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**OCEAN COUNTY CLERK'S PASSPORT OFFICES RECEIVE  
PERFECT SCORE FROM U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT**

WHEN IT COMES to issuing passports, the Ocean County's Clerk Office is just about perfect.

In fact, it is perfect, according to the U.S. Department of State.

"We are honored and pleased that the State Department has recognized our Passport Services Offices by bestowing on us a perfect score based on their oversight visits," said Ocean County Clerk Scott M. Colabella.

The County Clerk's four passport facilities each undergo on-site inspections conducted by the State Department personnel to ensure that staff is following all of the rigid guidelines and regulations in administering the Passport Acceptance Program, Colabella explained.

Passports are issued at the County Court House in Toms River, the Southern Service Center in Manahawkin, the Northern Resource Center in Lakewood and the County Connection at the Ocean County Mall.

"This is really a tribute to our staff that serves the public in these locations," Colabella said.

Freeholder Director John P. Kelly, who also serves as Director of Law and Public Safety, said with airline and border-crossing security remaining tight, having a passport is more important than ever.

"We've tried to make it as convenient as possible for our residents to obtain this important document," Kelly said.

In 2015, the Ocean County Clerk's Office assisted 17,439 residents in filing applications with the State Department to obtain a U.S. Passport.

Residents seeking information about obtaining a passport are invited to contact the County Clerk's Office by calling (732) 929-2018 or visiting [www.oceancountyclerk.com](http://www.oceancountyclerk.com).