



ELECTION COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK 2017-2018

2017 NYSECA Legislative Committee Agenda

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.

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

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 exceed 3,000.

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.

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.

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.

Proposal 7: As a cost savings measure for counties the legislature should eliminate the need to publish the residence address of candidates and repeal Section 4-118 and 4-120 regarding publication notices in newspapers. The information should be made available on county board websites.

Proposal 8: 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.

Proposal 9: Seeks clarification in Article 6 of the Election Law regarding witnessing an independent nominating petition, having already signed a prior designating petition. (See also DiPietro v NYS Board of Elections)

Proposal 10: 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.

Proposal 11: 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 12: 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.

Proposal 13: Enact legislation giving commissioners flexibility on determining hours of operation of Board of Elections independent from individual counties.

Proposal 14: 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.