

# NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

*County Government with a Unified Voice!*

JAMES R. KERN III  
NJAC President  
Warren County Commissioner

JOHN G. DONNADIO, ESQ.  
Executive Director

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REORGANIZATION NOTES TO FILE

*11:00 a.m. January 23, 2026*

Senate Chambers of the New Jersey State House

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. NJAC Executive Director John Donnadio called the meeting to order following by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Republican Leader John DiMaio and the singing of the National Anthem by students from the Performing Arts Academy at the Union County Vocational Technical School.

### 2. ROLL CALL with a Quorum Present

James Kern III, NJAC President & Warren County Commissioner  
Alexander Mirabella, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President & Union County Commissioner  
Dominick DiRocco, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Monmouth County Commissioner  
Tracy Zur, NJAC Secretary/Treasurer & Bergen County Commissioner  
Shanel Robinson, NJAC Immediate Past President & Somerset County Commissioner  
John Risley, Atlantic County Commissioner  
Eve Cullinan, Burlington County Administrator  
Randy Brolo, Burlington County Commissioner  
Jonathan Young, Camden County Commissioner  
Jennifer Cooley Fleisher, Camden County Commissioner  
Robert Baselice, Hudson County Commissioner  
John Cimino, Mercer County Commissioner  
Ronald Rios, Middlesex County Commissioner  
Deena Lyklins, Morris County Commissioner  
Mattew Jordan, Passaic County Administrator  
Orlando Cruz, Passaic County Commissioner  
Rodney De Vore, Passaic County Commissioner  
Chris Carney, Sussex County Commissioner  
Christina Marks, Sussex County Administrator  
Jason Sarnoski, Warren County Commissioner  
Dan Benson, Mercer County Executive  
Mary Melfi, Hunterdon County Clerk  
Claribel Cortes, Middlesex County Surrogate  
Joe Hannon, NJAC Labor Relations Counsel

3. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- A. Executive Director Donnadio recognized Senator Douglas Steinhardt, Republican Leader John DiMaio, and Hope Mayor Tim McDonough.
- B. The Executive Director thanked 2025 NJAC President and Somerset County Commissioner Director Shanel Robinson for her remarkable leadership, support, and advice and counsel and presented the President with a plaque in appreciation.
- C. President Robinson thanked NJAC staff for their hard work and dedication and shared how important it is for the organization to serve county governments with a nonpartisan voice.

4. OATH OF OFFICE TO 2026 NJAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- A. President Robinson administered the Oath of Office to NJAC's 2026 Board of Directors and then to the Slate of Executive Officers.

5. OATH OF OFFICE 2024 NJAC PRESIDENT

- A. Senator Steinhardt administered the Oath of Office to Warren County Commissioner James R. Kern as the Association's 85<sup>th</sup> President with President Kern's wife holding the bible in support.

6. REMARKS BY NJAC PRESIDENT

- A. President Kern thanked his family, friends, supporters, and colleagues in attendance and looks forward to working with state leaders to advocate on behalf of county government with a unified and proactive voice.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Board unanimously approved the following as outlined by President Van Doren:

- A. Approval of 2024 Audit Report
- B. Resolution authorizing 2026 Board Meeting Dates
- C. Resolution authorizing 2026 Annual County Dues
- D. Resolution authorizing 2026 Annual Budget
- E. Resolution authorizing 2026 Labor Relations Counsel
- F. Resolution authorizing 2026 Accountant/Auditor

8. COUNTY VO-TECH COOK-OFF CHALLENGE DRAWING

- A. Executive Director Donnadio noted that the following counties would receive automatic bids to compete in 2025: Cape May County as the People's Choice Champion in 2025; Warren County as the home County of NJAC's President in 2026; and, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, and Monmouth counties as they did not compete in 2025.

- B. (8) schools from Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, and Passaic counties submitted for their schools to compete for (3) positions with Immediate Past President Robinson randomly drawing Bergen, Burlington, and Passaic counties. The remaining schools will receive automatic bids in 2027.

9. CONGRATULATIONS FROM WARREN COUNTY

- A. Senator Steinhardt congratulated President Kern for his leadership, public service, and commitment to good government and wished him and the Association the best of luck.

10. ADJOURNMENT TO THE MASONIC TEMPLE

- A. President Kern adjourned the meeting for lunch at the Historic Trenton Masonic Temple.