

# NEW YORK STATE SENATE

## Notice of Public Hearing



### **New York State Senate Standing Committee on Elections**

Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.

Chair

Senator Martin Malave Dilan

Senator Jose M. Serrano

Senator Brian X. Foley

Senator Thomas W. Libous

Senator Joseph A. Griffo

Senator Thomas P. Morahan

**SUBJECT:** To address a number of proposals to update and reform the state's voter registration laws and regulations.

**April 23, 2009**

**10A.M. -1 PM.**

**The Erie County Legislature**

**92 Franklin Street – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Buffalo, New York 14202**

The goal of the public hearings is to seek comment about a series of election reform proposals. The April hearings in Buffalo (April 23) and New York City (April 24), are the first in a series that will continue in May, June, September and November, and are dedicated to increasing awareness about election policy and voting. For the next three months of session, and beyond, the Committee will focus on a different issue: voter registration; voting/casting a ballot and poll sites; Board of Elections oversight; the election code; and oversight of the elections in November.

This dialogue between lawmakers and the public is part of the Senate's commitment to beginning a robust committee process, development of sound public policy through open dialogue and an overall transparent legislative procedure.

The hearing in Buffalo on April 23 will focus on the following bills:

- **S1616** (Senator Valesky) —Allows voters to register and vote on Election Day through a Constitutional amendment.
- **S3372** (Senator Addabbo) —Allows voters to register and vote on Election Day (once Constitution is amended).
- **Bill Number TBD** —Reduces the deadlines for changing party enrollment to 25 days prior to an election for unaffiliated voters and 90 days for those already registered to a party.
- **S3996** (Senator Addabbo) —Reduces the deadline by which a registration must be received from 25 to 10 days before an election.
- **S3995** (Senator Addabbo) —Provides an additional opportunity for new registrants to indicate choice of party enrollment where original choice was omitted or void.
- **S1266** (Senator Montgomery) —Educates the incarcerated and those released but serving sentences about their voting and absentee ballot rights, and provides assistance in registering and voting by absentee ballot.
- **S4035** (Senator Addabbo) —Requires State Board of Elections to address forms to local county board when voter downloads from the website.

*Persons who wish to testify should* so indicate on the reply form. The Elections Committee will accommodate as many witnesses as possible. The Committee also encourages the submission of written testimony; it will be considered by the Committee and will be made part of its record. Written testimony may be e-mailed as an attachment in any common format to the Elections Committee at: [oliver@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:oliver@senate.state.ny.us).

Persons wishing to attend or testify at this hearing should complete and return the reply form as soon as possible, but no later than **Tuesday, April 21**. It is important the form be fully completed and returned so persons may be notified in the event of postponement or cancellation of the hearing. Witnesses are asked to keep oral testimony to no more than five minutes in length. If you are testifying, please submit 10 copies of their prepared statement for the Committee and bring additional copies for the public and media.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the New York State Senate has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. Accommodations will be provided for individuals with disabilities, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Senate facilities and activities.

Questions about this hearing may be directed to Bernadette Oliver at (518) 455-2310 ([oliver@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:oliver@senate.state.ny.us)).

**New York State Senate Standing Committee on Elections**

**Public Hearing Reply Form**

Please respond by April 21

Mail to:

New York State Senate Standing Committee on Elections  
Room 815 LOB, Albany, NY, 12247.  
Or fax to: 518-426-6875.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to testify at the hearing on April 23.

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to attend, but do not wish to testify at the hearing on April 23.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. Please specify the type of assistance required:

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TITLE:

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ORGANIZATION:

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E-MAIL:

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