



NEWS RELEASE



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County Clerk Hanlon Attends Elections Battle Staff Training Event in Virginia

SPRINGFIELD, VA – Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon traveled to Springfield, Virginia on December 16 to attend an Elections Battle Staff Training Event hosted by Harvard University's Defending Digital Democracy Project (D3P).

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 Battle Staff Training Event was designed to provide senior government election officials with tips and tools to fortify their election systems against cyber-attacks and to improve overall election operations.

The term “battle staff” refers to the military headquarters element activated to support ongoing operations across multiple levels of organization. During the training exercise, officials attended lectures and participated in exercises to identify strategies that will ultimately optimize their elections related



decision-making, situational awareness, and incident tracking and response.

Clerk Hanlon joined the Director of the State Division of Elections, Bob Giles, and other election officials from throughout New Jersey, as well as fellow County Clerks from Mercer County, Paula Sollami-Covello, and Somerset County, Steve Peter.

“The D3P Elections Battle Staff 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 event provided the knowledge to build a thorough communications plan and to better prepare for high-stakes and complex situations.”

“Ensuring election security is a top priority for the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office and we are actively working with the State of New Jersey and fellow Monmouth County election offices to further defend our elections systems against cyber threats and other incidents,” said Clerk Hanlon.

For questions about Clerk Hanlon's attendance at the Elections Battle Staff Training Event, please call 732-431-7324, ext. 8735 or email

CountyClerk@co.monmouth.nj.us.

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

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