



Gloucester County holds seminar to inform school board candidates about November elections

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By **Phil Davis/Gloucester County Times**

WEST DEPTFORD -- With all but five Gloucester County school districts moving their school board elections to the November voting ballots, the county clerk's office held an election seminar on Saturday to better inform potential candidates about the new process.

Held at the Gloucester County Office of Elections, Jack Carbone, who has worked for Governor Chris Christie's State Subcommittee and is a partner at Carbone and Faase law firm in northern New Jersey, informed potential and incumbent candidates about the upcoming changes that will happen as a part of the shared ballot process in November.

As part of legislation signed by Gov. Christie **back in January**, many districts jumped on the opportunity to have their school board elections held the same time as the general election to have a larger turnout and to save money.

Carbone talked about changes to the ballot which, now that voters will be voting in the general election alongside school board elections, will use a shared ballot where the candidates campaigning for a spot on their district's school board will be on the right side of the ballot after the general election candidates.

Carbone addressed a number of problems that could come as a part of the change.

Even as there will undoubtedly be a larger turnout with voters as they go to the polls for the general election, Carbone questioned whether sharing the ballot with presidential candidates would make people disregard the right side of the ballot altogether.

As part of the seminar, candidates from both parties, sometimes from the same district, were informed of the way they would have to change their campaigning and try to keep potential voters from disregarding the right side of the ballot.

"How do you drive them to the right side of the ballot?" asked Carbone. "Elections are won one vote at a time. You grab one here, you grab one there."

Also, if a district moved their elections to November, the time that the election will be held will be different, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., which Carbone pointed out as another election changer as they'll be having people voting on their way to work which can have an effect, according to Carbone.

School board candidates that attended the meeting were also given an informational packet detailing the new legislation and its effect on their respective districts.