



ELECTION COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

2020-2021

Jason Schofield

President
Rensselaer County BOE
1600 Seventh Avenue
Troy, NY 12180

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky

First Vice-President
Rockland County BOE
11 New Hempstead Road
New City, NY 10956

Vicky Olin

Second Vice President
Steuben County BOE
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

Amy Hild

Third Vice President
Schenectady County BOE
2696 Hamburg Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

Jennie Bacon

Secretary-Treasurer
St Lawrence County BOE
80 State Highway 310
Canton, NY 13617
Phone: 315-379-2202
Fax: 315-386-2737

Darlene Harris

*Executive Committee
Chairperson*
Schenectady County BOE
2696 Hamburg Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

Jeremy Zellner

*Legislative Committee
Chairperson*
Erie County BOE
134 West Eagle Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dustin Czarny

*Democratic Caucus
Chairperson*
Onondaga County BOE
1000 Erie Blvd W
Syracuse NY 13204

Erik Haight

*Republican Caucus
Chairperson*
Dutchess County BOE
47 Cannon Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Joint tentative goals of Democratic & Republican Caucus to propose to NYSECA for Legislative agenda

- 1.) **Properly fund the State Board of Elections and give proper authority to accomplish all goals and responsibilities given to it in legislation.**
- 2.) **All commissioners have a four-year term.** This allows commissioners to be independent from their county committees for a period of time to allow them to grow into the job.
- 3.) **Minimum staffing requirements set by the State Board of Elections for full time permanent employees for each Board of Election.** As voter registration increases so does the amount of work. County Legislators and administrations may supplement Boards with extra staff if they desire but there should be minimal standards so every voter in every county can be assured of the same level of service
- 4.) **Require that the State Board create a statewide absentee ballot tracking system whereby county Board of elections to provide absentee data in near real time, but sync no later than once every 24 hours to enable voters to track the status of absentee application, BOE processing, ballot mailing to voter, ballot returned to BOE, cure issues, final disposition of the ballot, to name a few of the items needed.** This information should be readily available to the voters to track the status of their request and to make alternative arrangements if any issues are noted.
- 5.) **Set requirements in regards to canvassing absentee and provisional ballots received on or after Election Day with emphasis on timely canvassing to facilitate the counting of these ballots as soon as possible.** Standardized process will benefit all boards with detailed procedures and expectations.
- 6.) **Encourage the legislature to run a pilot on ballot access for the 2021 designating petition process.** With Covid-19 increasing our current petition process in March could be problematic for sending volunteers door to door. The legislature should either authorize A.) County parties to have direct ballot access for their designees, B.) Registration fees collected by the county or state board BOE as a substitute for petitions, or c.) a reduction to 30% normal signature requirement. A combination or all three methods would be acceptable as well.
- 7.) **Move the absentee ballot application receipt deadline from 7 days before Election Day to 15 days before when the voter is requesting the ballot be sent by mail.** In-person requests for absentee ballots may continue through COB the day before Election Day. Also, establish in statute that all absentee ballots shall be transmitted to the voter as soon as practical after the candidates and proposals are certified 54 days before the election or no later than 46 days before the election. After that original transmission, all other absentees should be transmitted as soon as practical but no later than 4 business days after the board received the application. If the application is incomplete, the rejection notice is transmitted within that time period.
- 8.) **Enact legislation to designate Election Day a non-student-attendance day.**
- 9.) **Amend Section 4-100-3(a) to amend the voter limits in each election district. Move from the current 1,150 voters per ED to not to exceed 2,250.**
- 10.) **Enact Legislation authorizing the issuance of absentee ballots on Election Day when commissioners agree that health related exigent circumstances arising on or immediately prior to Election Day create a hardship**
- 11.) **Enact legislation giving commissioners flexibility on determining hours of operation of Board of Elections independent from individual counties**