

## **Hunterdon County Sees Record Turn Out in 2020 Election Smooth Election Process A Credit To All Involved**

While the Hunterdon County Board of Elections continues to tally vote by mail ballots and approximately 1400 provisional ballots cast on election day by law cannot be opened until after November 10<sup>th</sup>, County voters have already set a record for turnout in the 2020 election and Freeholder Board Director Shaun C. Van Doren holds the highest vote total of all candidates for all offices, with nearly 44,000 votes, as of November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Voting returns will be certified by County Clerk Mary Melfi on November 20, 2020, as provided under state law.

At the November 4<sup>th</sup> Freeholder Board meeting, the Freeholders recognized and congratulated County Clerk Mary Melfi, the Board of Elections, Elections Administrator Beth Thompson, and all the workers involved for making the vote by mail and election day process operate smoothly and effectively for Hunterdon County's voters.

The County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Division of Buildings and Maintenance, and Sheriff's Office were also recognized for behind the scenes work effecting the election process.

Freeholder Matt Holt reported, "The fact that there were no incidents in Hunterdon County on election day didn't just happen – there was preparedness and vigilance.

The County's Office of Emergency Management implemented its preparedness plan for election day, operating from the County communications center on Cherryville Road."

Holt, the Board's Public Safety liaison, added, "The County's OEM coordinated with the State OEM and the NJ Homeland Security and Preparedness Office's Cyber and Integration Cell, communicating information on any Cyber related incidents in the state, including the development and distribution of cyber alerts and advisories, cyber tips and best practices for effectively managing cyber risk."

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County Administrator Kevin Davis reported to the Freeholder Board on the election process activities of the Division of Buildings and Maintenance and the Sheriff's Officers, as "the unsung heroes of the election."

Davis reported, "The Buildings and Maintenance team installed all 12 Vote by mail drop boxes throughout the county, installed Video Security Cameras on the interior and exterior of the Board of Elections, Hall of Records, and all the Vote By Mail Drop Boxes, and had the responsibility for securing all the Vote by mail boxes at 8pm on election night and the transport of ballots back to the Board of Elections office.

Additionally, Sheriff Fred Brown's officers provided regular secure daily pick up from the vote by mail drop boxes and security at the Board of Elections, which saw a record number of the voters dropping off ballots in person throughout October thru Election Day."

Davis noted, "When we say voting in Hunterdon County was safe and secure, it is thanks to the work of the all of the County personnel working together to make it happen."