



*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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Compliance Director

EDWIN R. MATTHEWS  
Legal Counsel

### PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

August 29, 2023

Chairman Thomas H. Prol, Commissioner Ryan Peters, Commissioner Norma R. Evans, Commissioner Jon-Henry Barr, Legal Counsel Edwin R. Matthews, Executive Director Jeffrey Brindle, Finance and Administration Director Christopher Mistichelli, Personnel Assistant Barbara Rann, and IT Specialist Elias Amaya participated via GoToWebinar.

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>.

The meeting convened at 12:15 p.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.

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission voted to open the meeting to public comment.

#### **2. Public Comments**

No public comments.

On a motion by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Barr, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission voted to close the meeting to public comments.

**3. Retirement – Executive Director Jeffrey Brindle**

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Peters, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission moved to accept the retirement of Executive Director Jeff Brindle.

Commissioner Barr noted that Mr. Brindle contacted him and other Commissioners as he made his decision to retire. He said that it is important upon his motion and the Commission's potential acceptance of his retirement that he should be recognized for many years of dedicated public service, his continual efforts to advance the interests of monitoring campaign finance and reporting, and the mission of ELEC which have been at Jeff Brindle's heart for quite some time. He said that it is important to take stock of that, to recognize it, and to thank him for his many years of dedicated public service.

Chairman Prol said that it is important at this moment as you look towards retirement that we acknowledge that and that is the reason why we have called this meeting today--to begin the process to find a replacement.

Executive Director Brindle thanked Commissioner Barr for his comments. He said that he has been with the Commission for many years and whatever successes we have had it has really been because of the staff, we have a wonderful staff. He said that through the years, he has been very appreciative of having had the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director. He thanked and wished the new Commissioners all the best in their future, future meetings, and accomplishments which are sure to come. He thanked everyone for the support he received through the years.

Chairman Prol said that the purpose of Executive Session was to discuss personnel matters. Specifically to discuss the process for selecting replacements for two positions, the Executive Director and the Legal Director.

**4. 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)**

- Executive Director position search process; and,
- Legal Director vacancy search.

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 Barr, seconded by Commissioner Peters, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission resolved to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

**Return to Public Session**

**5. Advertising and Posting for the Position of Executive Director**

Chairman Prol stated that items discussed during the closed meeting were personnel matters, specifically the limited discussion of the search process for the Executive Director position and the Legal Director position vacancy search. He asked for a motion for the position for Executive Director. This authorization will be embargoed until Friday at noon to give the Commissioners time to review the position description for the Executive Director. Assuming there are no needed revisions or changes except by members of the Commission by Thursday at 5:00, this authorization would go live Friday at noon to be advertised and posted.

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Peters and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission moved to authorize the notice of vacancy under the terms described for the position of Executive Director.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their input, thoughts, and guidance on this matter.

**6. Open Public Comments**

On a motion by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Barr and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission voted to open the meeting to public comment.

No public comments.

**7. Motion to Close Public Comments**

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission moved to close public comment portion.

**8. Adjournment**

On a motion by Commissioner Barr, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and passed by a vote of 4-0, the Commission resolved to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted as true  
and correct,

Jeffrey M. Brindle  
Executive Director