



ELECTION COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK 2018-2019

2019 NYSECA Election Law Proposals*

Proposal 1: The Election Commissioners' Association supports a unified federal and state primary election that is MOVE Act compliant and urges the Legislature to reach agreement on such a date as soon as possible to create certainty for the Boards of Election and the electorate throughout the State of New York.

A779; S1103: Signed Chapter 5-January 24, 2019

Proposal 2: Enact legislation to designate Election Day a non-student-attendance day.

A815; S2876

Proposal 3: Amend Section 4-100-3(a) to amend the voter limits in each election district. Move from the current 1,150 voters per ED to not to exceed 2,250.

S546

Proposal 4: Change Section 3-400-1 & 2 to allow Election Commissioners flexibility to designate how many Inspectors are needed at poll sites by adding language that a poll site must be staffed with a "sufficient number of inspectors". New language would also state that a poll site must have a minimum of four inspectors, or at least two Inspectors in districts with less than 150 registered voters, to allow proper coverage.

A1454; S3146

Proposal 5: Amend 11-302 to eliminate "not earlier than two weeks" provision and allow Inspectors to vote special ballots the same manner as absentee voters.

A202

Proposal 6: The Association supports passage of the Ballot Usability Act (or Voter Friendly Ballot Act). (This legislation would simplify ballot design and make it clearer and easier to use for New York voters.) The section regarding font size for candidates' names should state that the font be of a reasonably large enough size to be recognizable by the voter; but that no font size of one candidate's name shall be larger or smaller than any other candidate's name. Change sections in Article 6 regarding independent petitions such that candidates shall no longer select a party emblem.

A2682; S2300

Proposal 7: Standardize Commissioners' appointments to a 4 year term statewide and provide that once a party selects its Commissioner, the local legislative body shall automatically appoint said designee. Language would be added to give the county legislative bodies the ability to not appoint a nominee based on good "cause". This would require the County to act within 30 days as to avoid delays in appointments.

2017-18 Legislation: A1555 & A3531

Proposal 8: Amend section 4-108(b) of the Election Law as well as all relevant state law to require counties, cities, towns, villages and special districts to transmit proposals, propositions or referenda to the CBOE no later than ninety (90) days prior to an election in the year in which they are intended to be on the General Election ballot.

A779; S1103: Signed Chapter 5-January 24, 2019

Proposal 9: Amend 8-412 of the Election Law relating to the deadline for receipt of absentee ballots through the mail. It shall provide that ballots must be accepted and canvassed by the Board of Elections when they are received prior to the close of polls on an election day in addition to all properly postmarked absentee ballots.

Proposal 10: Enact legislation to allow for individual Boards of Elections to be able to utilize Electronic Poll Books on election day as certified by the state board.

A2070; S508

Proposal 11: Enact legislation giving commissioners flexibility on determining hours of operation of Board of Elections independent from individual counties.

Proposal 12: Enact Legislation authorizing the issuance of absentee ballots on Election Day when commissioners agree that health related exigent circumstances arising on or immediately prior to Election Day create a hardship.

*2019-20 NYS Legislative Bill numbers in bold where available