

New York State Assembly

# Annual 2024 Report

Committee on  
Election Law



Speaker Carl E. Heastie  
Latrice Monique Walker, Chair



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR:  
Committee on Election Law

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Codes  
Housing  
Judiciary  
Ways and Means

MEMBER:  
Legislative Women's Caucus  
Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian  
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Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force  
Task Force on Women's Issues

LATRICE M. WALKER  
Member of Assembly  
55<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Kings County

December 15, 2024

The Honorable Carl Heastie  
Speaker of the Assembly  
Room 932, Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Mr. Speaker:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2024 Annual Report of the Assembly Standing Committee on Election Law.

During the 2024 legislative session, the Committee continued to make great strides in improving the laws that govern elections in New York State. Strengthening voter rights were, and continue to be, a top priority. The Committee worked closely with the Attorney General's office to improve the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York. This statute is vital for the rights of all voters, regardless of race, income, or zip code. These improvements include changes that improve and clarify certain definitions, policies and notifications in an effort to streamline the implementation of this groundbreaking statute. The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of this vital statute and continue to make changes that may be necessary.

Election integrity is at the very base of the work undertaken by the Committee. It is crucial that the citizens of New York have confidence in the franchise and the systems in place for casting a ballot. Legislation was advanced to ensure that board of elections employees do not have, or appear to have, conflicts of interest. Another important piece of legislation that was passed focused on the use of deceptive media in campaign advertisements. The legislation ensures that any use of artificial intelligence in political communications is disclosed and provides legal recourse for any candidate whose likeness has been used in violation.

The Committee continues to improve access to the franchise to all New Yorkers. The Committee advanced legislation that would make it easier for New Yorkers who vote early to cure any ballot defects, ensuring that fewer curable ballots are nonetheless rejected. Another bill that was signed into law allows pre-registered voters to request an absentee ballot or vote early by mail if they will be 18 at the time of the election for which the ballot is requested.

This year will see an historic presidential election and the Committee has been working to provide for a safe and fair election environment. The committee advanced legislation to allow attorneys who are licensed to practice in New York State to serve as a poll watcher throughout the State. This will allow all

communities greater access to poll watchers. The Committee also advanced legislation that would allow poll workers to work a shift less than the entire day, which will improve staffing levels.

In the months ahead, I look forward to working with you, Mr. Speaker, and the members of the Election Law Committee to continue to explore ways in which we, as a State, can improve the administration of our elections systems to provide New Yorkers with the most effective and safe way to exercise their right to vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Walker', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Latrice Walker, Chairperson  
Assembly Standing Committee on Election Law

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW**

**Latrice M. Walker**

**Chair**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **Committee Jurisdiction**

The jurisdiction of the Assembly Standing Committee on Election law (hereinafter known as “The Committee”) includes all legislation that affects elections on the national, state and local levels, including ballot access, voter registration and enrollment, voter education and outreach, campaign financing, and related administrative procedures of the state board of elections and local board of elections.

## II. LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Relates to notifying candidates of designation for certain county committees.**  
**A.494-B (Epstein)/S.6199-B (Myrie) – Chapter 655 of the Laws of 2024**

This bill would require the Board of Elections of New York City to provide notice to each candidate designated for election to a party position of a county committee located within New York City.

**Relates to poll watchers.**  
**A.530-A (Weprin)/S.6130-A (Parker) - Chapter 218 of the Laws of 2024**

This law allows attorneys licensed to practice law in New York State to serve as a poll watcher in any city or county in the state.

**Relates to the order in which candidates appear on the ballot.**  
**A.725 (Hunter)/S.5943 (Skoufis) - Chapter 217 of the Laws of 2024**

This law modifies the order in which candidates appear on the ballot. The offices listed must appear in order of precedence and, as applicable, in the following order, president and vice-president of the United States, governor and lieutenant governor, New York state comptroller, New York state attorney general, United States Senator, member of the house of representatives, New York state senator, member of the New York state assembly. Immediately following shall be all other offices in the customary order.

**Relates to prohibiting conflicts of interest among board of elections employees.**  
**A.1244-D (Jacobson)/S.612-D (Mayer) – Chapter 639 of the Laws of 2024**

This bill would prohibit Board of Elections employees from maintaining a financial interest in or be employed by a vendor or company that provides services to a candidate. The bill would also prohibit employees from remaining on the board of elections payroll while also a candidate for an office with an election overseen by that board.

**Relates to the compensation of election inspectors and coordinators.**  
**A.2565 (Colton)/S.136 (Krueger) - Reported to Ways and Means**

This bill would increase compensation for election inspectors and in the city of New York and increase compensation for required trainings for election inspectors and poll clerks.

**Relates to allowing pre-registered voters to apply for an absentee or early mail ballot.**  
**A.3250-A (Epstein)/S.6735-A (May) - Chapter 214 of the Laws of 2024**

This law allows pre-registered voters to request an absentee ballot or vote early by mail if they will be 18 at the time of the election for which the ballot is requested.

**Relates to requiring state and county boards of elections to post sample ballots.**  
**A.4062-A (Sillitti)/S.7426-A (Thomas) - Ordered to Third Reading**

This bill would require county boards of elections to transmit a sample ballot for all election districts within that county to the state board of elections, who would then post those ballots to their website. Each county board of elections that chooses to post their sample ballot must do so in a searchable database and must have an imbedded security tool.

**Relates to split shifts for election inspectors or poll clerks.**  
**A.6973-A (Glick)/No Same-As - Reported to Rules**

This bill would allow poll workers to work split shifts on Election Day.

**Relates to joining multistate voter list maintenance organizations.**  
**A.7052-C (Sillitti)/S.6173-B (Skoufis) - Ordered to Third Reading**

This bill would allow the State Board of Elections to join multistate voter list maintenance organizations and share certain information with those organizations.

**Relates to absentee ballot drop-off locations.**  
**A.7243 (Simone)/S.610 (Hoylman-Sigal) - Chapter 500 of the Laws of 2024**

This law allows local Boards of Elections to establish absentee ballot drop-off locations and direct the State Board of Elections to promulgate regulations for implementation.

**Relates to the dates to file a designating petition for Congress and party positions. A.9313 (Rivera)/S.8664 (Myrie) - Chapter 93 of the Laws of 2024**

This law changes the petitioning start date for Congressional offices in 2024 from February 27 to February 29.

**Relates to the transmission of the certificates of vote for the Electoral College.**  
**A.9409 (Wallace)/S.8464 (Skoufis) - Chapter 215 of the Laws of 2024**

This law requires the electors of the Electoral College to meet at a place decided by the secretary of state on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December. Requires immediate transmission of the certificate of votes to align with federal law.



**Relates to the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York.**  
**A.10357 Rules (Walker)/S.9687 (Myrie) - Chapter 216 of the Laws of 2024**

This law amends Chapter 226 of the Laws of 2022 which established the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York.

This legislation makes clarifying technical changes including authorizing the Civil Rights Bureau ("CRB") of the Office of the Attorney General to promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York ("NYVRA"). Clarifies the definition of "protected class" and certain provisions of the coverage formula determining which jurisdictions are subject to the NYVRA's preclearance requirements. The CRB must receive notification of certain actions relevant to administration of the NYVRA, including litigation that may trigger preclearance coverage for a jurisdiction and the commencement of proceedings under section 17-206(7). Jurisdictions covered under the preclearance formula are required to provide certain information to the CRB upon request. Additionally, this legislation clarifies certain procedural elements of proceedings under section 17-206(7) and amends provisions pertaining to deceptive or fraudulent devices, contrivances, or communications.

**Relates to materially deceptive media in political communications.**  
**A.10402-A (Otis)/S.9678-B (Gonzalez) - Chapter 169 of the Laws of 2024**

This law makes clarifying changes to subpart B of part MM of Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2024, which prohibits the use of deceptive media in political communications.

This law requires that a distributor or publisher has actual knowledge of the communication's material deceptiveness. This law allows materially deceptive media when the broadcaster clearly acknowledges that there are questions about the authenticity of the media. The law also creates an exception to broadcasting stations paid to broadcast an advertisement if the station or streaming service can show that it has disclaimer requirements that are consistent with the requirements in this bill and that it provided those disclaimer requirements to each person or entity that purchased the broadcast or streaming of the advertisement. The law also specifies that nothing set forth in the statute shall be construed to require an entity to edit or insert video or audio labels where such action is inconsistent with federal law.

**Relates to curing ballots. A.10541 (Zinerman)/S.9837 (Myrie)/Chapter 220 of the Laws of 2024**

This law requires the State Board of Elections to provide a voter with a postage paid envelope with the mailing of the affirmation form attesting to the ballot cure. The law allows a voter to return their completed affirmation form via email.

### **III. SFY 2024-2025 COMMITTEE BUDGET ACTION**

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2025 budget for the New York State Board of Elections provided an all-funds appropriation of \$163.4 million, an increase of \$5 million over what was proposed by the Executive. This appropriation included funds dedicated to payment of matching funds for the Public Campaign Fund Board Program, for the cost of pre-paid return postage related to the early voting program, for the purchase of electronic poll books, associated software and on demand ballot printers, voting machine examinations, additional FTEs related to a new poll worker training program and support for two additional FTEs to be accessibility coordinators for the ballots for visually impaired.

**APPENDIX A**

**SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS  
REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON**

Election Law

**TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 3**

**2024SUMMARY SHEET**

ASSEMBLY SENATE TOTAL  
BILLS BILLS BILLS

**BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLE TO:**

Codes	1	0	1
Judiciary	0	0	0
Ways and Means	3	0	3
Rules	4	0	4
Floor	2	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Held For Consideration	3	0	3
Defeated	0	0	0
Enacting Clause Stricken	9	0	9
<b>REMAINING IN COMMITTEE</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>296</b>

**BILLS REFERENCE CHANGED TO:**

**Ways and Means 3**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
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**APPENDIX B**  
**2024 CHAPTERS**

<b>CHAPTER NUMBER</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY BILL (SPONSOR)</b>	<b>SENATE BILL (SPONSOR)</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
93	A.9313 Rivera	S.8664 Myrie	Relates to the filing of designating petitions for Congress
169	A.10402 Rules (Otis)	S.9678B Gonzalez	Relates to materially deceptive media in political communications
214	A.3250A Epstein	S.6735A May	Relates to allowing pre-registered voters to apply for an absentee or early mail ballot
215	A.9409 Wallace	S.8464 Skoufis	Moves the date of the meeting of the electors and the method for the transmission of the certificates of vote
216	A.10357 Rules (Walker)	S.9678 Walker	Relates to the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York
217	A.725 Hunter	S.5943 Skoufis	Modifies the order in which candidates appear on the ballot
218	A.530A Weprin	S.6130A Parker	Provides that an attorney licensed to practice law in the state may serve as a poll watcher in any city or county in the state
220	A.10541 Zinerman	S.9837 Myrie	Relates to curing ballots
500	A.7243 Simone	S.610 Hoylman-Sigal	Authorizes boards of elections to establish absentee ballot drop off locations
639	A.1244D Jacobson	S.612D Mayer	Prohibits conflicts of interest among board of elections employees
655	A.494B Epstein	S.6199B Myrie	Relates to notifying candidates of designations for certain county committees