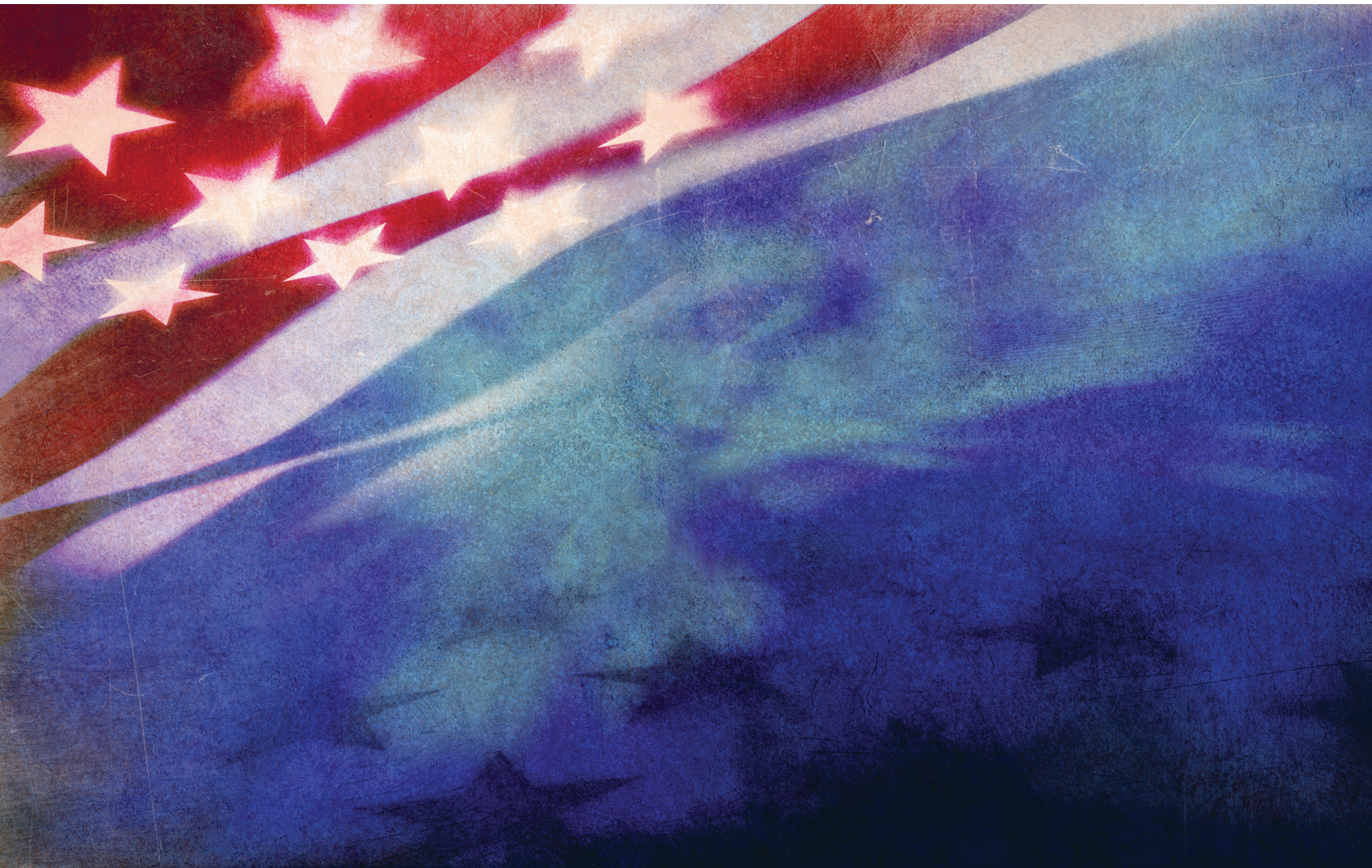


# ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT 2017

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STATE SENATOR  
FREDERICK J. AKSHAR, II  
CHAIRMAN, SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE



**2017 Legislative Report**

**New York State Senate**

**Standing Committee on Elections**

**Senator Frederick J. Akshar II, Chairman**

**Senator Leroy Comrie, Ranking Member**

**Committee Members**

Senator George Amedore

Senator Tony Avella

Senator Martin Malavé Dilan

Senator Patrick Gallivan

Senator Liz Krueger

Senator Kathy Marchione

Senator James Tedisco

**Staff**

Amanda Holzer, Committee Director

John Ciampoli, Counsel and Program

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Albany, New York 12247

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**CHAIR**  
ELECTIONS

**CO-CHAIR**  
HEROIN TASK FORCE

**COMMITTEES**  
BANKS  
CITIES  
CODES  
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND  
CORRECTION  
LABOR  
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

**MEMBER**  
RURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

NEW YORK  
STATE  
SENATE



**SENATOR**  
**FREDERICK J. AKSHAR, II**  
**52<sup>ND</sup> SENATE DISTRICT**

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK 13901  
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January 1, 2018

Honorable John Flanagan  
Majority Coalition Leader  
New York State Senate  
Room 330  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Flanagan:

I am pleased to submit to you the 2017 Annual Report of the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Elections.

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Elections conducted three committee meetings during the 2017 Legislative Session. At these committee meetings, 36 pieces of legislation were reported out of committee and six bills were signed into law by Governor Cuomo.

The bills that were signed into law streamline the election process and make candidate information more accessible to New Yorkers. One of the bills requires the State Board of Elections to publish web addresses for certain statewide candidates. Another bill allows election inspectors to split shifts and be compensated accordingly to accommodate and retain inspectors with different schedules.

During the 2017 Legislative Session, I met with several election advocacy organizations and county board of elections commissioners from various parts of the state. I also met with my counterpart in the Assembly and ranking committee members to have bipartisan discussions on ways we can reform our election process.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Senate Standing Committee on Elections for their hard work and dedication in 2017. I look forward to chairing the Elections Committee during the upcoming session and having meaningful conversations about these important issues.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Akshar II'.

Senator Fred Akshar  
Chairman, Senate Elections Committee

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Elections conducted three committee meetings during the 2017 Legislative Session. At these committee meetings, 36 pieces of legislation were reported out of committee and six bills were chaptered. The dates of the committee meetings are as follows:

**Monday, March 6, 2017 at 1:00 pm, in Room 805 LOB**

**S.218 Marchione/A.567 Abinanti**

Relates to requirements of a witness to a designating petition or independent nominating petition

*Passed both houses – Chapter 106 of 2017*

**S.443A Young/A.6907A Hunter**

Permits boards of elections to engage election inspectors to split shifts, their compensation to be adjusted accordingly

*Passed both houses – Chapter 293 of 2017*

**S.918A Croci/A.3036A Abinanti**

Prohibits certain loans to be made to candidates or political committees

*Committed to Rules*

**S.1445 Funke/A.8000 Thiele**

Relates to authorizing voter registration records of victims of sexual violence to be kept confidential in certain cases

*Passed Senate*

**S.1567A Avella/A.5740A Seawright**

Requires the state board of elections and local boards of elections to publish the campaign website addresses of certain candidates for public office

*Passed both houses – Chapter 307 of 2017*

**S.2097 Murphy/A.5829 Byrne**

Relates to penalties for unlawful campaign contributions to county or town committees

*Committed to Rules*

**S.2786 Akshar/A.5588 Cusick**

Removes the requirement of publishing a candidate's residence prior to an election

*Passed both houses – Chapter 310 of 2017*

**S.2791 Akshar/A.1949 Mayer**

Adds an optional section to voter registration forms to allow for email addresses

*Committed to Rules*

**S.2792 Akshar/A.7333 Fahy**

Removes the requirement that party emblems be included in ballot design

*Committed to Rules*

**S.2976 LaValle/A.2346 Thiele**

Relates to military ballots and elections for school boards of education and school budgets

*Committed to Rules*

**S.3309 Lanza/A.5752 Kavanagh**

Relates to instant run-off elections in New York City; repealer

*Committed to Rules*

**Monday, May 1, 2017 at 1:00 pm, in Room 805 LOB**

**S.26 Hoylman/A.4072 Fahy**

Enacts the “tax returns uniformly made public act”

*Defeated in Elections*

**S.1034A Carlucci**

Relates to mandatory training for treasurers of political committees

*Committed to Rules*

**S.1977 Comrie/A.4256 Quart**

Relates to the number of affidavit ballots to be supplied at polling sites

*Committed to Rules*

**S.2787A Akshar/A.2789 Paulin**

Relates to filing of papers

*Committed to Rules*

**S.2794 Akshar/A.5576 Cusick**

Increases the number of registrants an election district may contain with the approval of the county board of elections

*Committed to Rules*

**S.2950 Stewart-Cousins/A.2064 Kavanagh**

Relates to early voting

*Committee Discharged and Committed to Rules*

**S.2952 Stewart-Cousins/A.3122 Kavanagh**

Prohibits deceptive practices and the suppression of voters, and increases penalties for violations of the elective franchise

*Reported and Committed to Codes*

**S.3304 Gianaris/A.2278 Kavanagh**

Enacts the voter empowerment act of New York

*Defeated in Elections*

**S.3869 Comrie/A.5506 Weprin**

Directs the Queens county board of elections to provide language assistance in Bengali, Punjabi, and Hindi

*Committed to Rules*

**S.3915 LaValle/A.3723 Thiele**

Enlarges the definition of the term election for certain purposes

*Committed to Rules*

**S.4757 Griffo/A.8392 Lentol**

Provides that the text to be used in a proposed amendment, proposition or question to be submitted to the people for approval shall be in the legislation proposing such amendment; repealer

*Passed the Senate*

**S.4786 Griffo**

Provides that absentee ballots for all elections shall be made available in Braille, upon request of a blind or visually impaired voter

*Committed to Rules*

**S.5258 Savino/A.280 Bichotte**

Relates to determining how candidates are placed on a ballot for separate elections of males and females

*Passed Both Houses – Chapter 173 of 2017*

**Monday, May 22, 2017 at 1:00 pm, in Room 805 LOB**

**S.223 Golden/A.3904 Colton**

Requires the board of elections to provide Russian interpreters at certain polling locations in New York City

*Passed the Senate*

**S.1115 Akshar**

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

*Passed the Senate*

**S.2788 Akshar/A.5547 Cusick**

Authorizes computer generated registration lists; relates to the list of supplies to be delivered to poll sites

*Reported and Committed to Rules*

**S.2793 Akshar/A.16 Cahill**

Relates to election inspectors at poll sites

*Passed the Senate*

**S.3388 Gallivan/A.440 Paulin**

Provides that a court may require that a new election be held when there is clear and convincing evidence that the wrong candidate was determined to be the winner

*Reported and Committed to Finance*

**S.3700 Comrie/A.2520 Ortiz**

Relates to the reimbursement to counties and the city of New York of the costs associated with administering primary elections

*Reported and Committed to Finance*

**S.4322 Tedisco**

Requires propositions authorizing creation of a state debt to contain an estimate of the debt service payable and publish an explanation thereof

*Reported and Committed to Finance*

**S.5455 Hamilton/A.6732 Seawright**

Requires campaign finance information of certain candidates or committees to be filed on an electronic reporting system

*Committed to Rules*

**S.5658 Gallivan/A.8019 Lifton**

Repeals section 2-126 of the election law relating to party funds and restrictions on expenditures

*Passed Both Houses – Chapter 210 of 2017*

**S.5741 Savino/A.7009 Paulin**

Relates to mailing special ballots to victims of domestic violence

*Committed to Rules*



**S.6011 Savino**

Relates to the confidentiality of voter registration records of victims of domestic violence

*Committed to Rules*

**S.6434 Akshar/A.7383 Buchwald**

Relates to alternative provisions for poll site staffing

*Committed to Rules*