



NEWS RELEASE

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County Clerk Hanlon Honors High School Elections and Voting Video Contest Winners at Freeholder Meeting

FREEHOLD, NJ – Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon honored the First, Second, and Third Place Winners of the Inaugural High School Elections and Voting Video Contest at the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders Meeting on Jan. 24.

All high school students who reside or attend school in Monmouth County were encouraged to enter the contest by forming groups of no more than three (3) members to enter an original video that emphasized the importance of youth voting participation.

“The three winning videos were very different, but each was creatively designed to encourage young people to exercise their right to vote,” said Clerk Hanlon. “I was extremely impressed by the students’ entries and commend them on a job well done.”

The First Place Winners, Joseph Occhipinti, Sierra Ortiz, and Nina Gomez, are seniors at Long Branch High School and each received \$50 gift card prizes for their entry. Under the direction of their teacher, Mrs. Jessica Howard Sickler, their inspiring video showcased their peers who explained the impact young people can make on the world by simply casting their vote. As stated in their video, “[By voting,] we will help set the course of our nation, today, tomorrow and for years to come.”



First Place Winners: (L to R) Sierra Ortiz, Nina Gomez, and Joseph Occhipinti with Clerk Hanlon

The Second Place Winners, Maggie Watson and Natalie Finn, are juniors at Red Bank Regional High School and each received \$50 gift card prizes. Under the direction of their teacher, Mr. Carl Grillo, these young ladies, along with their friends, made a fun parody of a disco classic that will energize you to get to the polls every Election Day; remember, "It's time to stand up and V-O-T-E!"



Second Place Winners: (L to R) Maggie Watson and Natalie Finn with Clerk Hanlon

The Third Place Winner is Kerry Harper, a senior at Henry Hudson Regional School who received a \$75 gift card prize. Under the direction of her teacher, Mr. James Gregg, Kerry's creative cartoon animated video



Third Place Winner: Kerry Harper with Clerk Hanlon

reminded her peers how young people are historically underrepresented at the polls and how easy it is to register to vote and to make your voice heard.

The Inaugural High School Elections and Voting Video Contest hosted by the Monmouth County Clerk's Office ran from Oct. 17 to Nov. 5.

The First, Second, and Third Place Winning Videos will be incorporated into the Monmouth County Clerk's Office voter outreach campaigns, which includes Clerk Hanlon's visits to high schools across the County and on the office's social media platforms and websites.

The three videos are available for viewing on the Monmouth County Clerk's Office YouTube Channel and Facebook Pages. Please visit [Facebook.com/MonmouthCountyClerk](https://www.facebook.com/MonmouthCountyClerk) and click on the "Videos" tab.

For questions regarding the Elections and Voting Video Contest, please call 732-431-7324, ext. 8735 or email CountyClerk@co.monmouth.nj.us.

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Additional photo from the Board of Chosen Freeholders Meeting (on next page):



The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Clerk Hanlon pose with the winning students and their teachers.

(L to R) Kerry Harper, Mr. James Gregg, Maggie Watson, Freeholder Gerry P. Scharfenberger, Ph.D., Mr. Carl Grillo, Natalie Finn, Freeholder Lillian G. Burry, Mrs. Jessica Howard Sickler, Freeholder Director Thomas A. Arnone, Joseph Occhipinti, Sierra Ortiz, Freeholder Deputy Director Pat Impreveduto, Nina Gomez, Freeholder Sue Kiley and County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon