

2025 Organizational Meeting January 2, 2025

Attendance: Democratic Commissioner Luz Torres, Republican Commissioner Nacole Ellis, Democratic Deputy Commissioner Christopher Burt, Republican Deputy Commissioner Kari Rhinehart, Democratic Elections Administrators Gabe Rosas, Amanda Fox, Republican Election Administrator Jill Paulus.

Meeting Opened by Commissioner Ellis at 9:00am.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Torres

The Chautauqua County Board of Elections met at 9:00am on Thursday January 2nd 2025, Per Section 3-212 of the New York State Election Law requires an annual organizational meeting. Democratic Commissioner Luz Torres and Republican Commissioner Nacole Ellis are beginning their first year of a four-year term. Democratic Commissioner Torres appointed Christopher Burt as her Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner Ellis appointed Kari Rhinehart as her Deputy Commissioner. The Commissioners have adopted procedures for the appointment of president and secretary for the Board for 2025. It will be as follows – Secretary Democratic Commissioner Luz Torres and President Republican Commissioner Nacole Ellis and these two positions will reverse each year.

Republican Commissioner Ellis appointed Republican Ruth Eckstrom as one of the two trainers, the Democratic trainer will be filled at a later date. The Board of Elections follows the county’s guidelines related to mileage and pay rate.

The Chautauqua County Board of Elections has set the following adopted rates:

Paper copy of voters:	\$0.25 per sheet
Copies:	\$0.25 per sheet
E-mailed lists and information	No charge

All Primary and General Election Inspector costs will be absorbed by the County. Inspector’s will be paid in the amount of \$15.50 per hour and Poll Site Coordinators will be paid \$18.50 per hour unless on the County payroll. Any inspector being trained and is scheduled to work will be paid \$35.00 for attending one of the training dates.

Any March Village/May School Scheduled Elections will be a minimum charge of \$1,600.00 plus other fees if applied which includes delivery fee charge. Any off-cycle election is subject to different rates including schools. This fee will be set by both Commissioner Torres and Ellis. Any off-cycle election will be a minimum charge of

\$3,500.00 plus other fees if applied which includes delivery fee charge. Ballot charges are also \$.32 per ballot.

The Board of Elections will assign inspectors to the polling sites. We will be training all of our election inspectors again this year as described in Election Law. Initial training will be July/August 2025 any additional trainings would be based on need thereafter. The County Finance department process's personnel paperwork for new inspectors. We will continue to look at poll sites and inspector changes if any.

The weekly staff meetings will continue to be held as needed unless otherwise noted. Formal decisions will also be entered in the minutes. Minutes will be kept in a folder on the I-drive.

The County Board of Elections sends letters to the schools informing them of the school election date and offering to do a presentation to their students or provide them registrations forms so they can register students.

Commissioner's Torres and Ellis are notaries. Deputy Commissioners Burt and Rhinehart are also notaries.

The County Board continues our outreach with the schools, library, City, Town, Village Clerks office and all Post Office locations.

We continue to use our webpage as a means to communicate and share information with the public to keep them informed. Our website is continuously updated.

Our year end statistics ending December 31st, 2024 includes total active registrations of 81,174, inactive registrations at 6,564.

Republican Commissioner Ellis and Deputy Democratic Commissioner Burt are Co-Chairs for NYSECA for Region 6.

Commissioner's and Deputies will participate in monthly calls from the NYS BOE.

A Motion to adjourn by Democratic Commissioner Torres was seconded by Republican Commissioner Ellis at 10:23am.