

Chautauqua County Legislature
Emergency Meeting
Live Streamed on YouTube
Wednesday, October 30, 2024 6:30 p.m.
Mayville, N.Y. 14757

Chairman Chagnon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Chagnon: I will call to order the special meeting of the Chautauqua County Legislature on October 30, 2024. Would the Clerk please call the roll?

Clerk Lee called the roll and announced a quorum present. (Absent: Buchanan, Heiser, Landy, Larson, Niebel, Pavlock)

Legislator Johnson delivered the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

1st Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Chagnon: That brings us to our first privilege of the floor. Is there anyone wishing to address the first privilege of the floor? Seeing no one I will close the first privilege of the floor.

And now before we proceed, I would like to start the meeting with an apology. I apologize for bringing all of you out on a Wednesday night before Halloween. And I would like to explain to you why this special meeting, this emergency meeting became necessary. We received the nominations of the two commissioners of election and when we inquired as to when the Legislature needed to act on those, we were incorrectly informed by the Board of Elections that we had to act on them before the end of the year. So, we had planned to put these on the agenda for November. That advice that we received was entirely incorrect. We needed to act on the nomination the Republican commissioner of elections by the deadline of our last Legislature meeting – the meeting in October, which we have now passed. And we needed to act upon the nomination for the Democrat election commissioner by Election Day. So, that’s why we are holding the meeting tonight – this emergency meeting. For two purposes: for the Republican caucus to consider appointing Nacole Ellis as the election commissioner and for the Legislature in its entirety to consider appointing Luz Torres as commissioner of elections. So, I apologize for the misunderstanding that resulted in us needing to have this emergency meeting. And I certainly appreciate those of you that were able to meet this very tight timeline to be at this meeting tonight.

And with that, our first item on the agenda will require a roll call of the Republican members of the Legislature to confirm that we have a quorum of the caucus of the Republican

members of the Legislature. So, would the Clerk please call the roll for the Republican members of the Legislature?

Clerk Lee called the roll and announced a quorum of the Republican Caucus. (Absent: Heiser, Landy, Niebel, Pavlock)

Chairman Chagnon: Thank You, and procedurally I will point out that this appointment requires the majority of the Republican caucus, which will be eight votes for the appointment. So, could you introduce the -

Clerk Lee: Appointment of Nacole Ellis as the Commissioner of Elections (R) by the Republican caucus of the Chautauqua County Legislature.

Chairman Chagnon: So, are there any comments, questions, discussion by the Republican members of the Legislature?

Legislator Vanstrom: I have full faith in Nacole Ellis to be our next Commissioner. I proudly will vote for her this evening. She has proven herself for years. Thank you Nacole.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Anyone else?

Legislator Proctor: I just want to say that there is no one more qualified than Nacole, as she has been serving in the Board of Elections for many, many years and has done the job very well. So, I will definitely be supporting her.

Chairman Chagnon: Well said. Thank you.

Legislator Gustafson: I echo the comments obviously of Legislator Vanstrom and Proctor and also hold Nacole in the highest regard for her integrity and the hard work and dedication that she puts forth for our Board of Elections. So, I'll be voting for this.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Anyone else? Hearing no one, would you please call the roll of the Republican caucus?

Clerk Lee called the roll

Appointment of Nacole Ellis as the Commissioner of Elections (R) by the Republican caucus of the Chautauqua County Legislature R/C Vote: 10 Yes, 0 No, 4 Absent (Absent: Heiser, Landy, Niebel, Pavlock) Carried

Chairman Chagnon: Come on down. *(Applause)* Come on down.

Nacole Ellis: Thank you everybody. I appreciate your support. I do appreciate your support and I promise to continue to do my best at the Board of Elections and continue the

partnership with Luz. We work very well together. We are going to be the best we can be in New York State. So, I appreciate this opportunity very much and I will not let you down. So thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Okay, will now adjourn the Republican caucus and we will return to the meeting of the entire Legislature and we have a resolution.

Clerk Lee: 295-24 Confirm Appointment of Luz Torres (D) Commissioner of Elections.

Chairman Chagnon: Are there any comments, questions, or praises for the resolution?

Legislator Bankoski: Yes, I would just like to be on record that I am going to support Luz again as she has done an exemplary job for the last four years that she has taken over for Norm Green and actually has done a phenomenal job and actually has taken her office to the next level and she is more than deserving for the new appointment.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Any other comments?

Legislator Nelson: Yeah, I would also echo those comments. And a teacher who had the Board of Elections come to my classroom year after year, I want to complement Luz and the job that our Board of Elections does in educating our students and how the process works and that they can trust the process. And we do an awesome job in Chautauqua County with our elections. So, I wholeheartedly support her.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Anyone else?

Legislator Scudder: Yes, I'll be supporting Luz tonight. It's always very simple to support in this case, two people that are doing a great job. The integrity is there. I've had a couple calls this week about having to sign twice on their ballot and I was able to put all their doubts aside by assuring them that our Board of Elections here in Chautauqua County is 100% integrity. And they have nothing to worry about. And they were satisfied with that. So I appreciate what both have, well what Luz has done and what Nacole will be doing. But, yeah, I will be supporting Luz tonight wholeheartedly.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you.

Legislator Parker: I am going to echo what everyone else said about Luz Torres and then also to welcome Nacole as well. Thank you.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Anyone else? Any other comments on the resolution? Hearing none, will the Clerk please call the roll?

RES. NO. 295-24 R/C Vote: 13 Yes; 0 No; 6 Absent (Absent: Buchanan, Heiser, Landy, Larson, Niebel, Pavlock) - UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

Luz Torres: I thank you for your support and I am going to continue working with Nacole, I mean I work with her now. But working with her as Commissioners and making great decisions for our County and our voters. So, thank you very much everyone we will try not to let you down. Thank you so much. *(Applause)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Chagnon: Alright, so that brings us to Announcements. Are there any announcements for the good of the order?

Legislator Vanstrom: I just hope everyone has a safe and happy Halloween tomorrow and it's also All Saints Day for anybody who is of the Christianity beliefs in this room, in case, just in case.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Anyone else? Any other announcements?

Legislator Johnson: Yes, a small announcement. This weekend, on behalf of the Wine Trail, is the first of the fall wine trail weekends. So, we will have an extra six hundred and some people traipsing back and forth up and down Route 20 going to the wineries. Hopefully, all will have a good time, go to restaurants and view our beautiful villages. But beware of the traffic.

Chairman Chagnon: Thank you. Any other announcements?

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Chairman Chagnon: That brings us to our second privilege of the floor. Is there anyone wishing to address the second privilege of floor? Seeing no one I will close the second privilege of the floor. And now I will accept a motion from anybody.

MOVED by Legislator Gustafson, SECONDED by Legislator Bankoski to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (6:45 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia Lee, Clerk of the Legislature/ Nancy Quattrone, Senior Stenographer