



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Leroy Comrie

Following Election Day Confusion, Senator Comrie, Assembly Member Dinowitz Call on Legislature to Pass Ballot Tracking Legislation

LEROY COMRIE June 24, 2020

| ISSUE: **ABSENTEE BALLOTS, ABSENTEE VOTING, BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

New York State Absentee Ballot Application

Please print clearly. See detailed instructions.

This application must either be personally delivered to your county board of elections not later than the day before the election, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than 7th day before election day. The ballot itself must either be personally delivered to the board of elections no later than the close of polls on election day, or postmarked by a governmental postal service not later than the day before the election and received no later than the 7th day after the election.

Town/City/Ward/Dist: _____
Registration No. _____
Party: _____
 voted in office

1. I am requesting, in good faith, an absentee ballot due to (check one reason):

- absence from county or New York City on election day
- temporary illness or physical disability
- permanent illness or physical disability
- duties related to primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled
- patient or inmate in a Veterans Hospital
- detention in jail/prison or action by a grand jury of a criminal court

2. absentee ballot(s) requested for the following election(s) :

- Primary Election only
- Any election held between these dates: absence begins: _____
- General Election only

3. last name or surname: _____ first name: _____

New York, NY - Following a state primary marred by unprecedented confusion among voters seeking to use the state's vote by mail system, Senator Leroy Comrie and Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz called on the legislature to pass legislation that will mandate the use of ballot tracking technology for absentee ballots. The bill, S2768, would require the New York City Board of Elections and the various county boards of elections to provide a user-friendly website in which voters who request and submit absentee ballots can track their ballots

through the entire absentee voting process.

In states like Massachusetts, Iowa, and Florida, Intelligent Mail barcode and other tracking technologies are used by elections administrators to monitor and display the movements of individual ballots from the moment the ballot is requested until the moment it is counted. However, New York State does not yet have such a system in place, leaving every eligible absentee voter in the dark with regards to the status of their ballot.

Senator Comrie said: “In the days leading up to Primary Day, it became increasingly clear that we were dealing with a major malfunction of the absentee ballot system. Everyday, I heard from individuals that they never received their absentee ballots after submitting the application. New Yorkers should not have to choose between staying healthy and exercising their right to vote. We absolutely need a system in place that will let voters know when to expect their ballots and when their ballots are counted. This level of confusion cannot stand as a defect in our electoral system.”

Assembly Member Dinowitz said: “As we continue working to expand vote-by-mail options for New York's voters, it is imperative that we have systems in place that ensure confidence and accountability between voters and Boards of Elections. This legislation creates a framework that, if in place for the June 23 primary we just experienced, would have alleviated significant voter stress and empowered them to make educated decisions about how to participate in our democracy. Instead, voters were left in the dark and forced to choose between protecting their health and casting their ballot. That is unacceptable and we must take tangible steps to ensure that never happens again. Thank you to State Senator Comrie for introducing this legislation in the State Senate and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this reform that will improve our voting process in New York State.”

2019-S2768

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to [absentee ballot tracking](#)

January 29, 2019

In Senate Committee [Elections](#)

Sponsored by [Leroy Comrie](#)

Do you support this bill?
