda, the approval of the minutes of the January 30, 2024 Commissioners Meeting.

Hearing on objections, the minutes of the January 30, 2024 Commissioners Meeting were adopted.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #3 of the meeting agenda, the Petition Filing Calendar for the June 25, 2024 Primary Election. A draft copy of the Primary calendar has been provided to all the Commissioners. To meet the statutory requirements and to certify the Primary ballot and mail the ballot out timely, staff recommends that the Hearings for the Designating Petitions be held on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, and if needed Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the staff suggests Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> for the Hearings for the Opportunity to Ballot Petitions if needed. Once confirmed we will issue the calendar and post it on our website.

The calendar that was provided to the Commissioners looks lengthy, however, all of the other dates are statutorily required. Only the dates just mentioned are optional.

President Pepe-Souvenir moved to adopt the Petition Hearing dates. Commissioner Edmead seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #4 of the meeting agenda, the adoption of the Early Voting Hours for the April 2, 2024 Presidential Primary.

Mr. Ryan stated that Chapter 474 of the Laws of 2023 set the Primary date as April 2<sup>nd</sup>. It also amended the NYS Election Law shortening, as a one time for

this election, the early voting period is shortened to 8 days from 9 days, and also mandated 9 hours for each day for voting, up from the minimum of 8 hours for the Presidential Primary.

After consultation with the Borough Chief and Deputies, the staff recommends the following hours:

Saturday, March 23, 2024	9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 24, 2024	9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Monday, March 25, 2024	9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, March 26, 2024	7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Wednesday, March 27, 2024	10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
Thursday, March 28, 2024	10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
Friday, March 29, 2024	7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Saturday, March 30, 2024	9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Ryan stated that with consultation with all 5 boroughs, that was the communal agreement of all of the Boroughs and would like to entertain a motion to adopt those hours for the Presidential Primary Election.

President Pepe-Souvenir moved to adopt the recommended hours for the Presidential Primary Election. Commissioner Edmead seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #5 of the meeting agenda, 2024 Local Registration Dates and Hours.

Mr. Ryan stated that in Presidential Election years in particular NYS Election Law mandates two days of in-person voter registration. One day must be a uniform date Statewide, which is chosen by the State Board of Elections and one day must be on a Saturday. The law further mandates the amount of hours, at least 3.5 consecutive hours for the first day, and at least 7 hours consecutive, not earlier than 9:00 P.M. for the Saturday.

The last time the program was held was in 2016, as there was an Executive Order dispensing with Local Registration in 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency. The State Board of Elections has chosen Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> as the uniform statewide date. After consultation with the Borough Chiefs and Deputies, the staff recommends September 28<sup>th</sup> as the Saturday date. The staff further recommends that maintaining the same process as in 2016, two poll sites per Assembly District and maintain the same hours of operation, 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on the Thursday, and 1:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. on the Saturday. Lastly, Mr.

Ryan asked the Board of Commissioners to maintain the long-standing process and adopt a resolution of conducting Local Registration only in Presidential years as allowed under State law.

Mr. Ryan stated that a written resolution has been prepared that will be completed and posted to the website to confirm the actions of the Commissioners taken here today.

President Pepe-Souvenir moved to adopt the Resolution with respect to Local Registration. Commissioner Edmead seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ryan stated that there are a few individuals that have asked to speak at today's meeting. Mr. Ryan acknowledged Emily YueXin Miller.

Ms. Miller stated that she was here in October 2023 regarding a ballot issue, and only recently was able to read the content of the transcript and would like to make a clarification. Mr. Ryan informed Ms. Miller that she can watch the recording on the Board's website in its entirety, and the minutes are meant to be a shorthand description. To address Ms. Miller's concerns, Mr. Ryan suggested that she speak with Stephanie Jaquez and Eric Butkiewicz, the Associate Counsels of

the Board's Office of the General Counsel. They are available to discuss any issues in detail with her.

The Board acknowledged Theo Chino who was given the opportunity to address the Board about his concerns with the Board's guidelines relating to petition filing.

The Board acknowledged Alan Flacks, and he was given the opportunity to speak to the Board and express his opinions on various matters that he found important.

Mr. Ryan continued and stated that next Tuesday will be Election Day in the Bronx and Queens but there are other matters to attend to. Mr. Ryan asked the Commissioners for a motion to set the next meeting for Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 1:00 P.M., and a motion to convene an Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters and Litigation.

Commissioner Shamoun moved to set the next meeting date for Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 1:00 P.M., and to adjourn the open meeting and convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and litigation. Commissioner Morales 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. Ratification of the termination of Maritza Matos.
2. Ratification of the termination of Abigail McGloster.
3. Ratification of the termination of Tesha Tompkins.
4. Ratification of the termination of Ming Tang.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners of Elections is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.