



## NEWS RELEASE



[www.MonmouthCountyClerk.com](http://www.MonmouthCountyClerk.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
May 17, 2018

CONTACT: JENNIFER COLLINS  
PHONE: 732-431-7324, ext. 8735

### County Clerk Attends Elections Cybersecurity Training Summit

CAMBRIDGE, MA – Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon traveled to Cambridge, Massachusetts in March to attend an Election Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercises (TTX) Training Event hosted by the Belfer Center's Defending Digital Democracy Project (D3P) at Harvard University.

The Defending Digital Democracy (D3P) Project is a bipartisan initiative launched by the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard Kennedy School to identify and to create strategies and technology to protect the integrity of the election system in the United States. The Election Cybersecurity Event was designed to provide government officials with tips, tools, and training to fortify their election systems against cyber-attacks and misinformation operations.

Clerk Hanlon joined the New Jersey Secretary of State and other election officials from throughout New Jersey, as well as fellow County Clerk from Mercer County, Paula Sollami-Covello.



*Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami-Covello (L) and Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon (R) attend the Elections Cybersecurity Training at Harvard University.*

During the training event, election officials participated in tabletop exercises (TTX) that simulated attacks on election systems, including hacks and social media misinformation campaigns designed to shake the public trust in the outcomes of elections. The New Jersey Election Officials also participated in discussions with experts from national security and technology communities.

“The DP3 Election Cybersecurity TTX Training was a great opportunity to connect with fellow Election Officials and to learn from the experts about ways to improve our election protocol,” said Clerk Hanlon. “The summit provided the knowledge to better understand and prepare for cybersecurity risks.”

“Cybersecurity is a top priority for the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office and we are actively working to collaborate with the State of New Jersey, Monmouth County Superintendent of Elections, and the Monmouth County Board of Elections to further secure our elections systems and processes,” said Clerk Hanlon. “Maintaining the public trust in our election system is paramount.”

For questions about Clerk Hanlon’s attendance at the Elections Cybersecurity TTX Training Event, please call 732-431-7324, ext. 8735 or email [CountyClerk@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:CountyClerk@co.monmouth.nj.us).

For additional information about the Harvard Kennedy School’s Defending Digital Democracy Project (D3P), please visit [www.belfercenter.org/D3P](http://www.belfercenter.org/D3P).

# # #