

**AGENDA FOR THE ORGANIZATION MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
AT 6:00PM ON
JANUARY 2, 2024**

1. **Mayor Sowden** will call the meeting to order.
2. **Mayor Sowden** will state “this meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Ch. 231. It has been properly advertised and certified by the Clerk.”

3. **Flag Salute**

Mayor Sowden will invite all persons present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

4. **Roll Call of 2023 Borough Council Members**

Mayor Sowden shall request a roll call of the 2023 Governing Body:

Mr. Formica, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder, and Mayor Sowden.

5. **Oaths of Office**

- a. **Ms. Tremont** will read the “Statement of Determination” of the Board of County Canvassers.
- b. **Ms. Tremont** will administer the Oath of Office to Mayor-elect John M. Sowden, IV for a four-year term as Mayor of the Borough of Franklin.
- c. **Ms. Tremont** will administer the Oath of Office to Councilman-elect **Joe Limon** for a three-year term as Councilman of the Borough of Franklin.
- d. **Ms. Tremont** will administer the Oath of Office to Councilman-elect **John Postas** for a three-year term as Councilman of the Borough of Franklin.

6. **Roll Call of 2024 Borough Council Members**

Mayor Sowden will request a roll call of the **2024 Governing Body**.

Mr. Formica, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Sowden.

7. **Council Appointment: Council President**

Mayor Sowden will open the floor for Council nominations to the position of **Council President** for 2024.

8. **Fire Department Chief and Line Officers**

- a. **Mayor Sowden** will recognize the Chief of the Franklin Fire Department for 2024, Michael Raperto.
- b. **Ms. Tremont** will administer the Oath of Office to the Chief of the Franklin Fire Department for 2024, Chief Raperto.
- c. **Ms. Tremont** will recognize Fire Chief Raperto who will introduce the 2024 Line Officers and Administrative Officers of the Franklin Fire Department.
- d. **Ms. Tremont** will administer the Oath of Office to the **Line Officers and Administrative Officers** of the Franklin Fire Department for 2024.

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9. Mayor's Appointments

At this time, **Mayor Sowden** will present his nominations for appointment to the various positions of Borough Government for the year 2024.

Municipal Judge (3 yr.) expires 12/31/26	Glenn T. Gavan
Municipal Prosecutor (1 yr.)	Timothy Profeta, Esq.
Municipal Public Defender (1 yr.)	John Grey, Esq.
Historian (1 yr.)	Phillip Crabb
Municipal Housing Liaison (1 yr.)	Darlene Tremont
Right to Know Coordinator	Brian VanDenBroek
Assessment Search Officer (1 yr.)	Darlene Tremont
Tax Search Officer (1 yr.)	Township of Wantage
Borough Physician (1 yr.)	Dr. Bollard, Premier Health
Animal Control Officer (3 yr.) expires 12/31/2026	Vernon Township
School Crossing Guard Captain (1 yr.)	Rebecca Babcock
School Crossing Guards (1yr.)	Jaymie Babcock, Kathleen Clohessey, Lisa Conte, Michelle Griecce, Susan Hardcastle, Cara, Ross, Robin Saraceni, Becky Fidler, John Panso, Jacquelyn Kimmel, Diane Witherby

A motion is in order for the Council to confirm the Mayor's Appointments.

10. Appointments: Planning Board

At this time, the **Council** shall, by motion, select a representative to serve on the Planning Board as a Full Member Class III (1 yr.)

Member Class III	Councilmember	TBT
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Mayor Sowden shall make the following appointments to the Planning Board:

Mayor (Class I)		Mayor Sowden
Fire Safety (Class II)	1 yr. term (term expires 12/31/2024)	Jim Williams
Member (Class IV)	4 yr. unexpired term (expires 12/31/2027)	Floy Estes
Alternate #3	2 yr. term (term expires 12/31/2025)	Vacant
Alternate #4	2 yr. term (term expires 12/31/2025)	Vacant

11. Appointments: Boards and Commissions

FRANKLIN/HARDYSTON JOINT RECREATION COMMITTEE

All current Board of Recreation Committee Members 1-year term

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council Liaison	Rachel Heath	
Member	3-year term (term expires 12/31/2026)	James Affinito
Member	3-year term (term expires 12/31/2026)	Patti Carnes
Member	3-year term (term expires 12/31/2026)	Barbara Castania

BOARD OF HEALTH

Secretary	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2024)	Colleen Little
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LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Mayor	1-year term	John M. Sowden
Deputy	1-year term	Gregory Cugliari
Member/OEM	3-year term	Jim Williams
Member/FFD	1-year term	Michael Raperto
Member/WVFAS	1-year term	John Friend
Member	1-year term	Hector Acevedo
Member	1-year term	Darlene Tremont
Member	1-year term	James Nidelko
Member	1-year term	Steve Sluka
Member	1-year term	Brian VanDenBroek

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Member/Secretary	1-year term	Judy Williams
Member	1-year term	Keith Yodice
Member	1-year term	Dawne Rowe
Member	1-year term	Vacant
Member	1-year term	Vacant
Member	1-year term	Vacant
Member	1-year term	Vacant
Member/Council	1-year term	John Postas
Alternate #1	1-year term	Vacant
Alternate #2	1-year term	Vacant

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Member	4-year term (term expires 12/31/2026)	Donald DeVore
Ex-Officio	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2024)	Mayor Sowden
Council Liaison	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2024)	John Postas

RENT LEVELING BOARD

Member	5-year term (term expires 12/31/2026)	Vacant
Member/Council	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2024)	Vacant
Member/Council	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2024)	Vacant
Alt# 1	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2024)	Vacant
Alt#2	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2024)	Vacant
Attorney	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2024)	Angelo Bolcato Laddey, Clark & Ryan

A motion is in order for the Council to confirm the Mayor's Appointments.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Council Representative: Rachel Heath

Recreation Committee, Economic Development, also serves as the "Awards Committee."

Member:	Judy Williams	Economic Development
Member:	Patti Carnes	Recreation Committee
Liaison:	Rachel Heath	Joint Recreation Commission

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE DUTIES

12. Council Committee Duties:

Ordinance:

Chairman: Mr. Postas
Member: Mr. Skellenger
Member: Mr. Limon

Finance, Budget & Insurance:

Chairman: Mr. Postas
Member: Mr. Skellenger
Member: Mrs. Heath

Buildings & Grounds and Public Utilities:

Chairman: Mr. Limon
Member: Mr. Formica
Member: Mr. Snyder

Personnel & Negotiations:

Chairman: Mrs. Heath
Member: Mr. Snyder
Member: Mr. Limon

Public Safety - Police & Fire:

Chairman: Mr. Formica
Member: Mrs. Heath
Member: Mr. Postas
Alternate: Mr. Skellenger

13. Approval of Consent Agenda

Mayor Sowden will request that all present review the consent agenda. If any member of the Council or public wishes an item on the consent agenda to be discussed and considered separately, a motion to this effect shall be made at this time.

After all persons present have had an opportunity to review the consent agenda and offer requests for changes, **Mayor Sowden** will request a motion to approve the consent agenda.

14. Mayor's Statement

Mayor Sowden will address the Council and the public with remarks concerning the priorities and goals for the Borough of Franklin in 2024.

15. Council Comments

Mayor Sowden will invite each member of the Council to offer remarks concerning the 2024 Council's goals and priorities.

16. Adjournment

A motion is in order to adjourn the reorganization meeting.

STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION

A STATEMENT OF THE DETERMINATION of the BOARD OF COUNTY CANVASSERS, relative to an election held in the **Franklin Borough School** district in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, for certain Members of the Board of Education for said district on the 7th day of November 2023.

The said Board does determine that at the said election:

NAME	OFFICE	TERM
Wayne Bartron	Board of Education Member	3-Year Term
Kathleen Clohessey	Board of Education Member	3-Year Term
Rachel Kabbash	Board of Education Member	3-Year Term

were duly elected to the office and for the term above set forth.

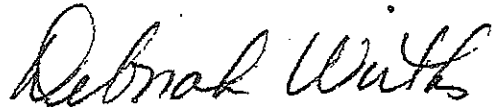
I DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true, full and correct statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers above mentioned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand, this 21st day of November, 2023.

Attest:



Jeffrey M. Parrott, Sussex County Clerk
Clerk of the Board of County Canvassers



Deborah Wirths, Chairperson of the Board of County Canvassers

STATE of NEW JERSEY

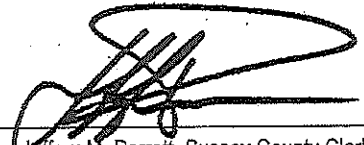
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COUNTY OF SUSSEX

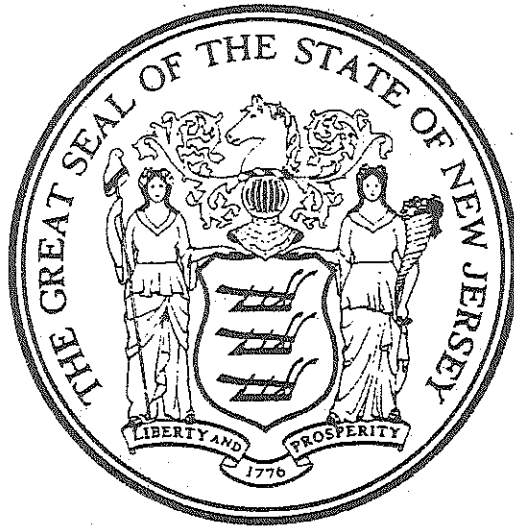
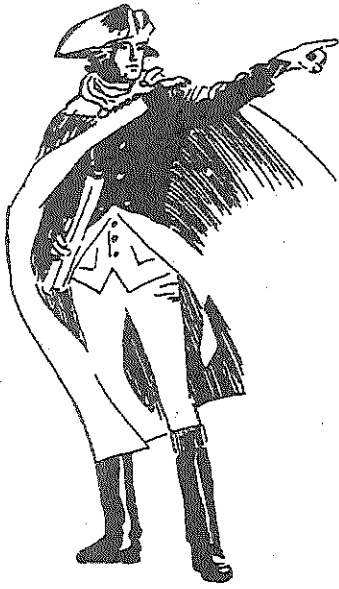
I, JEFFREY M. PARROTT, County Clerk of the County of Sussex, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of the Statement of the Determination of the Board of County Canvassers relative to an election held in the County or Regional District thereof on the date herein noted for certain officers and the certificates therein as fully and entirely as the same remains on file in my office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,

I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County, at Newton, on this 21st day of November, 2023.



Jeffrey M. Parrott, Sussex County Clerk



OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

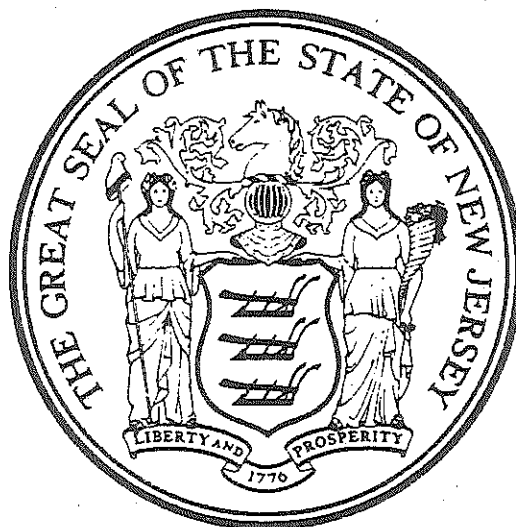
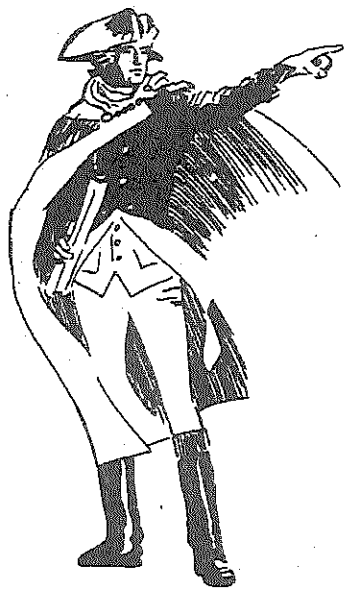
I, **John M. Sowden IV**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State, under the authority of the people, so help me God.

I do further solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will impartially and justly perform all the duties of the office of
MAYOR
according to the best of my ability.
So help me God.

John M. Sowden IV, Signature

Sworn and subscribed before me
this 2nd day of January, 2024

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk



OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

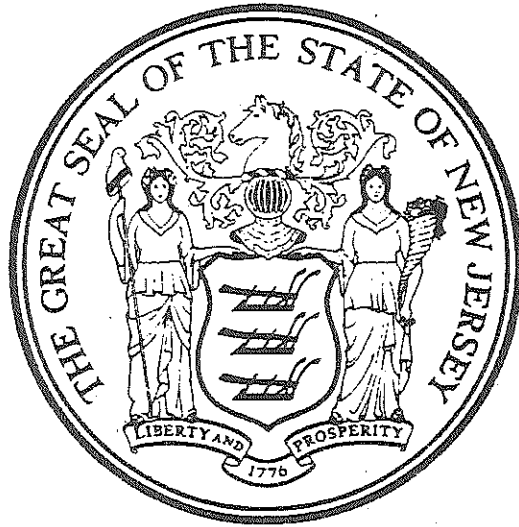
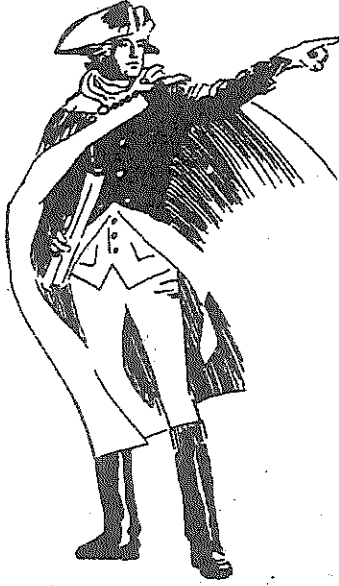
I, **Joe Limon**, do solemnly swear (or affirm)
that I will support the Constitution of the United States
and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey,
and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same
and to the governments established in the United States
and in this State, under the authority of the people,
so help me God.

I do further solemnly swear (or affirm)
that I will impartially and justly perform
all the duties of the office of
FRANKLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL
according to the best of my ability.
So help me God.

Joe Limon, Signature

Sworn and subscribed before me
this 2nd day of January, 2024.

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk



OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, **John E. Postas**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this State, under the authority of the people, so help me God.

I do further solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will impartially and justly perform all the duties of the office of **FRANKLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL** according to the best of my ability. So help me God.

John E. Postas, Signature

Sworn and subscribed before me
this 2nd day of January, 2024.

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk