

2-1-23

**CONTRACT BETWEEN  
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQUIRE  
AND  
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER**

**THIS CONTRACT** is made effective the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2023 by and between the **COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER**, a body politic and corporate, with offices in Woodbury, New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as "County", and **JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQUIRE** of 32 Pleasant View Drive, North Haledon, New Jersey 07508, hereinafter referred to as "Attorney".

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for the provision of professional legal services on behalf of the Clerk of the County of Gloucester which are specialized in nature, more particularly all types of government and election law issues; and

**WHEREAS**, said services would be utilized by the Gloucester County Clerk's Office on an as-needed basis relative to State election matters; and

**WHEREAS**, the contract has been awarded consistent with the fair and open provisions of the Gloucester County Administrative Code and with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq., which exempt this contract from competition because the vendor has certified that it will not make a disqualifying contribution during the term of the contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the services to be performed as to this contract are relative to election expenses and therefore is an exception to the Local Public Contracts Law as described and provided by N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1).

**WHEREAS**, Attorney represents that it is qualified to perform said services and desires to so perform pursuant to the terms and provisions of this contract.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises, agreements and other considerations made by and between the parties, the County and the Attorney do hereby agree as follows:

**TERMS OF AGREEMENT**

1. **TERM.** This Contract shall be effective for the period commencing January 1, 2023 and concluding December 31, 2023.
2. **COMPENSATION.** Attorney shall be compensated pursuant to the Proposal submitted and attached hereto as Attachment A, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

Attorney shall be paid in accordance with this Contract document upon receipt of an invoice and a properly executed voucher. After approval by County, the payment voucher shall be placed in line for prompt payment.

Each invoice shall contain an itemized, detailed description of all work performed during the billing period. Failure to provide sufficient specificity shall be cause for rejection of the invoice until the necessary details are provided.

It is also agreed and understood that the acceptance of the final payment by Attorney shall be considered a release in full of all claims against the County arising out of, or by reason of, the work done and materials furnished under this Contract.

3. **DUTIES OF CONTRACTOR.** The specific duties of the Attorney shall be as set forth in by the County and within Attorney's proposal which is incorporated and made part of this contract as Attachment A, together with any other specifications issued by the County in connection with this contract.

4. **FURTHER OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES.** During the performance of this Contract, the Attorney agrees as follows:

The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality, sex, veteran status or military service. The Attorney will ensure that equal employment opportunity is afforded to such applicants in recruitment and employment, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality, sex, veteran status or military service. Such equal employment opportunity shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Attorney agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Attorney, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality, sex, veteran status or military service.

The Attorney or subcontractor will send to each labor union, with which it has a collective bargaining agreement, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union of the Attorney's commitments under this chapter and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Attorney or subcontractor agrees to make good faith efforts to meet targeted county employment goals established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2.

5. **LICENSING AND PERMITTING.** If the Attorney or any of its agents is required to

maintain a license, or to maintain in force and effect any permits issued by any governmental or quasi-governmental entity in order to perform the services which are the subject of this Contract, then prior to the effective date of this Contract, and as a condition precedent to its taking effect, Attorney shall provide to County a copy of its current license and permits required to operate in the State of New Jersey, which license and permits shall be in good standing and shall not be subject to any current action to revoke or suspend, and shall remain so throughout the term of this Contract.

Attorney shall notify County immediately in the event of suspension, revocation or any change in status (or in the event of the initiation of any action to accomplish such suspension, revocation and/or change in status) of license or certification held by Attorney or its agents.

**6. TERMINATION.** This Contract may be terminated as follows:

A. Pursuant to the termination provisions set forth in the Bid Specifications or in the Request for Proposals, if any, as the case may be, which are specifically referred to and incorporated herein by reference.

B. If Attorney is required to be licensed in order to perform the services which are the subject of this Contract, then this Contract may be terminated by County in the event that the appropriate governmental entity with jurisdiction has instituted an action to have the Attorney's license suspended, or in the event that such entity has revoked or suspended said license. Notice of termination pursuant to this subparagraph shall be effective immediately upon the giving of said notice.

C. If, through any cause, the Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, shall fail to fulfill in timely and proper manner his obligations under this Contract, or if the Attorney shall violate any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this Contract, the County shall thereupon have the right to terminate this Contract by giving written notice to the Attorney of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof. In such event, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, and reports prepared by the Attorney under this Contract, shall be forthwith delivered to the County.

D. The County may terminate this Contract for public convenience at any time by a notice in writing from the County to the Attorney. If the Contract is terminated by the County as provided herein, the Attorney will be paid for the services rendered to the time of termination.

E. Notwithstanding the above, the Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, shall not be relieved of liability to the County for damages sustained by the County by virtue of any breach of the Contract by the Attorney, and the County may withhold any payments to the Attorney for the purpose of set off until such time as the exact amount of damages due the County from the Attorney is determined.

F. Termination shall not operate to affect the validity of the indemnification provisions of this Contract, nor to prevent the County from pursuing any other relief or damages to which it may be entitled, either at law or in equity.

7. **PROPERTY OF THE COUNTY.** All materials developed, prepared, completed, or acquired by Attorney during the performance of the services specified by this Contract, including, but not limited to, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models, photographs, and reports, shall become the property of the County, except as may otherwise be stipulated in a written statement by the County.

8. **NO ASSIGNMENT OR SUBCONTRACT.** This Contract may not be assigned nor subcontracted by the Attorney, except as otherwise agreed in writing by both parties. Any attempted assignment or subcontract without such written consent shall be void with respect to the County and no obligation on the County's part to the assignee shall arise, unless the County shall elect to accept and to consent to such assignment or subcontract.

9. **INDEMNIFICATION.** The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, shall be responsible for, shall keep, save and hold the County of Gloucester harmless from, shall indemnify and shall defend the County of Gloucester against any claim, loss, liability, expense (specifically including but not limited to costs, counsel fees and/or experts' fees), or damage resulting from all mental or physical injuries or disabilities, including death, to employees or recipients of the Attorney's services or to any other persons, or from any damage to any property sustained in connection with this contract which results from any acts or omissions, including negligence or malpractice, of any of its officers, directors, employees, agents, servants or independent contractors, or from the Attorney's failure to provide for the safety and protection of its employees, or from Attorney's performance or failure to perform pursuant to the terms and provisions of this Contract. The Attorney's liability under this agreement shall continue after the termination of this agreement with respect to any liability, loss, expense or damage resulting from acts occurring prior to termination.

10. **POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE AND PROHIBITION.** This contract has been awarded to the Attorney based on the merits and abilities of the Attorney to provide the goods or services described in this contract. This contract was awarded through a non-competitive process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. The signer of this contract does hereby certify that the Attorney, its subsidiaries, assigns or principals controlling in excess of 10% of the Attorney will not make a reportable contribution during the term of the contract to any political party committee in Gloucester County if a member of that political party is serving in an elective public office of Gloucester County when the contract is awarded, or to any candidate committee of any person serving in an elective public office of Gloucester County when the contract is awarded.

11. **SET-OFF.** Should Attorney either refuse or neglect to perform the service that Attorney is required to perform in accordance with the terms of this Contract, and if expense is incurred by County by reason of Attorney's failure to perform, then and in that event, such expense shall be deducted from any payment due to Attorney. Exercise of such set-off shall not operate to prevent County from pursuing any other remedy to which it may be entitled.

12. **PREVENTION OF PERFORMANCE BY COUNTY.** In the event that the County is prevented from performing this Contract by circumstances beyond its control, then any obligations owing by the County to the Attorney shall be suspended without liability for the period during which the County is so prevented.

13. **METHODS OF WORK.** Attorney agrees that in performing its work, it shall employ such methods or means as will not cause any interruption or interference with the operations of County or infringe on the rights of the public.

14. **NON-WAIVER.** The failure by the County to enforce any particular provision of this Contract, or to act upon a breach of this Contract by Attorney, shall not operate as or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach, nor a bar to any subsequent enforcement.

15. **PARTIAL INVALIDITY.** In the event that any provision of this Contract shall be or become invalid under any law or applicable regulation, such invalidity shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Contract.

16. **CHANGES.** This Contract may be modified by approved change orders, consistent with applicable laws, rules and regulations. The County, without invalidating this Contract, may order changes consisting of additions, deletions, and/or modifications, and the contract sum shall be adjusted accordingly. This Contract and the contract terms may be changed only by change order. The cost or credit to the County from change in this Contract shall be determined by mutual agreement before executing the change involved.

17. **NOTICES.** Notices required by this Contract shall be effective upon mailing of notice by regular and certified mail to the addresses set forth above, or by personal service, or if such notice cannot be delivered or personally served, then by any procedure for notice pursuant to the Rules of Court of the State of New Jersey.

18. **GOVERNING LAW, JURISDICTION AND VENUE.** This agreement and all questions relating to its validity, interpretation, performance or enforcement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. The parties each irrevocably agree that any dispute arising under, relating to, or in connection with, directly or indirectly, this agreement or related to any matter which is the subject of or incidental to this agreement (whether or not such claim is based upon breach of contract or tort) shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the state and/or federal courts located in Gloucester County, New Jersey or the United States District Court, District of New Jersey, Camden, New Jersey. This provision is intended to be a "mandatory" forum selection clause and governed by and interpreted consistent with New Jersey law and each waives any objection based on forum non conveniens.

19. **INDEPENDENT ATTORNEY STATUS.** The parties acknowledge that Attorney is an independent Attorney and is not an agent of the County.

20. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** Attorney covenants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services pursuant to this Contract. The Company further covenants that in the performance of this Contract, no person having any such interest shall be employed.

21. **CONFIDENTIALITY.** Attorney agrees not to divulge or release any information, reports, or recommendations developed or obtained in connection with the performance of this Contract, during the term of this Contract, except to authorized County personnel or upon prior approval of the County.

22. **BINDING EFFECT.** This Contract shall be binding on the undersigned and their successors and assigns.

23. **CONTRACT PARTS.** This contract shall consist of this document and Attorney's Proposal, attached hereto as Attachment A. If there is a conflict between this Contract or the Attorney's Proposal, then this Contract shall control.

**THIS CONTRACT** is dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2023.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the County has caused this instrument to be signed by its Director, attested by its Clerk, and its corporate seal affixed hereunto, pursuant to a Resolution of the said party of the first part passed for that purpose, and Vendor has caused this instrument to be signed by its properly authorized representative and its corporate seal affixed the day and year first above written.

**ATTEST:**

  
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**LAURIE J. BURNS,**  
**CLERK OF THE BOARD**


**COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**FRANK J. DIMARCO, DIRECTOR**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**SUSAN B. CARBONE**

**JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQUIRE**

  
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**BY: JOHN M. CARBONE**  
**TITLE: ATTORNEY AT LAW**

## **ATTACHMENT A**