



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
Brian Benjamin

Protecting New York's Democracy

CONTACT: NEIL D. REILLY, 774.766.2351 January 14, 2019

| ISSUE: **VOTING RIGHTS, ELECTIONS**

(Harlem, NY) Senator Benjamin, together with the Senate Majority Conference passed major legislation yesterday to improve New York State's broken electoral system. New York consistently ranks as one of the worst voter turnout states in the nation. As the first major act this legislative session, Senator Benjamin and the new Senate Majority Conference passed a series of bills that will empower New York voters and reform the state's electoral system.

"These voting reforms, which will modernize our electoral system, will pave the way for significantly increased voter turnout and civic participation in our democracy," said State Senator Brian A. Benjamin. "New Yorkers entrusted us with a strong mandate to restore power to the people and I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to make that a reality."

On the first full day of the 2019 Legislative Session, Senator Benjamin and the Senate Majority Conference passed a series of bills that will enable early voting and no-excuse absentee voting, modernize and expand voter registration, extend Primary Election voting hours, impose limits on LLC contributions and ensure uniformity throughout the state.

The historic legislation passed by the Senate Democratic Majority includes:

- **Early Voting:** This bill, S.1102 introduced by Chair of the Elections Committee, Senator Zellnor Myrie, will establish an Early Voting system to permit eligible voters in New York State to vote in person during a designated period.
- **Consolidation of Federal and State Primaries:** This bill, S.1103 introduced by Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, will save taxpayer dollars and make state primary

elections the same day as federal primary elections. It also ensures that New York State's election law complies with the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act.

- **Closing the LLC Loophole:** This bill, S.1101, introduced by Senator Brian Kavanaugh, will amend Election Law to hold LLC's to the same aggregate contribution limit of \$5,000 that applies to corporations. The amendment would require the disclosure of the identity and proportion of ownership of all direct and indirect owners of the membership interests in the LLC. This legislation will also amend the Election Law to require all contributions made to political committees or campaigns by an LLC be attributed to each member of the LLC in proportion to the member's ownership interest.
- **Same-Day Voter Registration:** This bill, S.1048 introduced by Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris, amends the constitution to remove the ten-day advance voter registration requirement, subject to second passage of the next legislature and approval by a statewide referendum.
- **No-Excuse Absentee Voting:** This bill, S.1049 introduced by Senator Leroy Comrie will amend the state Constitution to allow for any voter to request to vote by mail without declaring reason subject to second passage of the next legislature and approval by a statewide referendum.
- **Voter Registration Transfers:** This bill, S.1099, introduced by Senator David Carlucci, will require the Board of Elections to transfer the registration and enrollment of a voter to wherever they move in New York State.
- **Voter Pre-Registration:** This bill, S.1100, introduced by Senator David Carlucci, will enable 16- and 17-year olds to pre-register to vote and requires local boards of education to adopt policies to promote student voter registration and pre-registration.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2019-S1102

- 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
-

Relates to early voting

January 10, 2019

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by Zellnor Myrie

Do you support this bill?

2019-S1103

- 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
-

Relates to primary elections and the timely transmission of ballots to military voters stationed overseas

January 10, 2019

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by **Andrea Stewart-Cousins**

Do you support this bill?

2019-S1101

- 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
-

Relates to political contributions by limited liability companies

January 10, 2019

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by **Brian Kavanagh**

Do you support this bill?

2019-S1048

- 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

-

Removes ten day advance voter registration requirement

January 10, 2019

In Senate Committee [Judiciary](#)

Sponsored by [Michael Gianaris](#)

Do you support this bill?

2019-S1049

- 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
-

Authorizes ballot by mail by removing cause for absentee ballot voting

January 10, 2019

In Senate Committee [Judiciary](#)

Sponsored by [Leroy Comrie](#)

Do you support this bill?

NAY

2019-S1048

-
- 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
 -

Removes ten day advance voter registration requirement

January 10, 2019

In Senate Committee [Judiciary](#)

Sponsored by [Michael Gianaris](#)

Do you support this bill?

2019-S1099

-
- 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
-

Relates to voter registration transfers

January 10, 2019

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by David Carlucci

Do you support this bill?

2019-S1100

-
- 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
-

Relates to voter pre-registration

January 10, 2019

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by David Carlucci

Do you support this bill?