
Commissioner Berger: Thank you. Good morning. My name is Henry Berger, Co-Chair of the New York State Board of Elections. I call to order the May 12, 2026 meeting. I'm joined by Peter Kosinski, Co-Chair, and Commissioners Essma Bagnuola and Anthony Casale. I'd like the staff to go around and introduce themselves, please.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky, as you know, and I am the Co-Executive Director of the State Board of Elections, and I hope we have many people listening today.

Raymond Riley: Raymond Riley, Co-Executive Director, State Board of Elections.

Kevin Murphy: Kevin Murphy, Co-Counsel, State Board of Elections.

Jude Seymour: Jude Seymour, Deputy Director, Election Operations Unit.

Kathleen McGrath: Kathleen McGrath, Director of Public Information.

Jennifer Mainello: Jennifer Mainello, Deputy Director Accessibility Services and Training.

Jennifer Wilson: Jennifer Wilson, Deputy Director of Public Information Office.

Ben Spear: Ben Spear, Chief Infrastructure and Security Officer.

Laura Baker: Laura Baker, Chief Information Officer.

Helen Hellmuth: Helen Hellmuth, Director of Accessibility Services and Training.

Aaron Suggs: Aaron Suggs, Counsel, PCFB.

Brian Keegan: Brian Keegan, Co-Director of PCFB.

Brian Quail: Brian Quail, Co-Counsel.

Michael Johnson: Michael Johnson, Chief Enforcement Counsel, and I'm joined today with my special investigator, Geneva Cushman.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you. The first order of business is to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2026, March 17, 2026, April 13, 2026, and April 28, 2026 meetings. Are there any amendments or changes to these minutes? Hearing none, let's proceed to a vote. Do I have a motion to approve?

Commissioner Casale: So moved.

Commissioner Berger: Is there a second?

Commissioner Bagnuola: Second.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you. All those in favor, please indicate by saying aye.

Commissioner Bagnuola: Aye.

Commissioner Casale: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Aye.

Commissioner Berger: Aye. Any opposed? Hearing none, these minutes are approved unanimously. We'll now move to have unit updates. We'll start with the Executive Directors, please.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: Thank you, Commissioner. The Co-Executive Directors worked with staff throughout the agency, as well as coordinating with county boards of elections and other state agencies, on many issues since our last meeting. The 2026 Primary Election ballot access, as you know, began in February with state nominating conventions, and continued March 30th through April 6th with the filing of designating petitions. Election Operations processed ballot access documents. We had many from our Public Information helping them out, as some of our members of election staff were on leave, and they worked with Counsels' office on the petition objection process. The primary ballot was certified by the State Board on April 29th, and county certifications followed on April 30th, as we have one statewide primary.

A special thank you to Jeanine Heaney and RobbyAnn Guilbault, who handled the objection process with grace, and the coordination of many employees, who spent long hours, nights and weekends to make sure that that process was done and ready so that counsel went into litigation and everything could be finished on time and be certified on time, so I really appreciate their hard work, as well as the rest of the staff. The ballot access continues next week with independent nominating petitions. They're filed from May 19th through the 26th. They seek to place candidates on independent bodies for the General Election ballot. For all elections, security is our priority. We've begun coordination with our state and federal partners to ensure the Primary and General elections are protected.

In early June, we will meet with our state partners, including but not limited to the Department of State Homeland Security, the Governor's Office, the State Police, New York State IT, the Civil Rights Division of the Attorney General's Office to continue our work. Two years ago, we developed a playbook to address emergencies, physical and cyber, and we will ensure that that is updated and ready to protect the voters, our inspectors, without whom elections in New York State would not be possible, and our commissioners and election staff throughout the state. We're so grateful for that support and partnership.

In August, we will embark on our bi-annual roadshow, bringing together county boards, county IT, county emergency management and communications, and our state partners. We are

developing this tabletop exercise with the Department of Homeland Security. For both elections, we will continue our security procedures, and daily check-ins, so ably executed by our Secure Elections Center.

We continue to monitor the budget process. As a reminder, we received full funding for our operations in the Governor's budget, but we still await the legislative final adoption of a budget.

Moving into some of our big projects, online voter registration and automatic voter registration. Since the launch of online voter registration in May 2023, 1,524,294 New Yorkers have utilized both the State Board and the New York City portals. Since our last unit report in February, 27,471 transactions have gone through both portals, so we continue to monitor the usage, and to raise awareness so more residents access the system. We also continue our work, and our internal IT is working on making sure that our online voter registration will be hooked up to our clearinghouse created for automatic voter registration. Eventually, it will be a seamless and efficient, effective system for all of our groups, voters, county boards, the general public, interested in public reporting, and our governmental partners.

As far as automatic voter registration, you know we've been partnered with New York State IT on this project. The clearinghouse was ready last year, and I will say that in March, the Department of Motor Vehicles connected for the first time. We connected an AVR agency, which was extremely exciting, and they have been transmitting registrations through the clearinghouse to the county boards. There were a few hiccups in the beginning, but we all worked together, and we really appreciate the partnership on the part of the DMV and IT. Since go-live, there have been 219,303 transactions that have gone through the clearinghouse. So in light of the numbers since May 2023, that's an extraordinary number, and I believe shows the increase that an opt-out system of automatic voter registration brings. A couple of things on the other agencies, we expect the State University of New York to connect in July. Their onboarding is in stages, so the first stage will integrate the AVR process with their class registration transactions on 47 campuses. Then, following that, all remaining campuses will integrate. ACCES-VR, they're probably going to connect in July as well, and the Department of Labor will be ready to connect in December of 2026. The WIC program, from the Department of Health, is anticipated in quarter one of 2027, and other agencies will then follow. The state ITS is preparing a project change so that we have a phase three of this project, which basically takes care of the DMV change of address. Phase two is still scheduled to tackle paper applications and transmit those forms directly from agencies through the clearinghouse to the counties. That will be ready in October, but we'll hold off till after the general election to implement that. Phase three, as I said, is that change of address, which is a requirement for the DMV and the law, not exactly fitting under automatic voter registration, but our goal is to make the process as seamless and as efficient as possible for the counties, so it really behooves us to make sure that those transactions go through the clearinghouse and are transmitted electronically.

I will state that DMV recently decommissioned their legacy system for change of address, which caused a problem for us because counties are used to getting that electronically. That was a system set up by DMV with the counties. I do have to say that we are so grateful to the New

York State IT, who really stepped up and created an interim solution for us to make sure that counties didn't have to end up with PDF files and lots of paper. As IT continues with phase three to make that part of the process, they will continue to support us on this interim process and solution until that time. Sorry, this is a long one.

All right. Our integrated PCFB and State Board of Elections software, as you know, MTX, our vendor, has been on site since March of 2024. They continue to work closely with the deputy directors and our CIO, CISO, our business units, and our IT unit. Our team and MTX continue with testing on matching and payments for PCFB. We'll then begin a new PCFB workstream to implement the 2025 legislative changes to that program. Public reporting has been developed. We had multiple meetings with stakeholders, including advocacy groups, treasurers, media, "superusers." We implemented feedback, and we are currently finalizing security on the public reporting application and site. The new public reporting site will go live once that work is complete. I hesitate to give a date, because we don't believe that there's a timeline on security. It has to be perfect for our CISO and our CIO, and we are taking their advice and working closely to make sure that everything is secure.

Other projects... The Train the Trainer work continues with the Election Center to stand up the State Board of Elections Training Institute. We meet regularly, and we are at work right now on a training manual going through, I think we're on the second or third draft. We expect to launch that in early 2027. The Voting and Elections Database, the Dr. John L. Flateau Voting & Elections Database of New York, we affectionately call that VEDA here at the State Board. That application went live before the April 1st implementation date. The public dashboard is now complete. We worked with our vendor on phases one and two. That collaboration continues with phase three, which will ingest the maps that we need to make sure that we have maps for all the political subdivisions. PIO has been instrumental in this process. They met with school district clerks, business managers, libraries multiple times. They conducted specific sessions with county boards, and each entity will designate a contact person for credentials to update the data. They went through data templates with all of these entities. They did a demo of the system and how to upload, and the data will be entered no later than January 1st, but we currently have four libraries who agree to act as the "guinea pigs" and be the first to upload their elections.

We continue our ongoing meetings, bi-weekly with the Division of Budget. We meet weekly, biweekly with the executive branch. We meet monthly with the Office of General Services. We continue our monthly conference calls with the Election Commissioners' Association. We also added a training session after each monthly call, and that has been very successful. The Division of Election Law Enforcement continues to meet with us on a biweekly cadence. We work on training and guidance to provide county boards with the resources and tools to carry out their statutory duties. I would be remiss if I didn't thank our staff and our partners. It really does take a village to do this work. There are long hours, especially during the aforementioned petition filing and objections, and we're blessed to work with committed and passionate professionals who care deeply about elections. So, that was a mouthful. I'm going to ask Ray if he has anything else to add.

Raymond Riley: No; I just want to add my thanks to the staff and acknowledge that Friday was the state deadline for federal ballots to go out, and again, all the counties met that deadline. Appreciate the work that they put in to make sure that voters are given their opportunity to exercise the franchise and thank all the staff here again for their work during petitions, and everything else that we have going on that Kristen just so excellently went through.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: Do you want to mention the debate?

Raymond Riley: Sure. The Public Campaign Finance Board, and we'll be announcing it in the press shortly, has awarded the comptroller Democratic debate to Spectrum News. Spectrum was the only complete application we got for the primary debate for that, but we're very happy to partner with them. They will be announcing a date shortly. We met with them yesterday to go through some of the logistics of that. And again, we'll be putting out an official press notice of the award of the debate hopefully in the next 24 hours, and then they will be announcing the details immediately after, so I have nothing else.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you, both. Election Operations, have you been doing anything?

Jude Seymour: Commissioner Berger, we've been doing one or two things. I am giving this unit report today because our Director is on a well-deserved vacation after a birthday and Mother's Day celebration, hopefully in her honor, and so I just wanted to update you on the things that we've done that the Co-Executive Directors alluded to, but I want to add a little bit more color if I may. Our ballot access documents for the Primary Election, I cannot thank the staff enough for all of the effort that they had to take in these documents, and I just want to give you a little bit, by-the-numbers, if you don't mind. 151 petitions filed here in our office of the State Board of Elections for New York State Assembly; 86 for State Senate; 101 for Judicial Delegates and Alternates; 63 for Representative in Congress; 27 for state committee petitions; and 3 for the office of Comptroller, and that's, again, just filed here in our State Board of Elections.

That does not take into consideration all of the hundreds of acceptances, authorizations, declinations, substitutions, general objections, specific objections, letters that were sent out to the candidates, name changes that we've taken in. So, kudos to our staff for all of that hard work. We continue preparing materials for the upcoming Primary Election and the certification. We provide assistance and guidance to the county boards, as the Co-Executive Director alluded to. We were thrilled to assist PIO in the coordination of the accessible and MOVE ballot uploads, and we also coordinated the training that the counties received beforehand. Since our last meeting, we've conducted acceptance testing for nine counties, and that included more than 2,800 machines. We would sincerely like to thank, again, our Public Information Office and our Accessibility and Training units for providing their personnel to assist us to make that process go smoother and faster.

In our voting systems, voting registration systems and electronic public systems categories, we do have a resolution that is coming before you for the new submission from ES&S for their 6.5.2.1 system, that is Resolution 26-05. That testing is complete, and a resolution is presented

later in this meeting for your consideration. Nothing new to report on voter registration systems. For electronic poll books, again, for ES&S, we have a testing of 7.2.9.0, which is now complete, and that resolution is in front of you as 26-06. It'll be presented later in this meeting for your consideration. We have also approved several de minimis iOS updates for KNOWiNK, and we have received a submission from Tenex. We are currently working on the testing of that underway, and when that is ready for you, it'll be presented to you at a future meeting of this board. I'm happy to answer any questions, but that is the end of the unit report.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you. Counsel and Compliance, what have we?

Brian Quail: Commissioners, how are you? The Counsels' Unit has been very busy, as has the Compliance unit. There were thirteen lawsuits related to ballot access that were filed. Presently, there is one that is technically still pending final, final resolution in the 2nd Congressional District on Long Island. All of the others have concluded, so the amount of litigation at this point in the election cycle is, for my tenure here, a historical low, so that is very exciting. In terms of other cases, we did get a very favorable decision in the Common Cause vs. New York State Board of Elections decision yesterday evening, which basically upheld the State Board of Elections approval/certification of an ES&S voting system, so we're very glad for that. To my knowledge, there aren't any other significant updates in the pending litigation matters that the Board is engaged in.

The Compliance unit has been exceedingly busy. And I would like to extend a thank you to them and, in fact, to the staff of pretty much every department of the agency, as was said by Kristen and Ray, for these folks' work on dealing with processing specifications of objections. Just as a single point of an example, there were 45 people here on Sunday prior to your meeting approving the ballot access objections in order to make sure that everything ran in a timely manner. As both Kristen and Ray mentioned, prior to that, many, many hours on the weekend and after hours put in leading up to that moment, so it was quite a group effort, and I know that everyone is very proud of it. The Training unit in Compliance has been very busy. 300 emails processed through CFINFO, 27 Statement of Identities for LLCs were logged, and the webinar season has begun. The Compliance unit has finished one of those already, and there were 139 attendees, so that's a good start to the training season. In terms of the failure to file situation for the January Periodic, there were initially 3,556 committees or candidates that had failed to file. As of today, there are 1,038, so that's 29% remaining. That is actually a very, very good rate of reduction in comparison to other filings. The number of deficiencies referred by the unit sits at 4,866.

Notwithstanding all the work of the Compliance unit with objections, the unit completed 6,404 reviews since the last meeting, and as of right now, there are 1,490 that are outstanding assigned to Compliance staff. That is a very workable number and demonstrates that they're keeping up with the workload. In terms of paid internet digital ads, which have special requirements for reporting, we stand at 1,013 paid internet digital ads on file presently. The Compliance unit, with the current campaign finance software that we have, engages in a rather labor-intensive project that involves not just Compliance staff, but also folks in Operations and IT in order to figure out

who owes campaign finance reports in local elections by looking at ballot access documents and comparing to what we have or don't have on file. That process for the 2026 village elections that are conducted by boards of elections was completed since the last meeting. We have received 690 filings or forms in the categories of committee registration documents and related documents and 434 CF-05s. Those are documents that basically indicate that the committee believes that it is exempt from filing requirements, typically because the amount of money and the jurisdiction that the committee represents is small enough to qualify for not having to file, or they're not going to be engaging in any activity that requires filing. There are currently 8,661 active committees registered with the State Board of Elections. Since the last meeting, the Compliance unit registered 822 candidates and 205 committees.

Obviously, work continues with resignations and terminations, and the Compliance unit also is engaged in a number of projects to ensure the currency of Board data and professional service to stakeholders. They're working on ensuring that there's follow up on any and all bad emails that are received, making the next deficiency report to the DELE, and also working on, which is part of the normal cadence, committees that have gone dormant and should be administratively terminated. Alongside all of that updating procedures, creating new quick resource references so that information is more easily, and in a more streamlined manner, communicated to the stakeholders so they can get the answers that they need quickly and efficiently. As I had mentioned, the training season has begun, and I am very pleased to report that it is with revised and updated training materials. That's all I have. Kevin?

Kevin Murphy: That covers, basically, everything that I had, other than to, once again, echo what the comments that have already been made to thank the Compliance team, the rest of the staff for their help with the specific objection review, and then, in particular, RobbyAnn and Jeanine in Compliance who really continue to go above and beyond when we have this process, and just want to thank them and everyone else for their hard work. The Compliance staff does a great job; and did all of this on top of their normal duties, and as Brian just said, had their plate full to begin with before that was all added on top of it, but other than that, that covers everything that I would've said, so thank you.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you, both. Enforcement, Michael Johnson?

Michael Johnson: Hi, Commissioners. The Enforcement Division, we were busy with numerous complaints, petition related. Most of the matters involved things where people missed deadlines in terms of lodging objections with the county boards, and them coming to us, thinking maybe we could do something that the county boards could not, or they were not happy with the determinations that they got from the county boards, and they would come to us, thinking that we could overturn the decision of the county boards and what we have to do in many of these cases is simply refer the individuals to the court system, because we cannot give them the relief that they're looking for. That was the bulk of a lot of the complaints that came in this particular timeframe.

As far as the non-filers are concerned, I mean, echoing Brian, the numbers have gone down. Compliance has been great, in terms of when we refer people to Compliance to help with completing whatever deficiencies they may have. As far as going forward is concerned, we are now dealing with renewing our contract with the process servers, because there are some issues that really need to be addressed, that are hampering our ability to really even ramp up a little bit more in terms of the numbers that we go after, with regard to the non-filers. So, hopefully we can get that straightened out. We're working with the two co-executive directors and OGS, with regard to coming up with a new contract. With this new contract, we're hoping we can address a lot of the issues that are outstanding with the process servers and issues that we've continually been having.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you. Any questions?

Commissioner Casale: Chairman?

Commissioner Berger: Yes.

Commissioner Casale: I'd just like to ask a question to address the report you sent us recently about closed cases. It seems to me, Mr. Johnson, that I saw several instances where either committees or candidates had filed documents that had either errors or omissions, and that it appears that you contacted them, and in many cases, they complied with your request and they responded, and then you determined that the case should be closed. Is that correct?

Michael Johnson: More or less.

Commissioner Casale: Okay. In effect, they were given an opportunity to cure.

Michael Johnson: It depends on the issue with regard to the deficiency.

Commissioner Casale: I understand. But I seem to appreciate the fact that we're trying to bring people into compliance, which is very, very important to them.

Michael Johnson: Yeah, that's sort of-

Commissioner Casale: So, you give a second chance, so to speak.

Michael Johnson: Yes.

Commissioner Casale: Okay. Thank you.

Commissioner Berger: Anything further? Thank you. NVRA/Public Information.

Kathleen McGrath: Good morning, Commissioners. To start off with our general public information functions and FOIL requests, as a reminder, we at PIO are the clearinghouse of

FOILs for, not just the State Board, but the PCFB and the Division of Election Law Enforcement. Altogether, we work with staff to ensure all responsive material is gathered and reviewed by counsel, as applicable, and the responses are made in a timely manner. Our last board meeting was actually three months ago today, and in total since that time, we have received 919 FOIL requests; 903 of which are completed and closed. The biggest uptick occurred just after and during the designating petition period filing period, where there is much interest in receiving copies of petitions and objections. So, just in April alone, we had 412 FOIL requests come in.

For the State Board website, we've had numerous updates to that website since our last meeting, including updating Counsels' formal opinions document to include the new cryptocurrency opinion, publishing the February 2026 enrollment data, updating our educational materials with 2026 deadlines, publishing this year's state contribution limits, livestreaming the primary election ballot draw, publishing and livestreaming a public demonstration announcement about the AutoMark 2 BMD, uploading the Primary Election ballot certification, and updating board meeting information documents for today. While not applicable here, we also do provide updates to the PCFB website, as they are required as well.

For our email service, our email service contact list has grown to just shy of 3,400 subscribers. We have sent out two blast emails since the last board meeting, including the 2026 campaign finance training schedules for both Compliance and for the Electronic Filing System, as well as a March Periodic report reminder for our PCFB participants.

Under voter registration and NVRA, we have submitted our annual voter registration form order for both the State Board and the county boards. Upon last board meeting's approval, we have updated the state's voter registration form and published the translations in all required languages. We've worked with the Accessibility Unit to publish a new large print voter registration form.

Since last board meeting NVRA Coordinator, Dan Toomey, has conducted two NVRA trainings with the Human Resources Administration (HRA) in New York City. The next agency training is for the Office of the Aging.

As was briefly mentioned before, military and UOCAVA voters, we've worked with our county boards to upload the ballots to be sent out to our military and overseas voters by last week's state and federal deadlines. We have collected those pre-election surveys, both the prep and the 45-day pre-election, from the county boards about their transmittals. We are happy to report that there were no late transmittals by the county boards and that 45-day survey has now been sent to the Department of Justice. We'll continue to communicate with our county boards regarding the upcoming 30-day pre-election and post-election surveys.

For county board visits, since our February board meeting, both Dan Toomey and Dawn Barber have been very busy. They have been to 16 county boards since February 12th, including both on the island, as well as a multi-day trip that had them hit Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua,

Chemung, Delaware, Erie, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Sullivan, Wyoming, and Yates. So, 16 since the last board meeting. Again, these visits cover list maintenance, NVRA requirements, and grant updates with the county boards, and we are thankful that the county boards welcome our team in to conduct their visits.

As Kristen mentioned, the Dr. John L. Flateau Voting & Elections Database of New York Act, VEDA, has taken up much of the Public Information Office's time recently. We continue to work, as part of the board team, to develop this and publish it. We've taken the lead on communicating with county boards, school districts, libraries, and villages about the law change. As Kristen mentioned, we've hosted numerous informational and training webinars and demonstrations, and continue that process, as we are in the first year of this law change.

In terms of media functions for our office, we've responded to many inquiries regarding a wide variety of State Board issues, including campaign finance disclosure reports, contribution limits, petition signature requirements (many related to objections and hearings related to the designating petition period), the ballot certification for the Primary, and election security and cybersecurity. We also do respond to all media requests on behalf of the Public Campaign Finance Board. And as Ray mentioned, PIO has led the effort to receive and process the debate host applications for PCFB participants. Applications were received, a public comment period occurred, and a host was selected. As was mentioned, there will be one statewide Primary next month, that's the Democratic State Comptroller, and there'll be a debate for those PCFB participants.

For social media, we have published information about the enrollment deadline back on February 14th, a reminder to register to vote, an alert about AI and misinformation and disinformation about elections, the 2026 campaign finance training schedules, the announcement of the public demonstration of the new BMD, and today's board meeting information. We have increased followers on our social media platforms, publishing 12 posts since our last board meeting, and we continue to create and draft content for the upcoming months, including information about the primary election for voters and information about voters under special circumstances.

My last item before passing over to Jennifer is to just note that we remain part of the BOE team that's involved on the MTX project. In terms of the public reporting application overhaul, as I've mentioned, we're getting near publication of that, but making sure that the system that replaces the current one has the highest security standards. So, we work closely with Ben and his team, and also to make sure that it's ready to go at go-live time. So, unless there are questions for me, I'm happy to pass it over to Jennifer for the grants update.

Jennifer Wilson: Thank you, Kathleen. For our state grants, we're still awaiting approval of the budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. While we are waiting, the budget extenders have allowed us to continue to submitting claims for payment for those existing grants. As the claim period will end on June 29th of this year, we're hopeful that the budget will be extended soon, and we'll be able to kick all those grants out for an additional year. For our federal grants, we submitted our semi-annual reports for the HAVA 251, 101, and election security grants back in April to the Election

Assistance Commission, and those reports covered the period of September 2025 through March 2026.

Exciting news, new grant news, in March, we received notice that we'll be receiving a new HAVA election security award under the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026. New York State will be receiving \$1.1 million, and we will be required to provide a state match of \$222,000. This is a continuing grant that began in 2018. To date, we've received \$49 million, and this is a new old appropriation. The cumulative total with our state match to date with this new appropriation will be \$58 million. So, we have submitted the release letter, terms and conditions, the budget and budget narrative documents to the EAC, and we just received notice this morning that they will be releasing those funds to us soon. These funds will be used to continue to support the Board's Secure Elections Center, which assist county boards of elections in maintaining secure elections statewide. That's all for grants. Thank you.

Commissioner Casale: Chairman?

Commissioner Berger: Yes, please.

Commissioner Casale: Jen, do you find most counties are taking advantage of the grants that are available to them?

Jennifer Wilson: Oh, absolutely. And this grant that we are getting the new reappropriation for, or new appropriation on the old appropriation, we have spent down significantly of the money of that grant. It is primarily used by the State Board to support the work of counties. I'm sure Ben is going to talk about that in his report, but we only have around \$37 million remaining of that original appropriation, the \$58 million.

Commissioner Casale: The counties are obviously aware of this, but are they taking advantage of it?

Jennifer Wilson: Yes.

Commissioner Casale: -counties that are not taking advantage of it, by chance.

Jennifer Wilson: Yes, and actually, from a few reports ago, on the HAVA grant specifically, we had talked about that we'll be closing out the 251 and 101, and they have been spent down significantly. We have less than \$1 million left of the 101, only \$753,000, and only \$225 of the other grant. Of the election security grant, it was a \$9 million grant originally, and there's only \$584,000 remaining on that.

Commissioner Casale: You know why I ask, of course-

Jennifer Wilson: Yes, no.

Commissioner Casale: -barrage from local government officials about unfunded mandates. Another quick question: what's the status of the program that provides postage reimbursement to the counties for the required postage on absentee ballots?

Jennifer Wilson: Sure. We had three grant funds related to that, so we had our original absentee postage grant, the \$4 million, and then we had \$4 million additional added for a total of \$8 million, and we only have \$1 million left on that original one. Then, we've had two more since then, so we had our vote by mail, which was only a \$5 million one that was appropriated last year. We only have \$2.3 million left on that, and then we had our ballot by mail, which was \$7.7 million, and we only have \$1.4 million left.

Commissioner Casale: Is there any new money coming out of the budget? Is there money in the new budget?

Jennifer Wilson: I think we're going to find out soon. I think we're going to find out very soon.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: I will say, Commissioner, that Jennifer and the grants team has done a lot of work talking to counties-

Commissioner Casale: Yes, it's very apparent; it's very apparent.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: -because we really went through some of those numbers and said, "Use this money. We don't want you to lose it." And kudos to you-

Commissioner Casale: I've heard them make presentations at the conferences, so it's great. Thank you.

Jennifer Wilson: Thank you.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you. Anything further? Then, let's go to ITU and SEC.

Laura Baker: I think it's Accessibility and Training first, Commissioner.

Commissioner Berger: Accessibility and Training goes first. There you go.

Helen Hellmuth: Good morning, Commissioners. It is exciting to be back from parental leave and here with you all. For some general accessibility updates, as Kathleen had mentioned, our team created a large print voter registration form that was posted to our website and shared with counties. We notified counties of the WCAG 2.1 compliance, that was pushed out to 2027 for localities with populations greater than 50,000 and 2028 localities with populations of less than 50,000. We fulfilled a few accommodation requests, including providing American Sign Language for a PCFB training and American Sign Language and CART for the public demonstration of the Automark 2.

For poll site accessibility surveys, we are currently rechecking the accessibility surveys we have on file, since poll site designation in March and early poll site designation in early May. Thirty-five counties have submitted all of their accessibility surveys, and 13 counties are missing fewer than 10 surveys each. We continue to contact counties who have not submitted all of their surveys. For the Training Institute, as Kristen had mentioned, we are continuing to work with Election Center to finalize the poll worker manual, and we are developing the Train the Trainer material as we speak. Unless Jen has anything to add, I'm happy to answer any questions.

Commissioner Berger: Is there anything more?

Jennifer Mainello: No.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you. Now, do we have anything from ITU?

Laura Baker: Sure. Thank you for having us, Commissioners. I'm going to start with the public reporting, since it's been brought up a couple of times. Since the last time we talked about it, the ITU has formalized the governance process, and this provides oversight on development, application choice, infrastructure choice, and includes security. This is how we're assessing applications that are being built by ourselves and outside vendors. We are currently awaiting an amendment to a submission from MTX on public reporting that we expect to have very shortly in order to speed that process into go-live. We've obviously launched the AVR. I'm going to cover things that have been covered before. We supported the AVR connection with DMV with our partners at ITS and in the DMV, and we want to thank Shaikh's team, himself, Hiral, and Jason, for all the hard work that they did on making sure that rollout went as smoothly as possible.

On the VEDA project, our ITU internal team was instrumental in the architecture, design, and launch of that application. Our third-party vendor came on about two weeks prior to the launch, and they supported us as best they could. They came in late in the game, and we still managed to make the April 1st deadline, so I would really like to thank the development project and infrastructure teams for all the hard work that they did in making sure we met that deadline. And thank you to our partners at PIO for handling all of the outreach, as there was no way that we could do that without you. Along with the ongoing projects that are all in flight, the next upcoming, rather large initiative in ITU will be the refresh of our compute infrastructure in the next year, due to aging hardware and end-of-service hardware, so that will be the next thing we're working on and I'm going to pass it to Ben.

Ben Spear: Thanks, Laura. Thank you, Commissioners and good morning. To start, initially continued outreach, and work with the counties so that they understand the requirements on them to secure their organizations. We did begin, as I mentioned in previous meetings, a lunch-and-learn series, and we held a successful lunch-and-learn on data classification, which ultimately resulted in a very successful workshop for one of our regions at the county level to develop their data classification process and walk away with examples going forward, as well as templates. We do not have a next lunch-and-learn currently scheduled, but it will be on asset inventory, in partnership with the State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and their

vendor partner, that currently provides a tool that the counties all already have, that if properly configured would meet the asset inventory requirements.

Kristen previously mentioned our security roadshow. We're excited to move forward with that, coming in August. We met last week with our partners at the Division of Homeland Security Emergency Services and their tabletop exercise team on the planned scenarios, and we're looking forward to a range of scenarios on all types of hazards, not just cybersecurity, specifically. We're finalizing those locations and hope to launch signups shortly. One part, that I do want to note on that, is I've been engaged recently, and therefore of this, with a program that's looking to improve engagement with emergency managers, on election issues to address all hazards and not just cybersecurity or homeland security issues. And so, we're going to, as we did last time, but more forcefully this time, seek further engagement with emergency managers as part of the road show and with our county boards writ large, which brings us to our election preparations overall.

Kristen has already mentioned our upcoming meetings with our state partners, but one of the things I think is important to note, as we go into the federal and state primary this year, is that there is a lot going on in New York State in the month of June and July between the final running of Belmont in Saratoga, the golf US Open on Long Island during the early voting period, Pride, the World Cup, as well as the 250th July 4th celebrations. And so, while there are preparations in place, and we were all engaged with each other, certainly there are a lot of resources being engaged on a lot of different issues and potentially impacts to voters, as they're moving through different areas around these events. And so, we are tracking that and ensuring that the counties are prepared and taking advantage of any preparations as early as possible.

The other piece that I would like to note, as we do head into this federal primary is that, about three weeks ago, and this is public information that has been acknowledged by the agency, New York State was involved, thanks to a notification by one of our counties that received an email late at night, impersonating the Federal Voting Assistance Program. This is the Department of Defense's program for military and overseas voters, and so this email actually impersonated FVAP, and then potentially downloaded malicious software. Because of that county's quick response on an evening to share that with us, we were able to get that to our state partners who provided an investigation. We did our own investigation on our national partners as well, and it ultimately did get sent out very quickly to all national partners. FVAP put out their own report on the impersonation, as well as several states indicated they and their locals have received a similar email.

Again, despite a lot that's going out there in the press, there is still great national coordination and efforts to ensure that we do have secure elections, and certainly, New York is making our sure that we continue to contribute to that. On that note, I do want to also give an update on the status of the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing Analysis Center, the EI-ISAC. New York State in July or June of last year committed to a 6-month payment to the Center for Internet Security, this is New York State as a whole, not New York State Board of Elections, to fund a statewide membership. They recently indicated that the funding for that is no longer available, and similar services are available through the state. We have been working to ensure that our

county members continue to at least benefit from the support of the elections ISAC, the E-ISAC. We've been working to get them on board because there are a number of services that, if they are no longer covered for, it may shut off in the near term before the election.

We've been working to identify those counties and ensure that, as the ISAC has moved to a paid membership model, where we could support them, that they join. We identify that CIS is offering financial assistance to smaller organizations, and all but three counties in the state are able to join at no cost and not lose those services, so we're working to move that forward. Lastly, as it relates to the ISAC, I was recently elected to the executive committee of the EI-ISAC to represent state IT interests as a whole, and looking forward to supporting the future of this organization and how we can ensure that they continue to support the community going forward, after the loss of federal funding. Lastly, Laura and myself have represented the Board over the last few months at the State Association of Counties, the Association of Secretaries of State, and later today and the rest of this week, we'll be at the State & Local Government IT Directors Association, continuing our engagement with that community, the importance of the services we can offer to them and the guidance as well. Lastly, I'll just add that, sorry, I know this one went long too.

Jude Seymour: Lastly, lastly.

Ben Spear: Lastly, based on everyone else also covering some of the great work their staff has done, we are welcoming a new staff member to the security team in the next two weeks here, Magfur Jafory, who comes with a wealth of cybersecurity experience and education, and a longtime member of our team, one of the longest tenured employees of the board, Scott Johnston, recently passed the Certified Information Systems Security Professional certification, which is the highest certification you can get in the cybersecurity field and is very hard to pass, so just want to commend them on their efforts and welcome them as well.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: That's great.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you. Keep us secure. Any questions about any of the updates outstanding? I'm hearing none. I do not believe we have any old business, so let's proceed to new business. The first item of new business is to certify ES&S voting system 6.5.2.1, Resolution 26-05. Would Election Operations please walk us through that?

Jude Seymour: Absolutely, Commissioner. This is, again, a certification of the ES&S 6.5.2.1 voting system. Extensive security and functional testing was performed over a matter of months. Many meetings were held in coordination with our VSTL, SLI Compliance, and our partner, NYSTEC, who performed an independent review of the work conducted by SLI. All reports have been provided to the Board for their examination. All the identified issues were resolved in satisfaction of both ourselves, SLI, and NYSTEC, and we are recommending the certification of this voting system. Happy to answer any questions about particulars if you have them, but I would say, as a high-level overview, these encompass county user requests and involve quality of life improvements. This is something that the voters will see most who interact with the Automark 2, which is the new BMD that replaces the Automark that's been available and used

for many, many years. We did a public demonstration of the Automark 2 with our partners in PIO, run by our Secure Elections Center and our Accessibility team, and that was received very well, so we are requesting certification.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you, Jude. I'll entertain a motion to adopt Resolution 26-05.

Commissioner Casale: So moved.

Commissioner Berger: Is there a second?

Commissioner Bagnuola: Second.

Commissioner Berger: Any discussions or questions? Hearing none, let's proceed to a vote. All those in favor, please indicate by saying aye.

Commissioner Bagnuola: Aye.

Commissioner Casale: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Aye.

Commissioner Berger: Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? This matter is approved. The second item of new business is an upgrade to the ES&S electronic poll book system to version 7.2.9.0, which is Resolution 26-06. Operations, please.

Jude Seymour: Sure. Again, as mentioned, this is an approval of an electronic pollbook system. This would replace 7.2.8.0. This is a minor improvement, but necessary improvement, to something that the inspectors would interact with. This is nothing that the voters will really ever see or do anything to their voting process, so we are recommending approval of this update to the electronic pollbook system 7.2.9.0 from ES&S ExpressPoll.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you. I will entertain a motion to adopt Resolution 26-06.

Commissioner Bagnuola: So moved.

Commissioner Casale: Second.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you. Are there any discussions? Any questions? Hearing none. Let's proceed to a vote. All those in favor, please indicate by saying aye.

Commissioner Bagnuola: Aye.

Commissioner Casale: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Aye.

Commissioner Berger: Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? This matter is adopted. The third item of new business is a personnel appointment. Resolution 26-07 appoints Christina Asbee to the position of Deputy Counsel. I believe Christina has joined us today. Are you there?

Christina Asbee: Yes. Hello.

Commissioner Berger: Okay. Brian Quail, will you please do the introductions?

Brian Quail: It is an absolute privilege. This resolution, if adopted, would appoint Christina Asbee to the position of Deputy Counsel, with a start date to be determined. Christina comes to us from DRNY, an organization well known to us. She has more than 13 years of experience in federal and state practice, principally in the area of disability rights, but in other areas as well. She is an experienced and well-respected civil rights attorney. A significant amount of experience in office organization and customer service, definitely attributes that will be very, very useful and comparatively transferable to the Board of Elections context. We're super happy to have her coming. I would also note that she is admitted to the practice of law in every federal court, and also, of course, in the state courts in New York. She will have the widest range of admissions of any attorney here, because she's admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States. Kevin and I have discussed this deficiency in our resumes. We'll be dealing with it shortly. Christina, do you have anything you'd like to say?

Christina Asbee: Well, I am so excited to be here today, and I really want to thank Brian and Helen and everybody here for inviting me. I'm really excited to be joining the Board of Elections in a date to be determined, and it will be a wonderful transition. I have worked with some of you for many years, some at DRNY, and then others, we've worked really collaboratively on the other side of the table. I'm excited, in particular to work with Brian and the team, and I'm really thankful to be here.

Commissioner Berger: Well, until we vote on it, it's not done yet. I'll entertain a motion to adopt Resolution 26-07.

Commissioner Kosinski: I'll move it.

Commissioner Berger: And is there a second?

Commissioner Bagnuola: Second.

Commissioner Berger: Any other discussions or questions? Being none, let's proceed to a vote. All those in favor, please indicate by saying aye.

Commissioner Bagnuola: Aye.

Commissioner Casale: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Aye.

Commissioner Berger: Aye. Any opposed? Now it is done. It is approved. The fourth item of new business is the regulations, a new part 6225 for ballot drop boxes, Resolution 26-08. Would the Counsels' office walk us through this one, please?

Brian Quail: Yes. Happy to do that. At the outset, I would just like to note that there were some track change errors that have been corrected in the version that hopefully the commissioners have, but I will describe them for the record. And I believe that with that description, the corrected version can be deemed a part of the original resolution and therefore not require an amendment. But those changes are located in section 6225.4, paragraph C, where "both" is removed as is the redundant extra period. And in D of the same section, the redundant period is removed in paragraph D. The regulation is required by virtue of the fact that the legislature adopted a new provision in Article 8 of the election law that specifically authorizes, but does not mandate, drop boxes. In other words, the legislature is permitting boards of elections to have drop boxes, but what the legislature did do is mandate that the State Board of Elections set standards for them.

So this regulation is a product of that mandate from the legislature to set those standards. In coming up with the proposal, the Board of Elections looked at other states and how they were dealing with drop box placement, how they were dealing with security issues, how they were dealing with obviously maintaining chain of custody, and ensuring that voting does not happen after the close of polls on election day and the resulting work product is the one that is before you. Happy to entertain any specific questions you might have. I would also note that this is not an emergency adoption. This is authorizing that this regulation be put out for the required 60 days of public comment. The Board obviously will then receive those public comments and determine whether or not the regulation should be adopted, or whether or not it should be amended and adopted, or amended and put out for new comment.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you. I'll entertain a motion to adopt Resolution 26-08.

Commissioner Bagnuola: So moved.

Commissioner Casale: Second.

Commissioner Berger: Any questions or discussion?

Commissioner Casale: Just like to make a comment, Brian. Thank you very much. I understand you took the lead in getting this drafted, and I think you did a very good job with it. Just to re-emphasize, this is not a mandate, and we're just telling them how to do it, not where to do it, correct?

Brian Quail: Both of those things are correct.

Commissioner Casale: Thank you.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you. Hearing nothing further. Let's proceed to a vote. All those in favor, please indicate by saying aye.

Commissioner Bagnuola: Aye.

Commissioner Casale: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Aye.

Commissioner Berger: Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions? This matter is adopted, and we will revisit this after the 60-day period. The fifth item of new business is a resolution for the certification of maximum public funds for the 2026 Primary Election, which is done by only the Co-Chairs. Resolution 26-09. PCFB, will you give us a brief bit on this?

Brian Keegan: Absolutely. Good morning. The resolution regards the certification of the amount of public matching funds necessary to fund the '26 Primary Election payments for participating candidates. Under state finance law, just the co-chairs of the State Board of Elections are required to certify the amount necessary to fund estimated payments from the campaign finance fund. Based on current ballot access determinations, we've determined that primary payments will not exceed \$49 million.

Commissioner Berger: Okay. Commissioner Kosinski, this is just you and me, so I will move it. Will you second it?

Commissioner Kosinski: I've got to think about this, Henry.

Commissioner Casale: A lot of money.

Commissioner Berger: Yeah.

Commissioner Kosinski: \$49 million. Can I just ask how much money was appropriated for the Public Campaign Finance system?

Commissioner Berger: It was \$100 million dollars, as I understand it.

Commissioner Kosinski: Was it \$100 million?

Commissioner Berger: Yeah.

Commissioner Kosinski: So, does that leave \$51 million left for the General Election? If we use all this for the primary, would that be the formula?

Commissioner Berger: If we use it.

Commissioner Kosinski: Okay. I mean, is that true? I just want to make that sure. Is that true? Henry, do you know that?

Commissioner Berger: Yes. PCFB, am I?

Commissioner Kosinski: Okay.

Brian Hagen: Yeah, but this is the ceiling. We are not going to get up to the ceiling.

Commissioner Casale: And I understand, am I allowed to speak on this even though I can't vote?

Commissioner Berger: Please. Absolutely.

Commissioner Casale: We only spent \$15 million as of yesterday, right?

Brian Keegan: Yeah.

Commissioner Casale: What do you think the rest of the season will bring?

Brian Keegan: Hard to say. \$20 at least.

Commissioner Kosinski: But this is the max we could spend. That's the way I understand it. Okay. Henry, under these conditions, I will second your motion.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: Commissioners, just to be clear, this is also a statewide year, so it is much higher than it was two years ago.

Commissioner Kosinski: Right.

Commissioner Berger: Okay. You and I have to vote, Peter. I vote aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: I vote aye.

Commissioner Berger: This matter is adopted. I think that concludes our business for today. Unless there's anything else? Hearing nothing else, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Casale: So moved.

Commissioner Berger: Is there a second?

Commissioner Bagnuola: Second.

Commissioner Berger: Any discussion? All in favor, please indicate aye.

Commissioner Bagnuola: Aye.

Commissioner Casale: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Aye.

Commissioner Berger: Aye. We stand adjourned. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Kosinski: Thank you.

Commissioner Bagnuola: Thank you.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: Thank you, Commissioners.