

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 2026

Lawrence Township Announces Resignation of Councilmember Olympia Perry and Outlines Statutory Process to Fill Vacancy

Lawrence Township announces that Councilmember Olympia I'Liou Perry resigned her position from the Council during the Township's publicly noticed Reorganization Meeting held on January 1, 2026.

Councilmember Perry's resignation was unexpected. No elected or appointed official of the Township (including members of the Governing Body, the Municipal Attorney, Municipal Clerk, or the Municipal Manager) was provided notice of her intent to resign prior to her announcement at the meeting. Following her remarks, Councilmember I'Liou Perry provided a written letter of resignation to the Municipal Attorney upon her departure from the meeting. The resignation states an effective date of January 31, 2026.

The Township will follow the procedure required by New Jersey law, specifically N.J.S.A. 40A:16-11, which governs the filling of a municipal governing body vacancy when the departing member was elected as the political party's nominee.

In summary, the statutory process is as follows:

- Within 15 days after the vacancy becomes effective, the municipal committee of the political party under which the former councilmember was elected must submit three nominees to the Township Council.
- The Township Council then has 30 days after the vacancy occurs to appoint one of those nominees by majority vote at a public meeting.
- If the Council does not make an appointment within that timeframe, the political party's municipal committee is authorized to appoint one of its nominees directly, who would then be sworn in immediately.

The Township Council will discuss the statutory process to fill the vacancy and anticipated next steps at its next regular public meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Main Meeting Room, Lawrence Township Municipal Building, 2207 Lawrence Road, Lawrence Township, NJ

Members of the public are encouraged to attend or view the meeting via livestream.

For additional information, residents may visit the Township website or contact the Municipal Clerk at 609.844.7001.