



Interim Commissioner and November Special Election for Unexpired Term

What is going on?

Commissioner Singleterry was required to resign as a result of his appointment to the NJ Superior Court, resulting in a vacancy on the Board.¹

When a vacancy in the office of the board of county commissioners exists, the respective political party's county committee of the candidate who resigned must meet within 35 days to select who will fill the seat in the interim through 2025. In this case the party has until July 7th to fill the vacancy.²

As the Vacancy occurred more than 60 days before the November 4th election, and well after petitions were due for the primary elections, a special election to fill the unexpired term is required.³ The election for this office will be on the November general election.

What do we do?

As required, the County Chair must call a meeting within 7 days of the resignation. As such, Chair Schaffer has called for a meeting on June 23rd at 6:30 pm at the Green Knoll Grill (645 US-202, Bridgewater, NJ 08807).

We will need at least 10%⁴ of the Somerset County Committee Members, also known as district reps and municipal committee members, to join and vote on the nominee for office. The successful candidate will serve as interim Commissioner and be placed on the ballot in November for the unexpired term. Presumably the same individual will run for reelection in 2026.

The County Chair or her designee shall be the presiding officer of the Special Democratic Convention. The meeting will be governed by Robert's Rules.

¹ June 3rd Press release From Somerset County Government:
<https://www.somersetcountynj.gov/Home/Components/News/News/6619/17>

² Relevant NJ Statute determining the interim successor from a vacancy
<https://law.justia.com/codes/new-jersey/title-40/section-40-41a-145-2/>

³ Relevant NJ Statute determining the vacancy procedure
<https://law.justia.com/codes/new-jersey/title-40/section-40-41a-145-1/>

⁴ Quorum Requirement For Meetings Pg. 7 of County Bylaws
<https://somersetcountydemocrats.org/scdc-bylaws>

How to be considered for the position?

To qualify for nomination:

1. The interested candidate must send a letter of intent by June 16th, 2025, to the executive director: director@somersetdems.com
2. Candidates must be registered Democrats
3. Candidates must fulfill residency requirements
4. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age

To be considered for the position, candidates must be nominated on the floor by two committee members. The Chair may appoint a screening committee to interview candidates and make recommendations to the committee at the convention.

Who gets a vote?

Those eligible to vote are the [county committee members](#) listed on the official list maintained by the county clerk on June 16th.⁵

How do we vote?

Voting shall be done in person during the time set for the convention. The Chair shall set the manner in which votes are cast. (voice, showing of hands, ballot)

⁵ Vacancy Procedure Rules
<https://law.justia.com/codes/new-jersey/title-19/section-19-13-20/>