



2020 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
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JUDICIARY
SOCIAL SERVICES

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR ZELNOR Y. MYRIE
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December 21, 2020

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 2020 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my Committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2020 session, this Committee met four times in session and reported 29 bills. The Committee also held two 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'.

Zellnor Y. Myrie
State Senator
20th District

2020 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 B. Mayer Senator Julia Salazar	Senator Rich Funke Senator Patty Ritchie
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Committee Staff

Edline Jacquet, Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie
Nicholas Tishler, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie
Moriah Pickard, Legislative Aide/Committee Clerk, Office of Senator Zellnor Y. 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 2020 Legislative Session, 48 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 28 were reported from the Committee. 16 were passed by the Senate, and 9 passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of four 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 two hearings and/or roundtable meetings. Topics of these hearings and/or roundtables included the John R. Lewis New York Voting Rights Act, and Elections in a Pandemic.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2020:

S5188	Mayer	Relates to changes to the entrance and exit of polling places	Chapter 232 of 2020
S7236	Myrie	Relates to the timing of the annual check of registrants	Chapter 21 of 2020
S8015D	Biaggi	Relates to absentee voting	Chapter 139 of 2020
S8370B	Myrie	Relates to providing voters an opportunity to contest challenges to absentee ballots	Chapter 141 of 2020
S8782	Breslin	Relates to requiring municipalities with the highest population in each county to have at least one polling place designated for early voting	Chapter 344 of 2020
S8796A	Stavisky	Allows certain party designations and nominations to be made via video teleconference upon notice to the members of the respective committee	Chapter 142 of 2020
S8799A	Gianaris	Relates to the receipt by the board of elections of certain absentee ballots received by a board of elections that do not bear or display a dated postmark	Chapter 140 of 2020
S8806	Gianaris	Establishes an electronic personal voter registration process	Chapter 350 of 2020

TWO HOUSE BILLS

No bills remain to be acted on by the Governor.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S5188	Mayer	Relates to changes to the entrance and exit of polling places	Chapter 232 of 2020
S6302A	Myrie	Requires notice of ensuing election's date and time to be in bold type	Chapter 200 of 2020
S7236	Myrie	Relates to the timing of the annual check of registrants	Chapter 21 of 2020
S8015D	Biaggi	Relates to absentee voting	Chapter 139 of 2020
S8370B	Myrie	Relates to providing voters an opportunity to contest challenges to absentee ballots	Chapter 141 of 2020
S8782	Breslin	Relates to requiring municipalities with the highest population in each county to have at least one polling place designated for early voting	Chapter 344 of 2020
S8796A	Stavisky	Allows certain party designations and nominations to be made via video teleconference upon notice to the members of the respective committee	Chapter 142 of 2020
S8799A	Gianaris	Relates to the receipt by the board of elections of certain absentee ballots received by a board of elections that do not bear or display a dated postmark	Chapter 140 of 2020
S8806	Gianaris	Establishes an electronic personal voter registration process	Chapter 350 of 2020

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S257	Kennedy	Relates to authorizing registration records of victims of sexual violence to be kept confidential in certain cases	Passed Senate Only
S2311	Kavanagh	Reduces the time for mailing and receipt of registration application to constitutional minimum.	Passed Senate Only
S3447	Stavisky	Provides that absentee ballots for all elections shall be made available in Braille, upon request of a blind or visually impaired voter	Passed Senate Only
S4378A	Parker	Makes provisions regarding the designation of polling places on college campuses	Passed Senate Only
S4866	Myrie	Requires the board of elections to provide email notifications to voters whenever they change the location of a polling place	Reported from Committee
S5188	Mayer	Relates to changes to the entrance and exit of polling places	Chapter 232 of 2020
S5428A	Myrie	Relates to obtaining written acceptance from candidates for certain county committees	Reported from Committee
S5462A	May	Relates to declining party nominations after primary elections	Passed Senate Only
S6302A	Myrie	Requires notice of ensuing election's date and time to be in bold type	Chapter 200 of 2020
6457B	Gianaris	Establishes an electronic personal voter registration process	Passed Senate Only
S6463	Myrie	Authorizes the city of New York to	Passed Senate

		establish an electronic voter registration transmittal system for New York city residents	Only
S6754A	Breslin	Relates to requiring municipalities with the highest population in each county to have at least one polling	Passed Senate Only
S6805	Myrie	Authorizes variable message signs placed within the right of way of highways to display certain voting related communications	Passed Senate Only
S6886D	Skoufis	Relates to requiring electors to vote for the presidential and vice presidential candidate who received the highest number of votes in the state	Passed Senate Only
S6922	Kaplan	Relates to the number and location of early voting polling sites	Passed Senate Only
S6923A	Martinez	Relates to the number of early voting polling sites	Passed Senate Only
S6925	Biaggi	Relates to the location of early voting polling sites	Passed Senate Only
S6926A	May	Establishes portable polling locations for early voting	Passed Senate Only
S6930	Krueger	Relates to designating early polling places	Passed Senate Only
S7236	Myrie	Relates to the timing of the annual check of registrants	Chapter 21 of 2020
S7237	Myrie	Relates to availability of electronic ballot images	Reported from Committee
S8015D	Biaggi	Relates to absentee voting	Chapter 139 of 2020
S8370B	Myrie	Relates to providing voters an opportunity to contest challenges to absentee ballots	Chapter 141 of 2020
S8465A	Liu	Relates to the definition of the term	Passed Senate Only

		“name” for purposes of designating or nominating a candidate for public office or party position	
S8782	Breslin	Requires municipalities with the highest population in each county place designated for early voting to have at least one polling place designated for early voting.	Chapter 344 of 2020
S8796A	Stavisky	Allows certain party designations and nominations to be made via video teleconference upon notice to the members of the respective committee	Chapter 142 of 2020
S8799A	Gianaris	Relates to the receipt by the board of elections of certain absentee ballots received by a board of elections that do not bear or display a dated postmark	Chapter 140 of 2020
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