



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE

ON ELECTIONS



Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie
Chair

CHAIRMAN

ELECTIONS

COMMITTEES

CODES

CONSUMER PROTECTION

CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND CORRECTION

DOMESTIC ANIMAL WELFARE

HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

JUDICIARY

SOCIAL SERVICES

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR ZELNOR Y. MYRIE
20TH SENATE DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE:

ROOM 903

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247

(518) 455-2410

FAX: (518) 426-6856

DISTRICT OFFICE:

1077 NOSTRAND AVE., GROUND FLOOR

BROOKLYN, NY 11225

(718) 284-4700

FAX: (718) 282-3585

EMAIL ADDRESS:

MYRIE@NYSENATE.GOV

November 21, 2019

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Temporary President and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Stewart-Cousins:

I am pleased to transmit the Annual Report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Elections for the 2019 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction,

During the 2019 session, this committee met 8 times in session and reported 48 bills. The Committee also held three hearings this past year.

I thank my colleagues who served on the Committee for their efforts and support of the work that was done in the committee this year, and I thank you for the continued support from the Majority Conference in the committee's operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zellnor Y. Myrie', written in a cursive style.

Zellnor Y. Myrie
State Senator
Senate District 20



2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS**

Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie, Chairperson

Committee Members

Senator Brian Kavanagh Senator Rachel May, Senator Shelley Mayer Senator Julia Salazar	Senator Patty Ritchie Senator Frederick J Akshar II
---	--

Committee Staff

Edline Jacquet, Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Zellnor Myrie
Moriah Pickard, Office Assistant/ Committee Clerk, Office of Senator Zellnor Myrie

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Elections has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning Election Security, Voter Registration, and State Board of Elections practices and procedures. During the 2019 Legislative Session, 195 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 48 were reported from the Committee. 38 were passed by the Senate, and 27 passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of eight committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

In addition to its regular meetings, the Committee held three hearings and/or roundtable meetings. Topics of these hearings and/or roundtables included Implementation of Early Voting, Automatic Voter Registration, and Public Financing.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2019:

S1102	Myrie	Relates to early voting	Chapter 6 of 2019
S2300-A	Kavanagh	Enacts the voter friendly ballot act; relates to the form of the ballot for elections; removes additional provisions for primary elections for New York city.	Chapter 411 of 2019
S3045B	Comrie	Provides that if the board of elections determines that a person was entitled to vote it shall cast and canvass such ballot if such board finds that the voter substantially complied with the requirements of the election law; failure to provide previous address not deemed a fatal defect and ballot cast and counted.	Passed Senate Only
S3134	Myrie	Relates to the elimination of duplicate electronic filings.	Chapter 465 of 2019
S3140	Myrie	Relates to publishing local campaign contribution limits.	Chapter 412 of 2019
S3167	Myrie	Relates to government vendor contributions.	Passed Senate Only
S3232-A	Savino	Provides that the board of elections will mail special ballots to victims of domestic violence with sufficient time to cast such ballot prior to the close of polls.	Chapter 150 of 2019
S4910	Skoufis	Relates to disclosure of the identities of political committees making certain expenditures for political communications.	Chapter 454 of 2019

S5129	Myrie	Relates to instituting additional ballot accountability practices.	Chapter 63 of 2019
S5475	May	Relates to opportunity to ballot committee to receive notices as if such committee was a candidate named on a petition.	Chapter 440 of 2019

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2019, 27 of the 195 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Elections passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed 24 and vetoed zero. **3 bills remain to be acted on by the Governor.**

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S211-C	Benjamin	Relates to voter notification of special elections; provides such notice be posted on the board of elections website not less than two weeks prior to such election.	Chapter 413 of 2019
S1099	Carlucci	Provides that the board of elections shall transfer a registration and enrollment of a voter to wherever they move in the state.	Chapter 3 of 2019
S1100	Carlucci	Relates to voter pre-registration and education on voter pre-registration.	Chapter 2 of 2019
S1101	Kavanagh	Relates to political contributions by limited liability companies.	Chapter 4 of 2019
S1102	Myrie	Relates to early voting	Chapter 6 of 2019

S1103	Stewart - Cousins	Relates to primary elections and amends certain deadlines to facilitate the timely transmission of ballots to military voters stationed overseas; relates to filling vacancies in elective offices; relates to the date of primary elections.	Chapter 5 of 2019
S1128-A	Benjamin	Relates to voter registration form distribution and assistance.	Awaiting Action
S1718	Carlucci	Provides for the inclusion, at a voter's option, of an e-mail address in the voter registration application and record, whereupon notices and other communication required to be sent to the voter by the state board of elections shall be sent by e-mail in addition to postal mail; provides that county boards of elections and the board of elections of the city of New York shall have the option of sending required notices and communications by e-mail in addition to postal mail to certain voters.	On the Governor's Desk
S2300-A	Kavanagh	Enacts the voter friendly ballot act; relates to the form of the ballot for elections; removes additional provisions for primary elections for New York city.	Chapter 411 of 2019

S2346	Kavanagh	Relates to establishing the uniform election night procedure act.	Chapter 437 of 2019
S2680-A	Mayer	Authorizes the use of campaign funds for childcare expenses where they are incurred in the campaign or in the execution of the duties of public office or party position.	Chapter 136 of 2019
S2699	Bailey	Relates to signatures for any party position of member of the ward, town, city or county committee; not less than three per centum of the then enrolled voters.	Chapter 18 of 2019
S2862	May	Relates to the number of signatures for designating petitions for 2019; provides such shall be reduced by one-quarter, rounded down to the nearest whole number.	Chapter 17 of 2019
S3134	Myrie	Relates to the elimination of duplicate electronic filings.	Chapter 465 of 2019
S3135	Myrie	Relates to ballots for absentee voters.	Chapter 516 of 2019
S3140	Myrie	Relates to publishing local campaign contribution limits.	Chapter 412 of 2019
S3145	Myrie	Relates to indicating the placement of ballot proposals.	Chapter 409 of 2019

S3232-A	Savino	Provides that the board of elections will mail special ballots to victims of domestic violence with sufficient time to cast such ballot prior to the close of polls.	Chapter 150 of 2019
S3903	Myrie	Requires campaign finance information of certain candidates or committees to be filed on an electronic reporting system.	Chapter 416 of 2019
S4264	Stewart - Cousins	Relates to the filing of petitions of designation or nomination in the county of Westchester.	Chapter 439 of 2019
S4910	Skoufis	Relates to disclosure of the identities of political committees making certain expenditures for political communications.	Chapter 454 of 2019
S5129	Myrie	Relates to instituting additional ballot accountability practices.	Chapter 63 of 2019
S5199	Metzger	Authorizes the board of elections to provide special ballots to board of election employees anytime up to the close of polls on election day.	Chapter 257 of 2019
S5475	May	Relates to opportunity to ballot committee to receive notices as if such committee was a candidate named on a petition.	Chapter 440 of 2019
S5839	Kavanagh	Relates to the form of primary ballots; removes color requirement.	Chapter 66 of 2019

S6163	Metzger	Relates to the effectiveness of providing uniform polling hours during primary elections.	Chapter 441 of 2019
--------------	----------------	---	----------------------------

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill (Listed in as they appeared on bill agendas, starting from first agenda)	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S1099	Carlucci	Provides that the board of elections shall transfer a registration and enrollment of a voter to wherever they move in the state.	Chapter 3 of 2019
S1100	Carlucci	Relates to voter pre-registration and education on voter pre-registration.	Chapter 2 of 2019
S1101	Kavanagh	Relates to political contributions by limited liability companies.	Chapter 4 of 2019
S1102	Myrie	Relates to early voting	Chapter 6 of 2019
S1103	Stewart - Cousins	Relates to primary elections and amends certain deadlines to facilitate the timely transmission of ballots to military voters stationed overseas; relates to filling vacancies in elective offices; relates to the date of primary elections.	Chapter 5 of 2019
S508-A	Myrie	Authorizes counties to employ computer generated registration lists; updates the list of supplies to be delivered to poll sites.	Passed Senate Only
S546	Akshar	Increases the number of registrants an election district may contain with the approval of the county board of elections; increases number on county committee.	Passed Senate Only

S2699	Bailey	Relates to signatures for any party position of member of the ward, town, city or county committee; not less than three per centum of the then enrolled voters.	Chapter 18 of 2019
S2800	Comrie	Relates to mandatory training curriculum for election commissioners and key staff of boards of elections and to model poll worker training programs	Reported from Committee
S2862	May	Relates to the number of signatures for designating petitions for 2019; provides such shall be reduced by one-quarter, rounded down to the nearest whole number.	Chapter 17 of 2019
S2300-A	Kavanagh	Enacts the voter friendly ballot act; relates to the form of the ballot for elections; removes additional provisions for primary elections for New York city.	Chapter 411 of 2019
S2333	Kavanagh	Requires the filing of additional transferor and contributor identification information in campaign receipt and expenditure statements, including the occupation, employer and employer's address in the case of a natural person.	Passed Senate Only
S3134	Myrie	Relates to the elimination of duplicate electronic filings.	Chapter 465 of 2019
S3140	Myrie	Relates to publishing local campaign contribution limits.	Chapter 412 of 2019
S3145	Myrie	Relates to indicating the placement of ballot proposals.	Chapter 409 of 2019

S3167	Myrie	Relates to government vendor contributions.	Passed Senate Only
S3697	Gounardes	Provides that contributions received by a candidate shall not be expended for goods or services provided by an entity in which the candidate and/or one or more members of the candidates family collectively hold a thirty-five percent or greater ownership.	Reported from Committee
S211-C	Benjamin	Relates to voter notification of special elections; provides such notice be posted on the board of elections website not less than two weeks prior to such election.	Chapter 413 of 2019
S2301-B	Kavanagh	Provides protections against illegal voter purging.	Reported from Committee
S4032	Myrie	Relates to pre-clearance of voting-related regulations and policies.	Reported from Committee
S4264	Stewart - Cousins	Relates to the filing of petitions of designation or nomination in the county of Westchester.	Chapter 439 of 2019
S4866	Myrie	Requires the board of elections to provide email notifications to voters whenever they change the location of a polling place.	Passed Senate Only
S93	Kaminsky	Sets forth the means of the disposition of campaign funds upon the conviction of a felony of a candidate, former candidate or holder of elective office.	Passed Senate Only

S257	Kennedy	Relates to authorizing registration records of victims of sexual violence to be kept confidential in certain cases.	Passed Senate Only
S2680-A	Mayer	Authorizes the use of campaign funds for childcare expenses where they are incurred in the campaign or in the execution of the duties of public office or party position.	Chapter 136 of 2019
S3232-A	Savino	Provides that the board of elections will mail special ballots to victims of domestic violence with sufficient time to cast such ballot prior to the close of polls.	Chapter 150 of 2019
S3903	Myrie	Requires campaign finance information of certain candidates or committees to be filed on an electronic reporting system.	Chapter 416 of 2019
S4311-A	Biaggi	Prohibits the use of campaign funds to pay any settlement fees, fines or penalties for sexual harassment civil or criminal actions.	Reported from Committee
S5129	Myrie	Relates to instituting additional ballot accountability practices.	Chapter 63 of 2019
S2346	Kavanagh	Relates to establishing the uniform election night procedure act.	Chapter 437 of 2019

S3045B	Comrie	Provides that if the board of elections determines that a person was entitled to vote it shall cast and canvass such ballot if such board finds that the voter substantially complied with the requirements of the election law; failure to provide previous address not deemed a fatal defect and ballot cast and counted.	Passed Senate Only
S4910	Skoufis	Relates to disclosure of the identities of political committees making certain expenditures for political communications.	Chapter 454 of 2019
S5199	Metzger	Authorizes the board of elections to provide special ballots to board of election employees anytime up to the close of polls on election day.	Chapter 257 of 2019
S1128-A	Benjamin	Relates to voter registration form distribution and assistance.	???
S2329-A	Kavanagh	Requires the board of elections or a bipartisan committee appointed by such board to conduct a risk-limiting audit of voter verifiable audit records from voting machines or systems within the jurisdiction of such board.	Reported from Committee

<p>S4036-C</p>	<p>Gounardes</p>	<p>Requires the board of elections in cities with a population of one million or more to provide at least one interpreter for all languages that are designated city-wide languages at poll sites that contain an election district with at least fifty voting age residents whose limited English proficiency language is a designated city-wide language.</p>	<p>Reported from Committee</p>
<p>S5428-A</p>	<p>Myrie</p>	<p>Relates to obtaining written acceptance from candidates for certain county committees; requires written acceptance, duly acknowledged, from such candidates to be so designated to be filed within ten days of designating petitions for certain county committee candidates.</p>	<p>Reported from Committee</p>
<p>S5462-A</p>	<p>May</p>	<p>Relates to declining party nominations after primary elections; provides that a certificate to fill a vacancy by declination shall be filed not later than twenty days after such declination has been filed.</p>	<p>Passed Senate Only</p>

S1718	Carlucci	Provides for the inclusion, at a voter's option, of an e-mail address in the voter registration application and record, whereupon notices and other communication required to be sent to the voter by the state board of elections shall be sent by e-mail in addition to postal mail; provides that county boards of elections and the board of elections of the city of New York shall have the option of sending required notices and communications by e-mail in addition to postal mail to certain voters.	Chapter 536 of 2019
S3195-A	Myrie	Requires the counting of an affidavit ballot of an eligible voter if such voter appeared at a polling place in the correct county but in the incorrect election district; provides that such vote shall not be cast and canvassed for such contests for which the person was not entitled to vote at such election.	Reported from Committee
S4378	Parker	Provides that whenever a contiguous property of a college or university contains three hundred or more registrants, the polling place designated for such election district shall be on such contiguous property or at a location approved by the college or university.	Passed Senate Only

S5188	Mayer	Prohibits the making of any change, alteration or modification to any entrance to or exit from a polling place unless such change, alteration or modification is necessary to maintain public safety due to the occurrence of an emergency, and requires the posting of signage in relation to such change, alteration or modification.	Passed Senate Only
S5475	May	Relates to opportunity to ballot committee to receive notices as if such committee was a candidate named on a petition.	Chapter 440 of 2019
S5839	Kavanagh	Relates to the form of primary ballots; removes color requirement.	Chapter 66 of 2019
S5914	Myrie	Requires the board of elections to maintain a database of all campaign finance disclosure report filers and to provide a means to search such database for active filers.	Reported from Committee
S6163	Metzger	Relates to the effectiveness of providing uniform polling hours during primary elections.	Chapter 441 of 2019



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE
STANDING COMMITTEE

ON ELECTIONS