

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026, AT 1:00 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: *President Jodi Morales
Secretary Gino A. Marmorato

Commissioners Jose M. Araujo, Marc A. Landis, Frank R. Seddio, Simon Shamoun, Michele A. Sileo, Frederic M. Umane

Vincent M. Ignizio, Deputy Executive Director
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager
Michael D. Corbett, Administrative Manager
Grace Pyun, General Counsel
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Tom Sattie, Director – Candidate Records Unit
Pete Holmberg, Coordinator – Candidate Records Unit

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

GUESTS:
Liz Storm
Emily Miller

* President Morales appeared remotely, but not at a publicly accessible location, and therefore did not cast any votes.

Vincent M. Ignizio, Deputy Executive Director, opened the meeting with the Commissioner's roll call and the introduction of Board staff.

Mr. Ignizio began with item #1 of the meeting agenda, Hearings for the Independent Nominating Petitions and Matters Pertaining to the April 28, 2026 Special Election in the 3rd City Council District. Mr. Ignizio called upon the Legal Department to begin the proceedings.

Grace Pyun, General Counsel, advised that President Morales will begin with opening remarks.

President Morales convened a meeting of the Board of Canvassers in the City of New York for Hearings on Independent Nominating Petitions filed with the Board for the Special Election to be held on April 28, 2026, for Member of the New York City Council in the 3rd Council District in New York County.

Following the meeting of the Board of Canvassers, the regular stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners resumed.

There was one matter from the hearing, held for second call, when all parties are ready to proceed.

Mr. Ignizio continued with item #2 of the meeting agenda, the approval of the minutes of the February 24, 2026 Commissioners' Meeting.

Hearing no objections, the minutes of the February 24, 2026 Commissioners' Meeting were adopted as submitted.

Mr. Ignizio continued with item #3 of the meeting agenda, the request for the New York City Council's Budget and Oversight Hearing on the Preliminary Fiscal 2027 Budget on Friday, March 13, 2026. Mr. Ignizio asked that the Commissioners permit the Board to testify before the New York City Council. The testimony will be provided to the Commissioners in advance of the hearing, as done in years past.

Commissioner Araujo moved to permit the Board to testify at the New York City Council's Budget and Oversight Hearing on the Preliminary Fiscal 2027 Budget on Friday, March 13, 2026. Commissioner Umame seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ignizio continued with item #4 of the meeting agenda, the 2026-2027 Poll Site Designation Report. The New York State Law requires that we designate poll sites no later than March 15th of each year. Mr. Ignizio stated that each borough Commissioner has approved the designation for each individual borough and would like to request the full approval of the Board for all five boroughs.

Commissioner Umame moved to approve the 2026-2027 Poll Site Designation Report. Commissioner Shamoun seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ignizio continued with item #5 of the meeting agenda, the Poll Worker Bonus Pay for February 2026 Special Elections.

Mr. Ignizio stated that for the three Special Elections held on February 3, 2026, early voting on Sunday and Monday was suspended pursuant to the Governor's executive order due to the extreme weather. As a result, poll workers assigned to work on those days, at no fault of their own, could be unable to meet the four-day minimum requirement to be eligible for the \$25 bonus. We are proposing to pay this \$25 bonus to poll workers who were assigned to work on either both or both canceled days. The fiscal impact of this proposal is under \$20,000 and affects approximately 432 poll workers. This helps us maintain our relationships with the poll workers who worked very hard every day.

Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the \$25 bonus for poll workers, provided that they qualify for the bonus. Commissioner Umame seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ignizio continued with item #6 of the meeting agenda, the Election Day Poll Site Pay for Private Sites.

Mr. Ignizio stated that at the unanimous request of the borough Chiefs and Deputies, we respectfully request to increase the payment to private polling sites for election day only. Currently, private election day sites are paid \$70 per election day. That has been the case for over three decades. To address this long-standing issue, the proposal is to increase the payment rate to \$150 per election district for election day private sites only. The projected budget for such is under \$70,000 per full citywide event, representing a modest and manageable investment. Mr. Ignizio asked that the Commissioners approve the election day pay increase for private sites only.

Commissioner Landis asked for clarity on this proposal. Would this also impact private sites on primary days? Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager, advised that election day would be either primary or general inclusive. We separate election day versus early voting.

Commissioner Landis moved to approve the proposal. Commissioner Umame seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Umame noted that there are certain specific sites that incurred higher costs for election day, over the course of 30 years due to a lack of alternative options.

Commissioner Marmorato moved to set the date of the next meeting for Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 1:00 PM. Commissioner Araujo seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Araujo moved to adjourn the regular stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners in the City of New York and convene an Executive Session to discuss Litigation and Personnel Matters. Commissioner Landis seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Following the executive session the open meeting resumed.

Mr. Ignizio asked the guests that have requested to speak to be sure to limit their comments to 3 minutes.

Mr. Ignizio acknowledged Liz Storm and asked her to step forward to address the Board.

Liz Storm introduced herself as a representative of the Lab Middle School Leadership Team. The campus is located at 333 West 17th Street and is a shared campus with three schools. Ms. Storm stated that her community has been trying to get early voting and special session voting moved out of the school and went on to state that these voting sessions during the school day thwart the school's campus security measures. Voters are allowed to walk into the school, and the cafeteria is closed for student use. Ms. Storm noted that for six years she has been required to show her driver's license when entering the school. She also noted that during the last special election, it was 10 degrees outside and the students had nowhere to eat. She lastly noted that the voting machines are run on diesel. During the school day, they emit toxic fumes into the classrooms. Ms. Storm stated that she respects that public schools are used as voting sites on regular election day, and on that day, the school is closed. But the special elections and early voting while school is in session causes serious disruptions for students in the school. Ms. Storm stated that there is a viable alternative site at the former Ruben Museum and believes that some members of the community have contacted the Board regarding this alternative. They are asking for the help of the Board and want to make the Board aware of this issue in their community, and hope that they can continue to pursue this alternative private site for those special election and early voting days.

Commissioner Landis addressed Ms. Storm, stating that we appreciate the community's input on this matter. We will certainly look at the former Ruben

Museum as a potential location for the future. He knows the staff is aware of the recommendation and we can proceed to look into that possibility. For the speakers' benefit, the Commissioner advised that it requires insurance that the new site is in compliance with the ADA laws, and it has to be approved by the State Attorney General for pre-clearance anytime we move a site. So, there is a process that does take some time. Commissioner Landis stated that he did inquire and asked that the staff address Ms. Storm's remarks about the generators, as he was not aware that we were running diesel fuel generators. Mr. Ignizio addressed the matter and advised that in many sites we do run generators. They are stationed outside of the school building and down the block from the school, so as not to incur any toxins into the school. That takes place in many schools and early voting sites around the city. To address the security issue, Mr. Ignizio stated that we have the NYPD at every voting site during voting hours, at all our early voting sites, and 24-hour security therein. Mr. Ignizio stated that it does not deflect from the fact that we are willing to work with the school leadership team and their groups to provide us with alternative sites. He noted that this matter has also been discussed with the Deputy Chancellor, and is willing to speak with anyone regarding alternatives, as we will evaluate them for compliance with state, local, and federal laws.

Mr. Ignizio acknowledged the second speaker, Emily Miller.

Emily Miller addressed the Board regarding the letter she received regarding a pagination issue. The Commissioners advised Ms. Miller that she was knocked off the ballot during the initial Commissioner's coversheet hearings due to pagination issues and was given the opportunity to cure them. The filing was not compliant with the Board of Elections' guidelines.

Ms. Miller also addressed the matter raised by Ms. Storm regarding the Lab School and provided remarks on the size of the school's cafeteria, noting that she has also worked at that site.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Miller for her appearance.

Mr. Ignizio requested that Ms. Pyun recall the item that was laid aside for evaluation and put on second call.

Commissioner Umame moved that the New York County Commissioners be authorized as a sub-committee to handle the ballot order for the Special Election to be held on April 28, 2026. Commissioner Landis seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Secretary Marmorato moved to adjourn the regular stated meeting of the Board of Commissioners in the City of New York. Commissioner Shamoun seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

During the Executive Session, the following actions were taken by the unanimous decision of the Board of Commissioners:

- Anthony Jameson, a Senior VMT, was granted an advancement of 210 hours of Sick Time. Mr. Jameson's agency start date is August 12, 2013, and he is a Manhattan Democrat.
- Timika Moore, an Administrative Assistant, was granted an advancement of 210 hours of Sick Time. Ms. Moore's agency start date is September 8, 2014, and she is a Manhattan Democrat.
- Kim Laidla-Ziegler, Financial Clerk, was granted an advancement of 210 hours of Sick Time. Kim Laidla-Ziegler's agency start date is July 9, 2007, and is a Bronx Republican.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Commissioners of Elections will be held on Tuesday,
March 24, 2026, at 1:00 P.M.