



NEWS RELEASE

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New York State Board of Elections Senior Staff Members Earn Nationally Recognized Professional Certification

ALBANY, N.Y. (09/03/2026) – The New York State Board of Elections is proud to announce that four members of its senior staff have earned the designation of Certified Elections Registration Administrator (CERA): Co-Executive Directors **Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky** and **Raymond J. Riley III**, Deputy Executive Director **Thomas E. Connolly**, and Director of Election Operations **Amy M. Connolly**.

The four staff members graduated on Friday, August 21, 2026, during a ceremony held in Kansas City, Missouri, as part of the Election Center's 41st Annual National Conference. They joined dozens of election officials from across the country in completing the certification program.

CERA graduates earn the designation through a multiyear course of study taught by faculty from Auburn University in partnership with the National Association of Election Officials, commonly known as the Election Center. The curriculum consists of 12 courses covering subjects that include election law and history, voter registration, ethics, management, budgeting, communications, and voter participation.

CERA certification is recognized as one of the highest professional achievements for election officials and election vendors in the country. Earning the designation reflects a substantial commitment to professional development, public service, and election administration.

The New York State Board of Elections commends these staff members for their accomplishment and their continued commitment to advancing the field of election administration. Their achievement reflects the Board's broader commitment to continuous improvement, rigorous training, public accountability, and the secure, transparent, accessible, and accurate administration of elections throughout New York State.

For questions regarding this press release, please contact Kathleen McGrath or Jennifer Wilson at the New York State Board of Elections at (518) 474-1953 or INFO@elections.ny.gov.

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