

CONTARINO ROTH LLC

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Republican National Committee*

<p>REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v.</p> <p>BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendant.</p>	<p>SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY</p> <p>Docket No.: BER-L</p> <p>Civil Action</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VERIFIED COMPLAINT</p>
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Plaintiff Republican National Committee (“RNC”), by and through its counsel, Contarino Roth LLC, and by way of verified complaint against Defendant Bergen County Board of Elections (“Defendant” or the “Board of Elections”), alleges as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is an action under the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1, *et seq.* (“OPRA”), and the common law right of access. Defendant has refused to provide the RNC with public records related to lists of poll workers assigned to voting sites within Bergen County during the early voting period for, and during, the November 4, 2025, General Election, as required by law.

PARTIES

2. Plaintiff RNC is the national organization of the Republican Party, as defined by 52 U.S.C. § 30101(14), with its principal place of business at 310 First Street SE, Washington,

DC 20003. In addition to managing the Republican Party's business at the national level, the RNC supports Republican candidates for public office at all levels, including in New Jersey, coordinates fundraising and election strategy, and develops and promotes the national Republican Platform. The RNC represents over 35 million registered Republicans in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. It comprises 168 voting members representing state and territorial Republican Party organizations.

3. Defendant Bergen County Board of Elections is a public body with its principal place of business at One Bergen County Plaza, 3rd Floor, Rm 310, Hackensack, NJ 07601-7076, which exists pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:6-17 that is charged with, among other things, receiving, counting, investigating, curing (if necessary) and certifying vote-by-mail ballots, counting, certifying and curing (if necessary) provisional ballots and counting and certifying ballots cast using voting machines. The Board of Elections is a "public agency," as that term is defined in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1.

VENUE

4. Venue is properly laid in Bergen County because Defendant is a public agency within Bergen County. R. 4:3-2(a).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

5. On November 25, 2025, the RNC filed a public records request under OPRA and the common law right to know (the "Request") seeking (1) the list of poll workers assigned to each early voting site in the county, including political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, during the early voting period for the November 4, 2025 General Election; and (2) the list of poll workers assigned to each voting district in the county, including

political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, for the November 4, 2025 General Election.

6. The RNC's party members, and any member of the public, have the right to know the list of poll workers assigned to the voting districts within Bergen County. No known state interest outweighs the right of the RNC to obtain this basic-level due diligence information. Indeed, **sixteen** other counties have fully responded with information and records responsive to the Request, including Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren counties.

7. By contrast, Defendant responded to the Request on January 8, 2026, as follows:

Please be advised that the Board of Elections is unable to respond to the portions of your request which seek the assignment locations of poll workers as the requested information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 as "(1) Emergency or security information or procedures for any buildings or facility which, if disclosed, would jeopardize security of the building or facility or persons therein and (2) Security measures and surveillance techniques which, if disclosed, would create a risk to the safety or persons, property, electronic data or software."

8. Thereafter Defendant marked the Request "completed" in their online OPRA portal.

9. Defendant's denial of the Request does not articulate why the requested information is exempt from disclosure under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5.3; it merely recites the text of the exemption.

10. Defendant's denial of the Request does not articulate why the requested information is exempt from disclosure as either "[e]mergency or security information or procedures for any buildings or facility" or "[s]ecurity measures and surveillance techniques"; it merely recites the text of the exemption.

11. Defendant's denial of the Request fails to articulate what alleged interest the Board of Elections has in withholding access to the requested information.

12. Defendant's failure to provide all records requested violates N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(6)(i) and the Common Law Right of Access.

13. The Request is valid and seeks readily identifiable government records in the possession and control of Defendant, which Defendant is required to maintain and make available to the public under state law.

14. The RNC's interest in the requested records is greater than Defendant's interest in non-disclosure.

FIRST COUNT

(OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT VIOLATION)

15. The RNC hereby repeats and incorporates the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth herein at length.

16. Defendant violated OPRA by not providing the RNC with copies of all records identified in the Request.

17. Defendant violated OPRA by not responding to the Request with all responsive records within seven business days of the date of the Request and by not seeking additional time in the manner required by N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(6)(i).

18. Defendant violated OPRA by failing to articulate (1) how the exemptions to OPRA cited in Defendant's response apply to the records sought in the Request or (2) why redaction of any potentially exempt material might have been appropriate instead of refusing to release the entire record.

SECOND COUNT

(COMMON LAW RIGHT OF ACCESS)

19. The RNC hereby repeats and incorporates the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth herein at length.

20. The records requested by the RNC, which Defendant failed to provide, are public records under the Common Law Right of Access.

21. The RNC has articulated the interest of its members in obtaining the records sought in the body of the Request submitted to Defendant.

22. Defendant has not articulated a valid state interest in non-disclosure.

23. Any possible state interest in non-disclosure is not greater than the RNC's interest in receiving the records sought.

WHEREFORE, the RNC hereby demands:

- a. An Order or Judgment ordering the Board of Elections to provide the RNC with copies of the public records demanded in its November 25, 2025, request;
- b. A certification from Defendant to the Court that it has provided all responsive records;
- c. A waiver by Defendant of any fee it might charge for the requested records;
- d. An award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- e. Such other relief as the Court may deem equitable and just.

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

The RNC hereby designates Josiah Contarino as trial counsel.

CERTIFICATION OF NO OTHER ACTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 4:5-1, it is hereby stated that the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any other court or of a pending arbitration proceeding to the best of my knowledge and belief. To the best of my belief, no other action or arbitration proceeding is pending or contemplated. Further, other than the parties set forth in this pleading, I know of no other parties that should be joined in the above action. In addition, I recognize the continuing obligation of each party to file and serve on all parties and the Court an amended certification if there is a change in the facts stated in this original certification.

CONTARINO ROTH LLC

By: /s/ Josiah Contarino
Josiah Contarino

*Attorneys for Plaintiff
Republican National Committee*

Dated: March 2, 2026

VERIFICATION

Mike Ambrosini of full age, hereby certifies as follows:

1. I am the Republican National Committee Chief of Staff. All of the facts stated in the Verified Complaint to which this Verification is attached are true, and as to those facts that are alleged on information and belief in those paragraphs, I believe those facts to be true,

2. I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me is willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

By 
MIKE AMBROSINI

Dated: February 27, 2026

CONTARINO ROTH LLC

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*Attorneys for Plaintiff
Republican National Committee*

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF
ELECTIONS,

Defendant.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY

Docket No.: BER-L

Civil Action

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

(OPRA SUMMARY PROCEEDING)

THIS MATTER having been opened to the Court by Contarino Roth LLC, attorneys for Plaintiff Republican National Committee, Inc., seeking relief by way of summary action pursuant to Rule 4:67-1 and 2(a), based upon the facts set forth in the verified complaint and supporting papers filed herewith; and the Court having determined that this matter may be commenced by order to show cause as a summary proceeding pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6; and for good cause shown,

1. **IT IS** on this _____ day of March 2026, **ORDERED** that Defendant Bergen County Board of Elections, appear and show cause on the _____ day of _____ 2026 before the Honorable _____, Superior Court of New Jersey, County of Bergen, Bergen County Justice Center, 10 Main Street Hackensack, New Jersey 07601, at a time to be determined, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, why judgment should not be entered:

- A. Ordering Defendant to provide Plaintiff copies of the following records: (1) the list of poll workers assigned to each early voting site in the county, including political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, during the early voting period for the November 4, 2025 General Election; and (2) the list of poll workers assigned to each voting district in the county, including political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, for the November 4, 2025 General Election;
- B. Declaring that Defendant violated OPRA by unlawfully denying access to the foregoing records requested by Plaintiff on November 25, 2025;
- C. Ordering that within three days of providing the foregoing records, Defendant shall submit a certification with the Court that it has provided all responsive records;
- D. Ordering that any fee that Defendant may have charged for producing the foregoing records is waived;
- E. Ordering that Plaintiff is a prevailing party in this matter and entitled to an award of reasonable counsel fees and costs; and
- F. Ordering such other, further and different relief as the Court may deem equitable and just.

And it is further **ORDERED** that:

2. A copy of this order to show cause, verified complaint, and all supporting affidavits or certifications submitted in support of this application, be served upon Defendant within seven days of the date hereof via overnight delivery with signature confirmation or certified mail, return receipt requested and email at elections@bergencountynj.gov.

3. Plaintiff must file with the Court proof of service of the pleadings on the Defendant no later than three days before the return date.

4. Defendant shall file and serve a written answer and opposition papers to this order to show cause and the relief requested in the verified complaint and proof of service of the same by _____. The answer and opposition papers must be filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court in the county listed above and a copy of the papers must be sent directly to the chambers of the Honorable _____.

5. Plaintiff must file and serve any written reply to Defendant's opposition to the order to show cause by _____. The reply papers must be filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court in the county listed above and a copy of the reply papers must be sent directly to the chambers of the Honorable _____.

6. If Defendant does not file and serve opposition to this order to show cause, the application will be decided on the papers on the return date and relief may be granted by default, provided that Plaintiff files a proof of service and a proposed form of order at least three days prior to the return date.

7. If Plaintiff has not already done so, a proposed form of order addressing the relief sought on the return date must be submitted to the Court no later than three days before the return date.

8. Defendant take notice that Plaintiff has filed a lawsuit against you in the Superior Court of New Jersey. The verified complaint attached to this order to show cause states the basis of the lawsuit. If you dispute this complaint, you, or your attorney, must file a written answer and opposition papers and proof of service before the return date of the order to show cause.

These documents must be filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court in the county listed above. A directory of these offices is available in the Civil Division Management Office in the county listed above and online at njcourts.gov. Unless exempt from paying the filing fee, include a \$175 filing fee payable to the “Treasurer, State of New Jersey.” You must also send a copy of your answer and opposition papers to Plaintiff’s attorney whose name and address appear above, or to Plaintiff, if no attorney is named above. A telephone call will not protect your rights; you must file and serve your answer and opposition papers (with the fee) or judgment may be entered against you by default.

9. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may call the Legal Services office in the county in which you live or the Legal Services of New Jersey Statewide Hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529). If you do not have an attorney and are not eligible for free legal assistance you may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling one of the Lawyer Referral Services. A directory with contact information for local Legal Services Offices and Lawyer Referral Services is available in the Civil Division Management Office in the county listed above and online at njcourts.gov.

10. The Court will entertain argument, but not testimony, on the return date of the order to show cause, unless the Court and parties are advised to the contrary no later than seven days before the return date.

Hon.

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<p>REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v.</p> <p>BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendant.</p>	<p>SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY</p> <p>Docket No.: BER-L</p> <p>Civil Action</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINAL ORDER</p>
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THIS MATTER having been opened to the Court by Contarino Roth LLC, attorneys for Plaintiff Republican National Committee, Inc., seeking relief by way of summary action pursuant to R. 4:67-1 and 2(a), based upon the facts set forth in the verified complaint and supporting papers filed herewith; and the Court having determined that this matter may be commenced by order to show cause as a summary proceeding pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6; and having considered the written submissions by the parties and having heard oral argument on _____, for good cause shown,

IT IS on this _____ day of _____, 2026

1. **ORDERED** that Defendant Bergen County Board of Elections shall provide Plaintiff with copies of the following records within three days: (1) the list of poll workers assigned to each early voting site in the county, including political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, during the early voting period for the

November 4, 2025 General Election; and (2) the list of poll workers assigned to each voting district in the county, including political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, for the November 4, 2025 General Election;

2. **DECLARED** that Defendant violated OPRA by unlawfully denying access to the foregoing records requested by Plaintiff on November 25, 2025;

3. **ORDERED** that within three days of providing the foregoing records, Defendant shall submit a certification with the Court that it has provided all responsive records;

4. **ORDERED** that any fee that Defendant may have charged for producing the foregoing records is waived;

5. **ORDERED** that Plaintiff is the prevailing party in this matter and is entitled to an award of reasonable counsel fees and costs, which shall be established by subsequent Court Order upon the submission of a Certification of Services by Plaintiff's counsel within seven days of the entry of this Order, which Defendant shall have the ability to respond to within ten days of the entry of this Order; and

6. **ORDERED** that a copy of this Order shall be deemed served upon all parties of record upon filing on eCourts.

Hon.

OPPOSED _____

UNOPPOSED _____

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF
ELECTIONS,

Defendant.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY

Docket No.: BER-L

Civil Action

**PLAINTIFF REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE'S MEMORANDUM OF LAW
IN SUPPORT OF VERIFIED COMPLAINT AND ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

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Republican National Committee

Dated: March 2, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS i

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES..... ii

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT..... 1

STATEMENT OF FACTS 2

ARGUMENT 3

 I. This action should proceed in a summary manner..... 3

 II. The Bergen County Board of Elections violated OPRA by failing to provide readily
 available records. 3

 A. The records sought by the RNC are non-exempt government records. 3

 B. The Bergen County Board of Elections failed to properly respond. 4

 III. The RNC is entitled to an award of attorney’s fees and costs. 5

 IV. The RNC has an independent right to obtain the records sought under the common
 law right of access..... 5

CONCLUSION..... 7

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases

A.A. v. Gramiccioni,
442 N.J. Super. 276 (App. Div. 2015)..... 3

Courier News v. Hunterdon County Prosecutor’s Office,
358 N.J. Super. 373 (App. Div. 2003)..... 3

Fair Share Housing Ctr., Inc. v. N.J. State League of Municipalities,
207 N.J. 489 (2011) 4

Keddie v. Rutgers,
148 N.J. 36 (1997) 5

Libertarian Party of Cent. N.J. v. Murphy,
384 N.J. Super. 136 (App. Div. 2006)..... 3

Loigman v. Kimmelman,
102 N.J. 98 (1986) 5, 6

Mason v. City of Hoboken,
196 N.J. 51 (2008) 5

Nero v. Hyland,
76 N.J. 213 (1978) 5

North Jersey Media Group Inc. v. Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office,
447 N.J. Super. 182 (App. Div. 2016)..... 4, 5

North Jersey Media Grp., Inc. v. Tp. of Lyndhurst,
229 N.J. 541 (2017) 5

Statutes

N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1..... 1

N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1..... 3

N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6..... 1, 3, 5

Rules

Rule 4:67..... 3

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Plaintiff Republican National Committee (“RNC” or “Plaintiff”), submits this Memorandum of Law in support of its Verified Complaint and Order to Show Cause against Defendant Bergen County Board of Elections (“Board of Elections” or “Defendant”), arising under the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1, *et seq.* (“OPRA”) and the Common Law Right of Access.

Defendant violated OPRA and the Common Law Right of Access by improperly withholding public records based on exemptions for which Defendant failed to link to the requested public documents. Specifically, the RNC sought: (1) the list of poll workers assigned to each early voting site in the county, including political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, during the early voting period for the November 4, 2025 General Election; and (2) the list of poll workers assigned to each voting district in the county, including political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, for the November 4, 2025 General Election (together, the “Request”).

The Board’s incomplete and conclusory response after over six weeks violated OPRA’s requirement that a custodian may not rely upon conclusory and generalized allegations of exemptions, but must provide specific reasons for withholding documents. Instead, Defendant invoked OPRA exemptions wholesale without providing any factual or legal justification for their applicability.

Defendant’s denial of access was unlawful and inconsistent with New Jersey’s strong public policy favoring transparency in election administration. The RNC therefore respectfully requests that this Court order the immediate production of the requested records and award attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On November 25, 2025, the RNC filed with Defendant a public records request under OPRA and the common law right to know seeking (1) the list of poll workers assigned to each early voting site in the county, including political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, during the early voting period for the November 4, 2025 General Election; and (2) the list of poll workers assigned to each voting district in the county, including political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, for the November 4, 2025 General Election. Verified Compl. ¶ 5; Certification of Josiah Contarino (March 2, 2026) (“Contarino Cert.”), Ex. A.

Defendant did not respond until over six weeks later, on January 8, 2026, denying the Request:

Please be advised that the Board of Elections is unable to respond to the portions of your request which seek the assignment locations of poll workers as the requested information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 as “(1) Emergency or security information or procedures for any buildings or facility which, if disclosed, would jeopardize security of the building or facility or persons therein and (2) Security measures and surveillance techniques which, if disclosed, would create a risk to the safety or persons, property, electronic data or software.”

Verified Compl. ¶¶ 7–8; Contarino Cert., Exs. B, C.

Despite relying on the stated exemptions found in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1, Defendant failed to explain how those exemptions applied in this matter. Verified Compl. ¶¶ 9–10; Contarino Cert., Ex. B. Moreover, sixteen other counties have fully responded with information and records responsive to the Request, including Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren counties. Verified Compl. ¶ 6.

ARGUMENT

I. This action should proceed in a summary manner.

This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6, which provides that “[a] person who is denied access to a government record by the custodian of the record may . . . institute a proceeding to challenge the custodian’s decision by filing an action in Superior Court, and that “[a]ny such proceeding shall proceed in a summary or expedited manner.” *See also A.A. v. Gramiccioni*, 442 N.J. Super. 276, 282 (App. Div. 2015); *Courier News v. Hunterdon County Prosecutor’s Office*, 358 N.J. Super. 373, 378 (App. Div. 2003) (“This statutory language requires a trial court to proceed under the procedures prescribed in Rule 4:67.”).

Because this case arises under OPRA and the relevant facts are established through the Verified Complaint and supporting certification, an order to show cause and summary disposition under Rule 4:67 is proper. *See R. 4:67* (permitting lawsuits brought in a summary manner if New Jersey statute allows).

II. The Bergen County Board of Elections violated OPRA by failing to provide readily available records.

A. The records sought by the RNC are non-exempt government records.

OPRA defines a “government record” broadly to include “any paper, written or printed book, document, drawing, map, plan, photograph, microfilm, data processed or image processed document, information stored or maintained electronically or by sound recording or in a similar device” made, maintained, or kept on file in the course of official business. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1.

Under well-established precedent, the public’s right of access under OPRA is to be construed broadly, and any claimed limitation “shall be construed in favor of the public’s right of access.” *Libertarian Party of Cent. N.J. v. Murphy*, 384 N.J. Super. 136, 139 (App. Div. 2006);

Fair Share Housing Ctr., Inc. v. N.J. State League of Municipalities, 207 N.J. 489, 502 (2011) (explaining the purpose of OPRA is to maximize public knowledge about public affairs to ensure an informed public and minimize the “evils inherent in a secluded process”).

Here, the list of poll workers assigned to voting sites within Bergen County during the early voting period for, and during, the November 4, 2025, General Election requested by the RNC are plainly “government records” that require disclosure to ensure the public understands the election process and safeguards. These records are created and maintained by county election officials in the regular course of conducting elections and serve as contemporaneous records of the election administration process. Such materials are routinely available to the public in other New Jersey counties (such as the sixteen counties identified above) and in other jurisdictions across the country.

B. The Bergen County Board of Elections failed to properly respond.

Defendant violated OPRA by failing to release all responsive records in its possession in response to Plaintiff’s Request. “A public agency that denies access bears ‘the burden of proving that the denial of access is authorized by law.’ The custodian may not rely upon ‘conclusory and generalized allegations of exemptions,’ but must provide specific reasons for withholding documents.” *North Jersey Media Group Inc. v. Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office*, 447 N.J. Super. 182, 204 (App. Div. 2016) (internal citations omitted). Defendant’s denial recites two OPRA exemptions without articulating any factual basis why the cited exemptions apply, in violation of *North Jersey Media Group*, 447 N.J. Super. at 204. This cursory denial of the Request violates OPRA.

For these reasons, Defendant’s January 8, 2026, response violates OPRA.

III. The RNC is entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs.

Under N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6, a requestor who prevails in any OPRA proceeding “shall be entitled to a reasonable attorney’s fee.” Even where records are produced after suit is filed, a plaintiff qualifies as a “catalyst” for the disclosure and is still entitled to fees. *Mason v. City of Hoboken*, 196 N.J. 51, 76 (2008).

Because the RNC was compelled to bring this action to obtain access to public election records, it is entitled to recover reasonable attorney’s fees and costs, with the precise amount to be determined upon submission of counsel’s certification.

IV. The RNC has an independent right to obtain the records sought under the common law right of access.

The common law allows members of the public to gain access to “written memorials made by public officers in the exercise of their official duties.” *See e.g., Loigman v. Kimmelman*, 102 N.J. 98, 102 (1986) (quoting *Nero v. Hyland*, 76 N.J. 213, 221-22 (1978)). The purpose of this “common law right of access” is to provide a private citizen that has demonstrated a compelling personal need to inspect public records with a method of obtaining access to the necessary information. *North Jersey Media Grp., Inc. v. Tp. of Lyndhurst*, 229 N.J. 541 (2017). But a private citizen’s personal interest in inspecting public records must be weighed against a government agency’s interest in preserving the confidentiality of its citizens. *North Jersey Media Group v. Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office*, 447 N.J. Super. at 182; *Keddie v. Rutgers*, 148 N.J. 36, 50 (1997).

The Supreme Court has identified the following factors that should be considered when determining whether a plaintiff’s personal interest in inspecting public records sufficiently outweighs a government’s interest:

(1) the extent to which disclosure will impede agency functions by discouraging citizens from providing information to the government; (2) the effect disclosure may have upon persons who have given such information, and whether they did so in reliance that their identities would not be disclosed; (3) the extent to which agency self-evaluation, program improvement, or other decision-making will be chilled by disclosure; (4) the degree to which the information sought includes factual data as opposed to evaluative reports of policymakers; (5) whether any findings of public misconduct have been insufficiently corrected by remedial measures instituted by the investigative agency; and (6) whether any agency disciplinary or investigatory proceedings have arisen that may circumscribe the individual's asserted need for the materials.

Loigman, 102 N.J. at 113. These factors tips in the RNC's favor:

- Agency Function: Disclosure will not impede the Board's functions. The poll worker lists merely document completed election procedures.
- Effect on Individuals: The records identify only persons who have applied to be a poll worker in the public view and for remuneration.
- Program Evaluation: Transparency promotes accountability in election administration and enhances public confidence.
- Nature of Information: The requested materials are factual records, not evaluative or deliberative in nature.
- Public Interest: There is a strong public interest in ensuring voting sites are staffed with bipartisan poll workers.

Accordingly, the RNC's legitimate interest in oversight of election integrity far outweighs any generalized or speculative confidentiality interest asserted by Defendant.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment in its favor and award attorneys' fees and costs.

Respectfully submitted,
CONTARINO ROTH LLC

By: /s/ Josiah Contarino
Josiah Contarino

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Republican National Committee, Inc.

Dated: March 2, 2026

CONTARINO ROTH LLC

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REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, Plaintiff, v. BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, Defendant.
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SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY

Docket No.: BER-L

Civil Action

CERTIFICATION OF COUNSEL

I, JOSIAH CONTARINO, of full age, hereby certify as follows:

1. I am an attorney-at-law of the State of New Jersey and a partner at Contarino Roth LLC, attorneys for Plaintiff Republican National Committee, Inc. (the “RNC” or “Plaintiff”). I am familiar with the facts set forth herein, which are based upon matters of public record.

2. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a true and accurate copy of a records request submitted on behalf of the RNC to Defendant Bergen County Board of Elections (“Defendant”) on or about November 25, 2025 (“Request”).

3. Attached hereto as **Exhibit B** is a true and accurate copy of Defendant’s January 8, 2026, response to Plaintiff’s Request.

4. Attached hereto as **Exhibit C** is a true and accurate copy of Defendant’s online OPRA portal showing Plaintiff’s Request had been “completed.”

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me is willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

CONTARINO ROTH LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff

By: /s/ Josiah Contarino
 JOSIAH CONTARINO

Dated: March 2, 2026

EXHIBIT A

[View Message\(s\)](#)

Request Type: OPRA Request
Contact E-Mail: ppietrini@gop.com
Reference No: B019814-010726
Status: Assigned

Requesting Record(s) From: Board of Elections
Requesting Record(s) From: General-Board of Elections
Type of Record(s) Requested: General-Board of Elections-Other

Describe the Record(s) Requested: Good afternoon, Pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Records Act (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.) and the Common Law Right of Access, please accept this email as a formal request for access to the below public records: List of poll workers assigned to each early voting site in the county, including political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, during the early voting period for the November 4, 2025 General Election; List of poll workers assigned to each voting district in the county, including political party affiliation of the assigned workers and any vacancies that existed, for the November 4, 2025 General Election; Under penalty of N.J.S.A. 2C:28-3, I certify that: I have not been convicted of any indictable offense under the laws of New Jersey, any other state, or the United States; I will not use the requested government records for a commercial purpose; I am not seeking records in connection with a legal proceeding. The preferred method of delivery for the response is via email in Excel format. Respectfully, Paul

EXHIBIT B

Save

New Message

Cancel

Messages 3

Print Messages (PDF)

On 1/8/2026 11:43:00 AM, Bergen County OPRA Center wrote:

Subject: OPRA Request :: B019814-010726

Body:

Please be advised that the Board of Elections is unable to respond to the portions of your request which seek the assignment locations of poll workers as the requested information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 as "(1) Emergency or security information or procedures for any buildings or facility which, if disclosed, would jeopardize security of the building or facility or persons therein and (2) Security measures and surveillance techniques which, if disclosed, would create a risk to the safety or persons, property, electronic data or software."

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EXHIBIT C



BERGEN COUNTY

NEW JERSEY

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Bergen County OPRA Center

OPRA Menu

- Home
- FAQs
- Submit a Request
- My Request Center

FAQs

See All FAQs

- How to submit
- What is OPRA?
- Where to submit
- Definition of Record
- Exemptions
- Response time

Search Criteria

OPRA Request 7 days ago
B019814-010726
Board of Elections
Status : Assigned



Paul Pietrini

Details

« 1 »

Civil Case Information Statement

Case Details: BERGEN | Civil Part Docket# L-002599-26

Case Caption: REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE VS BERGEN COUNTY

Case Initiation Date: 03/02/2026

Attorney Name: JOSIAH A CONTARINO

Firm Name: CONTARINO ROTH LLC

Address: 50 PARK PLACE, SUITE 1105

NEWARK NJ 07102

Phone: 9732001926

Name of Party: PLAINTIFF : Republican National Committee

Name of Defendant's Primary Insurance Company

(if known): None

Case Type: OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (SUMMARY ACTION)

Document Type: Verified Complaint

Jury Demand: NONE

Is this a professional malpractice case? NO

Related cases pending: NO

If yes, list docket numbers:

Do you anticipate adding any parties (arising out of same transaction or occurrence)? NO

Does this case involve claims related to COVID-19? NO

Are sexual abuse claims alleged by: Republican National Committee? NO

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS FORM CANNOT BE INTRODUCED INTO EVIDENCE

CASE CHARACTERISTICS FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING IF CASE IS APPROPRIATE FOR MEDIATION

Do parties have a current, past, or recurrent relationship? NO

If yes, is that relationship:

Does the statute governing this case provide for payment of fees by the losing party? NO

Use this space to alert the court to any special case characteristics that may warrant individual management or accelerated disposition:

Do you or your client need any disability accommodations? NO

If yes, please identify the requested accommodation:

Will an interpreter be needed? NO

If yes, for what language:

Please check off each applicable category: Putative Class Action? NO Title 59? NO Consumer Fraud? NO Medical Debt Claim? NO

I certify that confidential personal identifiers have been redacted from documents now submitted to the court, and will be redacted from all documents submitted in the future in accordance with *Rule 1:38-7(b)*

03/02/2026

Dated

/s/ JOSIAH A CONTARINO

Signed

