



## Annual Report 2025

New York State Senate Standing Committee on  
**Elections**

# Senator Kristen Gonzalez

Chair

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
President Pro Tempore  
NYS Senate Majority Leader





**CHAIR:**  
ELECTIONS  
INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY

**COMMITTEES:**  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS  
CONSUMER PROTECTION  
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
HEALTH



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January 5, 2026

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 Standing Committee on Elections for the 2025 Legislative Session. As Chair, I am proud to continue to lead our efforts to address important matters under my committee's jurisdiction.

During the 2025 Session, this Committee met four times in Session and reported 31 bills.

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.

Yours truly,

Senator Kristen Gonzalez  
Senate District 59



# 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

## NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

**Senator Kristen Gonzalez,  
Chairperson**

### **Committee Members**

Senator Samra G. Brouk

Senator Brian Kavanagh

Senator Shelley B. Mayer

Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie

Senator Mark Walczyk  
(Ranking Member)

Senator George M. Borrello

### **Committee Staff**

Elan Silver, Committee Director and  
Senior Counsel

Paul McCarthy, Assistant Deputy Counsel,  
Office of Majority Counsel



## **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 the State Board of Elections practices and procedures.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, 156 (one hundred fifty-six) bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 31 (thirty-one) were reported from the Committee, 20 (twenty) were passed by the Senate, and 5 (five) passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of 4 (four) Committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the Committee is provided at the end of this report.

## COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the Committee in 2025:

- **Changing Enrollment of Voters Enrolled in Parties with “Independence” or “Independent” (S.923)** - Existing state law prohibits a state political party from using the words “independence” or “independent” in its name. This bill would move all voters who remain registered in such parties to unaffiliated voter rolls.
- **PAC-Funded Political Websites Disclosure (S.1030)** - Digital communications are increasingly integral to operating a modern political campaign. Knowing who is responsible for making and disseminating political communications is crucial to maintaining an engaged and informed electorate. In 2018 New York acknowledged these facts, requiring most digital advertisements to include a “paid for” disclaimer. This bill would expand these disclosure duties to require that all public-facing websites paid for, hosted by, or operated by political action committees bear a disclaimer to that effect.
- **Multistate Voter List (S.1356A)** - The Electronic Registration Information Center (“ERIC”) is a non-profit organization with 20 members and the District of Columbia that operates a multistate program that allows interstate coordination to improve the accuracy of voter rolls and access to voter registration for eligible voters. This bill would join New York to the ERIC organization.
- **Split Shifts for Election Inspectors or Poll Clerks (S.1842)** - Recruiting poll workers is a known challenge for local elections administrators. Few voters are willing or able to work an entire 16-hour day as a poll worker. This bill would allow election inspectors and poll clerks to be appointed for 8-hour shifts, greatly improving the accessibility of these roles for a wider range of interested individuals.
- **Disclosure of Social Media Posts Paid for by Political Campaigns (S.2437A)** - Advances in technology have altered the way that political campaigns run their communications operations. In recent elections, social media has played a growing and prominent role, with many candidates paying for social media posts by third parties in support of their campaign. To protect the integrity of our democracy, voters should know when a social media post was paid for by a campaign. This bill would require campaigns to file with the state board of elections social media posts that are paid for by a campaign.
- **Notifications of a Change in Polling Place (S.4274)** - Existing state law requires the board of elections to send a written mailed notice to each registered voter notifying them of a change to their polling place. For cities of one million or more, this bill would require the board of elections to also notify the affected party committee chairpersons, state assemblymember, state senator, city councilmembers, and assembly district leaders of the change in polling place.
- **Changing Early Voting Dates (S.5101)** - Early voting for the special elections held on April 29, 2025 would coincide with the Easter and Passover holidays. This bill would modify the early voting period to accommodate these holidays.
- **Voter Registration Forms Upon High School Graduation (S.5639)** - Many school districts throughout New York state organize voter registration drives and provide valuable information about how and where to register to vote. However, there is no requirement for schools to provide this information to eligible students. This bill would require that the state board of education, in conjunction with local boards of elections, provide information and voter registration materials to graduating students of voting age to register for general elections and to those who are eligible to pre-register to vote in primary elections, for local, state-wide or federal elections.

- **Vote by Mail Streamlining (S.6995)** - In recent years, New York State has made major strides to expand voter access by making vote by mail available to all registered voters alongside established procedures for absentee voting. This bill would allow the same envelopes to be used for early and absentee voting, create a unified system for allocating mail-in voters to the appropriate vote-by-mail program, allow early mail ballot registrations to request mail-in ballots for all elections in a two-year election cycle, and improve the process for overseas and military voters.
- **Protect Passover Act (S.6996)** - Under existing law, in 2026, the deadline to file petitions for electoral candidates conflicts with the Jewish holiday of Passover. This bill would shift the filing date to ensure that New Yorkers of all faiths can participate equally in the electoral process and adhere to the same deadlines.
- **Refreshments at Polls (S.7281)** - Despite years of progress in making elections more accessible, long lines remain at some polling places. Under existing law, groups that wish to provide refreshments or snacks to voters patiently waiting in line may face criminal penalties. The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York has found this law to be violative of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the US Constitution. This bill would repeal these provisions from the state Election law.

## TWO HOUSE BILLS

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANT ACT</b>
S.00923	SKOUFIS	Changes party enrollment of voters where the enrolled party contained the word "Independence" or "Independent" to not being enrolled in any party.	Vetoed Memorandum 77
S.01842	HOYLMAN-SIGAL	Relates to split shifts for election inspectors or poll clerks. Eff. Date 12/05/2025	Chaptered 596
S.04274C	KAVANAGH	Requires the board of elections in a city with a population of one million or more to notify by mail state and county party committees and certain elected officials prior to a change of polling place. Eff. Date 12/05/2025	Chaptered 603
S.05101	GONZALEZ	Provides that early voting for any special election held on April 29, 2025 shall begin on April 21, 2025 and end on April 27, 2025; provides that the duration for early voting hours for any special election held on April 29, 2025 shall be equal to or greater than the minimum number of total hours otherwise required.	Substituted By A.5834 - Chaptered 103
S.06996	GONZALEZ	Relates to the dates to file a designating petition; provides for the repeal of such provisions.	Substituted By A.1223 - Chaptered 577

## SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANT ACT</b>
S.00417	GIANARIS	Enacts the "Count Every Vote Act of New York" which amends the procedure for the recanvass of votes in election districts; defines margin of victory for the purpose of triggering a hand recount of ballots.	Passed the Senate
S.00559	KRUEGER	Increases compensation of election inspectors to \$300 and coordinators to \$350 in New York city.	Passed the Senate
S.00568	MAY	Establishes portable polling locations for early voting; provides that a county board of elections may establish one or more portable polling locations.	Passed the Senate
S.00570	MAY	Relates to the removal of an election commissioner by the governor or by affirmative vote of a majority of commissioners of the state board of elections for incompetence, misconduct, or other good cause, provided that prior to removal, such election commissioner shall be given a written copy of the charges against them and have an opportunity to be heard in their defense.	Senate Rules
S.00654	KRUEGER	Relates to designating early polling places.	Passed the Senate
S.00699	KRUEGER	Relates to the exercise of powers and duties of the board of elections of the city of New York and its executive management; provides for equal representation among certain employees of the board of elections; relates to qualification and removal of certain employees of the board of elections.	Passed the Senate

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANT ACT</b>
S.00843	MAY	Requires every board of elections to employ a minimum of four full time employees in addition to the appointed commissioners within four years and shall employ two of those full time employees within two years; and two additional employees for every twenty thousand active registered voters beyond forty thousand active registered voters.	Senate Rules
S.00923	SKOUFIS	Changes party enrollment of voters where the enrolled party contained the word "Independence" or "Independent" to not being enrolled in any party.	Vetoed Memorandum 77
S.01809	FERNANDEZ	Authorizes, under certain circumstances, full-time college and university students to act as election inspectors and poll clerks in the election district where their college or university is located.	Passed the Senate
S.01842	HOYLMAN-SIGAL	Relates to split shifts for election inspectors or poll clerks. Eff. Date 12/05/2025	Chaptered 596
S.01885	WALCZYK	Requires a New York state driver's license or non-driver ID, a United States passport, an identification card issued by a United States educational institution, a United States military identification card, a government issued medical card, or any identification card issued by the United States or the state of New York to be presented when casting a ballot.	Senate Elections

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANT ACT</b>
S.01910	RIVERA	Requires the filing of additional transferor and contributor identification information in campaign receipt and expenditure statements for the receipt of amounts over one hundred dollars, including the full name, full residential address including any suite, floor, or apartment, occupation, employer and employer's full business address in the case of an individual, and the full name and address of any partnership, committee, association, corporation, labor organization or group of persons.	Senate Rules
S.02050	WEBB	Increases the term of office of an election commissioner from two to four years beginning January first of each odd numbered year.	Passed the Senate
S.02437A	KRUEGER	Requires disclosure of social media posts that are paid for by a campaign; authorizes the state board of elections to promulgate certain regulations.	Passed the Senate
S.02541	MYRIE	Relates to making electronic ballot images and cast vote records public records of the board of elections upon request.	Passed the Senate
S.02543	MYRIE	Instructs the state board of elections to create and distribute voting guides to voters containing information about the candidates; mandates that voters receive postcards to notify them of upcoming elections and that television and radio stations also notify their audience of upcoming elections.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.02574	ORTT	Requires a valid government issued photo identification card be presented when casting a ballot; provides for persons eligible for Medicaid to receive identification cards.	Senate Elections
S.03596A	RIVERA	Provides voters with a warning about New York's closed primary system on voter registration forms.	Reported to Senate Finance

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANT ACT</b>
S.04274C	KAVANAGH	Requires the board of elections in a city with a population of one million or more to notify by mail state and county party committees and certain elected officials prior to a change of polling place. Eff. Date 12/05/2025	Chaptered 603
S.04364	COMRIE	Ensures that boards of elections provide adequate notice to each voter before and after a board cancels the voter's registration or places such voter in inactive status.	Senate Rules
S.04482	MAYER	Requires that subpoenas issued relating to election matters be served with a separate informational sheet that summarizes why the subpoena has been issued.	Passed the Senate
S.05101	GONZALEZ	Provides that early voting for any special election held on April 29, 2025 shall begin on April 21, 2025 and end on April 27, 2025; provides that the duration for early voting hours for any special election held on April 29, 2025 shall be equal to or greater than the minimum number of total hours otherwise required.	Substituted By A.5834 - Chaptered 103
S.05142	MYRIE	Subtracts from the federal adjusted gross income any income earned by election inspectors, poll clerks, or election coordinators earned while working in relation to a general, primary, run-off primary, or special election to the extent includable in gross income for federal tax purposes; exempts such income from being included in the calculation of the amount of benefits under public assistance programs.	Passed the Senate
S.05183	JACKSON	Includes a statement on the envelopes of ballots for absentee voters and special presidential voters for signature affirmation.	Passed the Senate

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANT ACT</b>
S.05452	COMRIE	Requires a commissioner of a board of elections to meet certain qualifications before their appointment which shall include, but not be limited to, the qualifications prescribed by section three of the public officers law, and demonstrated experience in election administration or other management, operations, or administrative experience in the public, non-profit, or private sector as deemed sufficient by the board.	Passed the Senate
S.05639	BAILEY	Requires any student graduating from a high school in New York state be provided with a voter registration form.	Reported to Senate Finance
S.06253A	SKOUFIS	Requires state and county boards of elections to post sample ballots online at least twelve days prior to the first day of early voting; requires such ballots to be posted in a searchable database.	Senate Rules
S.06799	JACKSON	Prohibits a court from bifurcating the primary elections for members of the state and county committees and assembly district leaders and associate district leaders and all other party positions to be elected and all nominations for public office required to be made at a primary election in such year, except presidential primaries.	Passed the Senate
S.06995	GONZALEZ	Amends early voting provisions; provides that an application for an absentee ballot that does not provide a reason that the applicant is entitled to such a ballot shall be processed as an application for an early mail ballot.	Senate Rules
S.06996	GONZALEZ	Relates to the dates to file a designating petition; provides for the repeal of such provisions.	Substituted By A.1223 - Chaptered 577
S.07116	CLEARE	Enacts the "voting integrity and verification act of New York (VIVA NY)"; provides that each voter is entitled to the use of an individual, voter verifiable paper ballot of the voter's vote and the opportunity to mark it.	Senate Rules

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANT ACT</b>
S.07700	MAYER	Relates to the designation and nomination of candidates for village office in village elections conducted on the day of the general election.	Senate Rules
S.07962	GONZALEZ	Sets the timeline for candidate declination from ten days to seven days.	Passed the Senate







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New York State Senate Standing Committee on  
**Elections**

