



# 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**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT**

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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 blue 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:

<b>S5188</b>	<b>Mayer</b>	Relates to changes to the entrance and exit of polling places	<b>Chapter 232 of 2020</b>
<b>S7236</b>	<b>Myrie</b>	Relates to the timing of the annual check of registrants	<b>Chapter 21 of 2020</b>
<b>S8015D</b>	<b>Biaggi</b>	Relates to absentee voting	<b>Chapter 139 of 2020</b>
<b>S8370B</b>	<b>Myrie</b>	Relates to providing voters an opportunity to contest challenges to absentee ballots	<b>Chapter 141 of 2020</b>
<b>S8782</b>	<b>Breslin</b>	Relates to requiring municipalities with the highest population in each county to have at least one polling place designated for early voting	<b>Chapter 344 of 2020</b>
<b>S8796A</b>	<b>Stavisky</b>	Allows certain party designations and nominations to be made via video teleconference upon notice to the members of the respective committee	<b>Chapter 142 of 2020</b>
<b>S8799A</b>	<b>Gianaris</b>	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	<b>Chapter 140 of 2020</b>
<b>S8806</b>	<b>Gianaris</b>	Establishes an electronic personal voter registration process	<b>Chapter 350 of 2020</b>

## TWO HOUSE BILLS

No bills remain to be acted on by the Governor.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
<b>S5188</b>	<b>Mayer</b>	Relates to changes to the entrance and exit of polling places	<b>Chapter 232 of 2020</b>
<b>S6302A</b>	<b>Myrie</b>	Requires notice of ensuing election's date and time to be in bold type	<b>Chapter 200 of 2020</b>
<b>S7236</b>	<b>Myrie</b>	Relates to the timing of the annual check of registrants	<b>Chapter 21 of 2020</b>
<b>S8015D</b>	<b>Biaggi</b>	Relates to absentee voting	<b>Chapter 139 of 2020</b>
<b>S8370B</b>	<b>Myrie</b>	Relates to providing voters an opportunity to contest challenges to absentee ballots	<b>Chapter 141 of 2020</b>
<b>S8782</b>	<b>Breslin</b>	Relates to requiring municipalities with the highest population in each county to have at least one polling place designated for early voting	<b>Chapter 344 of 2020</b>
<b>S8796A</b>	<b>Stavisky</b>	Allows certain party designations and nominations to be made via video teleconference upon notice to the members of the respective committee	<b>Chapter 142 of 2020</b>
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<b>S8806</b>	<b>Gianaris</b>	Establishes an electronic personal voter registration process	<b>Chapter 350 of 2020</b>

## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

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



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

		“name” for purposes of designating or nominating a candidate for public office or party position	
<b>S8782</b>	<b>Breslin</b>	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.	<b>Chapter 344 of 2020</b>
<b>S8796A</b>	<b>Stavisky</b>	Allows certain party designations and nominations to be made via video teleconference upon notice to the members of the respective committee	<b>Chapter 142 of 2020</b>
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