NEW JERSEY SECURE CHOICE SAVINGS BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting
July 10, 2026

Minutes of the Board meeting of the New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Board (the "Board") held via Zoom on Friday, July 10, 2026, at 10:05 AM Eastern Time.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE

- Todd Hassler, Executive Director, Secretary, New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Program
- Andrea Spalla, Chair Person, Assistant Treasurer of the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury
- Shirley Emehelu, ex-officio Member; Acting State Comptroller
- Tariq Shabazz, ex-officio Member; Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- Evelyn Liebman, Public Member
- Charles Hall, Public Member

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

- Samantha Guzman, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Law
- Michael Eleneski, Office of the Governor, Authorities Unit
- Charles Vellenga, Secure Choice Savings Program
- Johanna Colapinto, Secure Choice Savings Program
- Peter Moak, Secure Choice Savings Program
- Janet Basellyous, Secure Choice Savings Program
- Royce Ma, Secure Choice Savings Program
- Sammy Wu, Secure Choice Savings Program
- Yon Brown, Secure Choice Savings Program

Chair Andrea Spalla presided over the meeting and Todd Hassler, Executive Director, kept the minutes.

Chair Spalla called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Chair Spalla introduced herself and made the following statement:

Welcome everyone, I hereby call the July 10, 2026, meeting of the New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Board to order. I'm Andrea Spalla, chair of the Secure Choice Savings Board as the designee of the State Treasurer Aaron Binder.

I wish to announce that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of today's meeting was filed with the Secretary of State; distributed by press release to at least two daily newspapers in New Jersey; and also posted on the bulletin board for the Secretary of State.

I will now ask Program Assistant Director, Charles Vellenga, to please call the roll.

Charles Vellenga, Secure Choice Savings Program, took roll call:

Andrea Spalla – present
Tariq Shabazz – present
Shirley Emehelu – present
Charles Hall – present
Evelyn Liebman - present

We have a quorum present.

Chair Spalla continued:

Welcome to everyone in attendance

If there are any members of the public in attendance who wish to speak at this meeting, please note that the Board will open the floor for public comment at the end of the meeting before we adjourn.

I ask members of the Board to identify themselves before making or seconding a motion because this is a virtual meeting.

First order of business, I would like to request a motion to adopt the Resolution approving the minutes of action taken at the May 29, 2026, Board Meeting. Those minutes were emailed to the Board approximately July 6, 2026, and a copy of the Resolution and minutes are included in your Board package under "Exhibit 4A".

May I have a motion to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting held on May 29, 2026?

Charles Hall moved to approve the minutes.
Shirley Emehelu seconded the motion.

There was no discussion from the Board.

The motion passed with all 5 Board members in attendance voting to approve the minutes.

Chair Spalla opened for a motion for executive session for legal questions.

There was no discussion from the Board.

No motion was made to move to executive session.

I would like to invite the Program's Executive Director Todd Hassler to provide the Board and the public with a program update.

Todd Hassler provided a status update on the New Jersey Secure Savings Program:

Thank you, Andrea, and thank you everyone for attending the New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Program July 2026 Board Meeting.

Today, I'll be providing an update on the Program's operation, overview of the program expansion, and discussing matters requiring Board action.

Moving right into the program operation, we would like to talk about the audit. The program audit was completed on June 2 with the finalization of the independent audit performed by Landmark, our independent auditor. The audit was then delivered to the Governor, the Treasurer, and the Legislature in accordance with the Act. These documents were also made available for review by the public on RetireReady.nj.gov, RetireReady NJ's website. I'm happy to say that this brings the 2025 annual audit to a conclusion and we will begin preparing for the upcoming audit in 2026.

Moving on to the expansion and implementation, I'd like to jump right into this because it's a comprehensive change for the Program that I know the public and the Board has been waiting to hear about. As discussed at the past board meeting, the Program has developed an implementation strategy to incorporate the extensive changes that were included in our amendment to our law that was signed earlier this year.

The first change that has been completed is the auto-annual increase. On May 15th, this feature was introduced to the Program as part of the default arrangement. Communications were updated for newly eligible Savers and notifications were sent and delivered to existing Savers via their preferred communication channel (e-mail or physical mail) informing them of the update to our default elections. There will be additional communications going out to these individuals, but it'll be a normal part of the process for the auto-annual increase feature. With that in mind we will bring this element to a close, and it will be removed from our agenda going forward.

Looking forward the first element of the expansion begins with data sharing. There are two components to this, the first is a data sharing agreement with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. As you're aware we will be presenting a newly proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Board today. This Memorandum of Agreement will provide access to the data necessary to identify the Employers who are covered by the program expansion to include Employers with 10 or more employees. Dependent upon the approval of this Memorandum of Agreement, we anticipate implementation launch to begin at the beginning of the subsequent month. On the slide that's being presented right now, we are going to name that as Month One. Not to be presumptuous about the resolution passage today, Month One would be August. The Program expects the ability to begin receiving data within 2 weeks following the launch. This will allow the Program to begin providing communications to the effective Employer community one month following the launch, or at the beginning of Month 2.

We will also be pursuing a similar agreement with the Division of Taxation. This agreement will provide information including emails that will enhance our ability to engage the Employer community and make them aware of the Program Expansion and their duties to engage. Once we're able to identify our Employer community, we will be able to fully expand the Program. This expansion begins with a communication that will be sent via physical mail at the beginning of the month. This will be sent to all Employers regardless of size, making them aware of the program and providing access to RetireReady NJ. With this communication, there will be an explanation that a second communication will follow with the specific timelines and directions for those *affected Employers. This is so that we can break the employer community into separate phases similar to our initial implementation approach. These phases will be based on Employer size. We are naming them as Wave 1 and Wave 2. The first wave will be Employers of 20 to 24 employees, Employers in the second phase will be Employers of 10 to 19 employees, this gives smaller Employers a bit more time to prepare, either to build it into their operations or prepare their service providers to adopt and facilitate RetireReady NJ.*

Looking at the slide, the first wave in month 3, the Program will be sending information to the Employers informing them that they are required to register or provide an exemption within 45 days of the notice. These Employers will receive reinforcing notifications thereafter similar to our initial rollout in month 4, there will be a 25-day notice, we are also sending a postcard reminder to the affected Employers. This is something new that our marketing team is putting together here. There will be a 7-day notice, going into Month 5, we will have a reminder about the deadline for that phase. We will also be sending a 5-day late notice and a 30-day late notice so they'll be several communications going out. We will also be sending out these communications via emails to help insure contact with these Employers effectively.

The second wave is going to follow the exact same process that will begin in month 6 on the chart above being presented. Following this process, we expect that we are going to have a successful communication campaign on this Program Expansion. This is very exciting for the Program, with this expansion the Legislature and staff have worked diligently to craft a law to allow us to be prepared to facilitate an expansion of this scope. Our covered community is going to expand roughly 2 1/2 times, so we need to make sure that we have the resources and facilities that support it. With that said, we are also working and dedicating an equal amount of energy in planning to make sure these changes are implemented in a thoughtful way.

Looking at the Program Investments and Fee Structure, there are several changes coming in these areas as well. The Program's Investment Committee and Fee Committee met on June 4, 2026. As you are aware, the Committee is recommending a Fee Policy for the Board to consider. This policy is intended to serve as a guiding principle for monitoring managing Program fees. If approved, the Program will be prepared to introduce these changes to our Fee Structure that are cited in our law. These changes will be introduced in month three if the resolution is passed. We again anticipate that being August, but not presuming it will pass today, before the Board has an opportunity to consider an effective date.

That will be the first of the following quarter, or month 3, this delay in implementation will serve 2 different purposes. We are required federally to provide specific timing on communications of Fee Changes and also to provide a clean break from one Fee Structure to another for the Savers. The new Fee Structure is broken into 2 parts, a per capita and an asset-based fee. Each Saver will be charged $26.00 annually or $6.50 a quarter with a 25-basis point charge to assets in their accounts. Currently, our Fee Structure is 75 basis points charged on assets of the Saver. Additionally, we are making sure that the Fee Structure is considerate of new Savers. For the calendar quarter that the Saver makes their first contribution to the program and for the calendar quarter immediately following, the Program will waive those quarter's account-based fee for the assets and Saver's accounts provided the Saver account remains less than $100.00 at the end of that particular quarter. Should a Saver's assets equal or exceed $100.00 at the end of the quarter that a Saver makes in their first quarter they contribute to the program, the asset and account-based fees will be charged on a pro-rata basis for the number of days the account exceeded $100 in assets. This new Fee Structure and Policy is really built to allow a new Saver to come in and begin to utilize the Program and save before we start charging those fees as their accounts are established. They are well situated to accept a fee of this nature, it's relatively low comparative to *the industry, and we are at the median costing structure comparative to other State Programs. We determined that this was a thoughtful way to represent both the interests of the Program and the Savers, when updating our Fee Structures according to the law, but also being considerate of new Savers.*

The Program Committee further reviewed its contract with our Program Administrator, Vestwell Holdings, Inc. (Vestwell). Through an analysis produced by the staff, it was identified that the contract Fee Structure was no longer in alignment with other similarly structured State Programs. The disparity was created by the change in the Program's coverage. This change resulted in a much larger covered community. This caused us to have a higher fee comparative to similarly situated programs based on this evaluation. The Committee requested that I engage Vestwell and discuss this imbalance in cost. Through collaborative dialogue, Vestwell has proposed an Amendment to the Program's Fee Structure.

This Amendment will also be considered by the Board today as well. The Amendment includes the elimination of the Annual Fee of $250,000.00 that we pay to Vestwell. The fee will be waived for contract years, 2027, 2028, and 2029. This is a total reduction of $750,000.00 to the Program. Additionally, Vestwell is proposing to change its per-account fee and its associated breakpoints. Presently, Secure Choice Savings Program will receive a reduction of $4.00 per account upon reaching 200,000 funded accounts. We are quite away from reaching this breakpoint. Additionally, there is another $2.00 per account fee waiver upon reaching 350,000 funded accounts. Once again, these are thresholds that we do not anticipate being able to reach in our current contract. The proposed Amendment is to reduce its fees per account by $2.00 per account upon reaching 50,000 accounts and an additional $2.00 per account upon reaching 75,000 funded accounts.

I would like to state that these cost reductions were offered by Vestwell without concessions in return from the Secure Choice Savings Program, and also with no reduction of services to the Program or Savers. These are concessions that they're making to their existing State Contract, not dependent upon us to do anything other than perform and run the program. It is also important to acknowledge that these 2 resolutions before the Board today are a result of a multi-year initiative to restructure the costing of the Secure Choice Savings Program. As you know, our law created a costing structure that did not mirror the industry Fee Schedules. This placed the Program in a position that would have required State subsidies for an indefinite period of time. During the life of this Program Administrator Contract alone, the State of New Jersey would have needed to pay more than $6.7 million to Vestwell, and would have not generated any revenue to support the Program operation. As a result of these two changes, Saver's costs will align to the actual cost of the Program, and the fee reductions that were successfully negotiated with Vestwell during the remaining life of the Program Contract will allow us to conservatively anticipate $1.3 million in revenue to be returned to the Program to reduce our operating costs. This is an approximate $8 million adjustment in the Program's balance sheet over the remaining life of the contract, 3.5 years. I would like to personally thank the many members of the Board and our team for all the work to make this opportunity possible for the Secure Choice Savings Program. It is a remarkable change in our Program Fees and operations to be able to advance this far in such a short period of time. I'll be asking the Board to consider this proposed change to the Program Administrator Contract later in today's Meeting.

Further, the Program has been asked to establish an independent Administrative Account and Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN). This fund was previously sub-accounted by the Department of the Treasury. We will be accomplishing the establishment of these 2 items with the support and guidance of the Department of the Treasury as well as external resources to make sure that we have all the tools in place to manage these accounts properly.

Additionally, the Investment Committee met with our Investment Advisor, Segal Marco Advisors, (Segal) to review the Program's Investments and default alternatives as discussed in a past Board Meeting. One of our investment alternatives, the Wasatch Small Cap Value Fund, continues to underperform its benchmark and is on the Program's Watchlist, effective March 13, 2026. Wasatch Small Cap Value Fund is an institutional class fund. The fund is actively managed; it seeks to create long term growth of capital by investing primarily in common stock of small capitalized companies listed on the Russell 2000. The fund has been in our portfolio since our launch 2 years ago. It was believed to be underperforming due to market conditions. Segal stated that the fund performance has improved but remains below the benchmark and its peer group. The Committee discussed solutions to this underperforming alternative. These included the replacement and removal of the funds. Presently, there are 32 individuals investing in this fund with $28,000 in assets. The Committee agreed to not recommend a change to the present status of this investment with a request at Vestwell or that Segal can be prepared to present recommendations or replacements at the next Meeting should the fund continue to lag in its performance. With this position the Committee also agreed to present the Program's Investment Policy to the Board for its annual approval.

Moving onto Request For Quotes (RFQ) we do have 2 requests for proposals on the market presently. The first one is for an Investment Advisor, the deadline for submitting questions during this RFQ was June 30th. The program staff has not received any questions from potential bidders. The deadline for submissions of bids is August 28th. We will keep the Board apprised of this process. We will be looking for the Board to establish a Committee to do a formal review of any bids that are received. Additionally, there is an RFQ for a Marketing Firm. This RFQ was issued and placed on our website on June 18th. The Q&A period ends on July 31, 2026, and the deadline for submissions for this RFQ is September 30, 2026.

We are going to go right into Program Analytics today. We put together something a little bit different for the Board. We wanted to share one of our social media posts, because this is our 2-year anniversary of operations. We wanted to remind the Board what we've accomplished over the past 2 years. We have hit some major milestones, the Program has reached $25 million in Assets Under Management and we have over 30,000 Savers now participating in the Program. This is an extremely short period of time to have this profound effect on our Saver community. I think it's something that needs to be acknowledged and celebrated. I wanted to make sure because of all of your contributions to the advancement of this issue. The Program had an opportunity to help this issue and be involved in it. We've had $1.7 million in contributions in the past month alone and we're actually at 30,500 Savers in the Program, so we were not even able to get these milestones out to you fast enough.

As we quickly approach yet another milestone, I want to take this moment to congratulate the Board, the staff, the Legislature, and the citizens here in New Jersey for advancing and addressing this cause through their own participation in the Program.

With that, I'll move right into matters requiring Board Action. We are requesting that the Board consider 4 Resolutions today. The first Resolution 7A, a Memorandum of Agreement between the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Board. This agreement between the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Board allows for the expansion of data sharing necessary to administer RetireReady NJ in accordance with our amended laws. We are requesting the Board consider this Memorandum of Agreement and vote to pass a Resolution approving the execution of this Agreement.

Resolution 7B, Fee Policy. These exhibits are the Resolution to adopt the Fee Policy for the Secure Choice Savings Program as highlighted in 7B, with its Appendix. The Fee Committee has met and reviewed the recommended Fee Structure for the Program; this Fee Structure was developed using the Secure Choice Savings Program's Amended Statute with consideration to how the fees affect the Savers of the Program. After evaluating these factors and deliberating over the proposed structure, the Fee Committee unanimously agreed to propose its Fee Policy to the Board. As a result, we are recommending that the Board pass a Resolution to adopt the Fee Policy Statement including Appendix A as the Fee Policy for the Program.

Resolution 7C Investment Policy. These exhibits are a Resolution to adopt an Investment Policy for the Program. Annually the Program performs this as a matter of prudence to make sure that the Policy is kept up to date as highlighted in Exhibit 7C and accompanying Appendix A. The Investment Committee has met with the Program's Investment Advisor, Segal and has monitored the Investments for the Program. As a piece of this preparation the Committee reviewed the Program's fund portfolio relative to its current market environment and further the Committee noted that there is one fund that is currently performing below its relative benchmark. The Committee is not recommending a change to this fund status but has requested Segal to closely monitor it and prepare for a potential change recommendation. All other funds in the Program Portfolio remain in a hold status. The Investment Policy and accompanying Appendix A are being recommended for adoption by the Board in Resolution 7C.

Last and certainly not least, Resolution 7D of the New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Board to amend the Program's Administrative Contract with Vestwell. As highlighted in Resolution 7D, through engagement by the Program, Vestwell has proposed reduction to the Fee Schedule. For the Program Administrator's Contract these negotiated changes provide immediate value to the Program and the State of New Jersey. In addition to showing compromise and commitment to the success of RetireReady NJ, they also allow the Program to have achievable future reductions and expenses through growth and performance. With this in mind, it is without reservation that I ask the Board to approve Resolution 7D to amend the Board's Program Administrator Contract with Vestwell Holdings, Inc.

At this point, this concludes my update to the Board. Should the Board have any questions at this time I would be happy to speak to them.

Tariq Shabazz asked about any Fees for the Department of Labor and Workforce Development Memorandum of Agreement. It was stated that according to the current memorandum between the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and Secure Choice Savings Board, the Fees are able to be charged but have been nominal to offset the cost they may incur in generating the data and transmitting it.

Chair Spalla then turned to Resolution 7A, a Resolution of the Board approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the New Jersey Secure Choice Savings Board.

Evelyn Liebmann made a motion, which was seconded by Tariq Shabazz, and was voted unanimously by all 5 members in attendance.

Chair Spalla moved onto Agenda Item 7B a Resolution of the Board establishing the Program's Fee Policy Statement.

Charles Hall made a motion, which was seconded by Evelyn Liebmann, and was voted unanimously by all 5 members in attendance.

Chair Spalla moved onto Agenda Item 7C a Resolution of the Board regarding approving the Program's Investment Policy Statement.

Tariq Shabazz made a motion, which was seconded by Charles Hall, and was voted unanimously by all 5 members in attendance.

Finally, Chair Spalla moved onto Agenda Item 7D, a Resolution of the Board approving amendments to the Board's Program Administrator Contract with Vestwell Holdings, Inc.

Evelyn Liebmann made a motion, which was seconded by Shirley Emehelu, and was voted unanimously by all 5 members in attendance.

Chair Spalla asked about any old business from the Board.

Chair Spalla moved to new business of the Board.

Chair Spalla then opened the meeting up for public comment. A request was made to reiterate the changes being made to the Board's contract with their Program Administrator. Todd Hassler reviewed the changes that will be made to this Contract.

There being no further business, on a motion from Charles Hall, which was seconded by Tariq Shabazz, and carried by voice vote from members present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 AM.