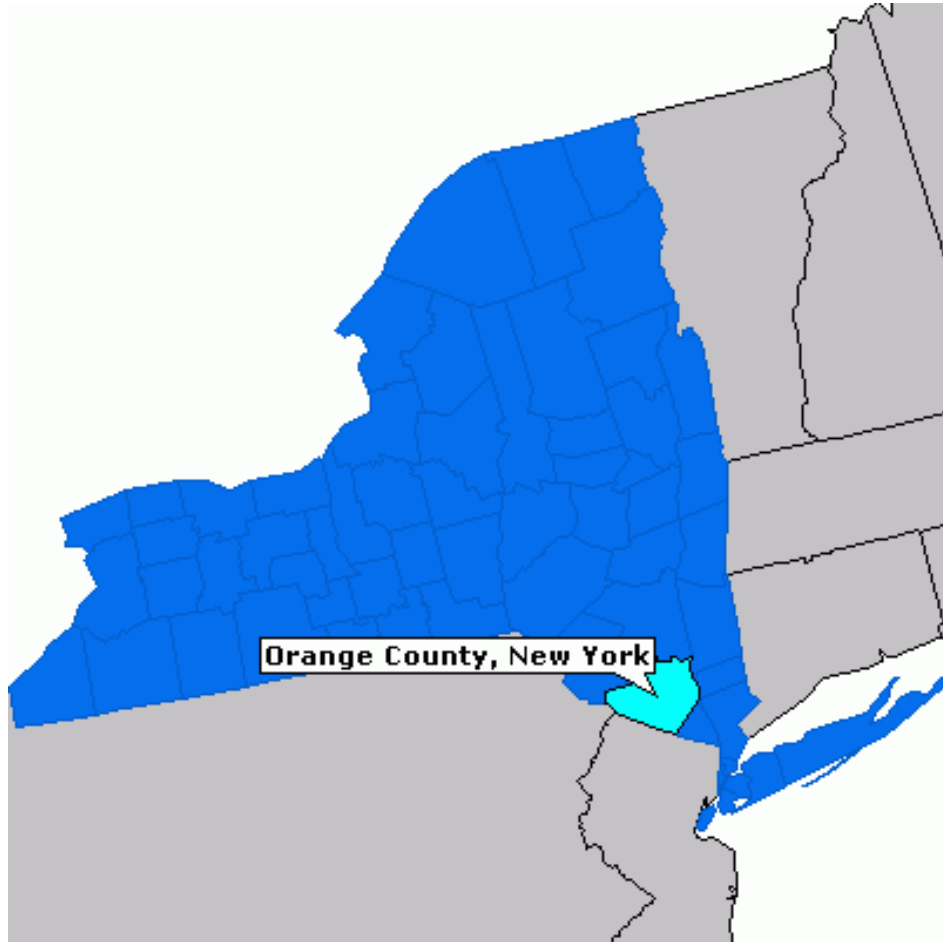


Early Voting and Election Reforms

NYSAC Conference September 16, 2019

David Green, Commissioner of Elections

Orange County, NY



Orange County

- ▶ Population: 372,829 (2018)
- ▶ Area: 839 sq. miles
- ▶ Founded: 1683
- ▶ County Seat: Goshen
- ▶ Municipalities: 3 cities, 21 towns



Orange County Board of Elections

- ▶ Total active registered voters: 221,093
- ▶ Total budget for 2019: \$3,099,248
- ▶ Staffing: 18 Full Time
4 Part Time
2 Contractual
- ▶ Per Diem Poll Workers: 2,183

2019 ELECTION LAW LEGISLATION

50 individual election reform proposals passed through the NYS legislature in 2019.

23 Chapter Laws have been approved.

27 other proposals passed both the NYS Senate and awaiting transmittal to the Executive Offices for consideration.

Consolidation of Federal
and State Primaries (2019)

Time Allowed For
Employees to Vote (2019)

Same Day Voter
Registration (2022)

Online Voter Registration (2021)

NYS Election Reform Legislation

Pre-Registration of
16 Year Olds (2020)



Electronic Poll Books (GE9)

Universal Transfer of Voter
Registration Records (2019)

Early Voting (2019)

No Excuse Vote By Mail (2022)

On Demand Ballot Printing (GE19)

Same Day Voter Registration Constitutional Amendment

The NYS Constitution requires that voter registration be completed at least 10 days before each election.

Under current law, a voter registration application postmarked 25 days before the primary, general or special election and received at least 20 days before such election or delivered in person to the county board of elections at least 10 days before a special election entitles the applicant to vote in that election.

This concurrent resolution would amend the constitution to remove the ten-day constitutional requirement, thereby allowing the Legislature to enact a same-day registration law by amending the deadline referenced above in current law.

As a constitutional amendment, this concurrent resolution must pass both houses of the Legislature in two consecutive sessions (for example, in 2019 and in 2021) and win approval through a statewide voter referendum. This would be the first passage of the constitutional amendment.

“No Excuse” /Vote By Mail Constitutional Amendment

The NYS Constitution allows the legislature to enact laws enabling absentee voting but requires the voter to be absent from their county of residence (or NYC) or be unable to vote in person due to illness or physical disability in order to cast an absentee ballot.

What This Bill Does This concurrent resolution amends the constitution to remove those requirements and allow the legislature to provide by law for any manner of voting.

As a constitutional amendment, this concurrent resolution must be passed by two consecutive, separately elected legislatures (e.g. in 2019 and 2021) and be approved by statewide voter referendum. This would be the amendment's first passage in the legislature. Furthermore, after the amendment is approved, New York's election laws would need to be updated to provide no excuse absentee voting or other methods of voting.

Universal Transfer of Voter Registration Records

Under the old election law voters who move from one county to another within the state, were prohibited from voting from their new address on Election Day, unless they update their voter registration by the applicable deadline.

The bill amended the election law to allow a voter who moves anywhere within the State to vote in his or her new election district. Boards of elections would automatically transfer registrations for such a voter, as they currently do for voters who move within their county or within the City of New York. Affidavit ballots would be verified using the statewide voter file.

Consolidation of Federal and State Primaries

New York State's primary was held in June until 1974, when it was changed to the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September. In 2018, New York was the only state to hold separate federal and state primaries.

New York State's election law regarding military and overseas voters did not comply with the 45-day absentee ballot delivery requirement codified in the federal MOVE Act. The bill conformed state election law to the federal requirements, while also establishing a state primary election day the fourth Tuesday in June that coincided with the 2018 federal non-presidential primary day which has been fixed by U.S. District Court Judge Gary Sharpe in the case of *The United States of America v. State of New York*.

The bill amended every provision in the election law that fixes specific dates pertaining to running for office in order to conform those provisions to a deadline and due date scheme that accommodates a primary election in June rather than September.

Electoral calendar date changes include designating and independent petition deadlines, polling place designation, judicial convention dates, official voter enrollment list, filing dates of acceptances/declinations and certificates to fill vacancies.

Early Voting

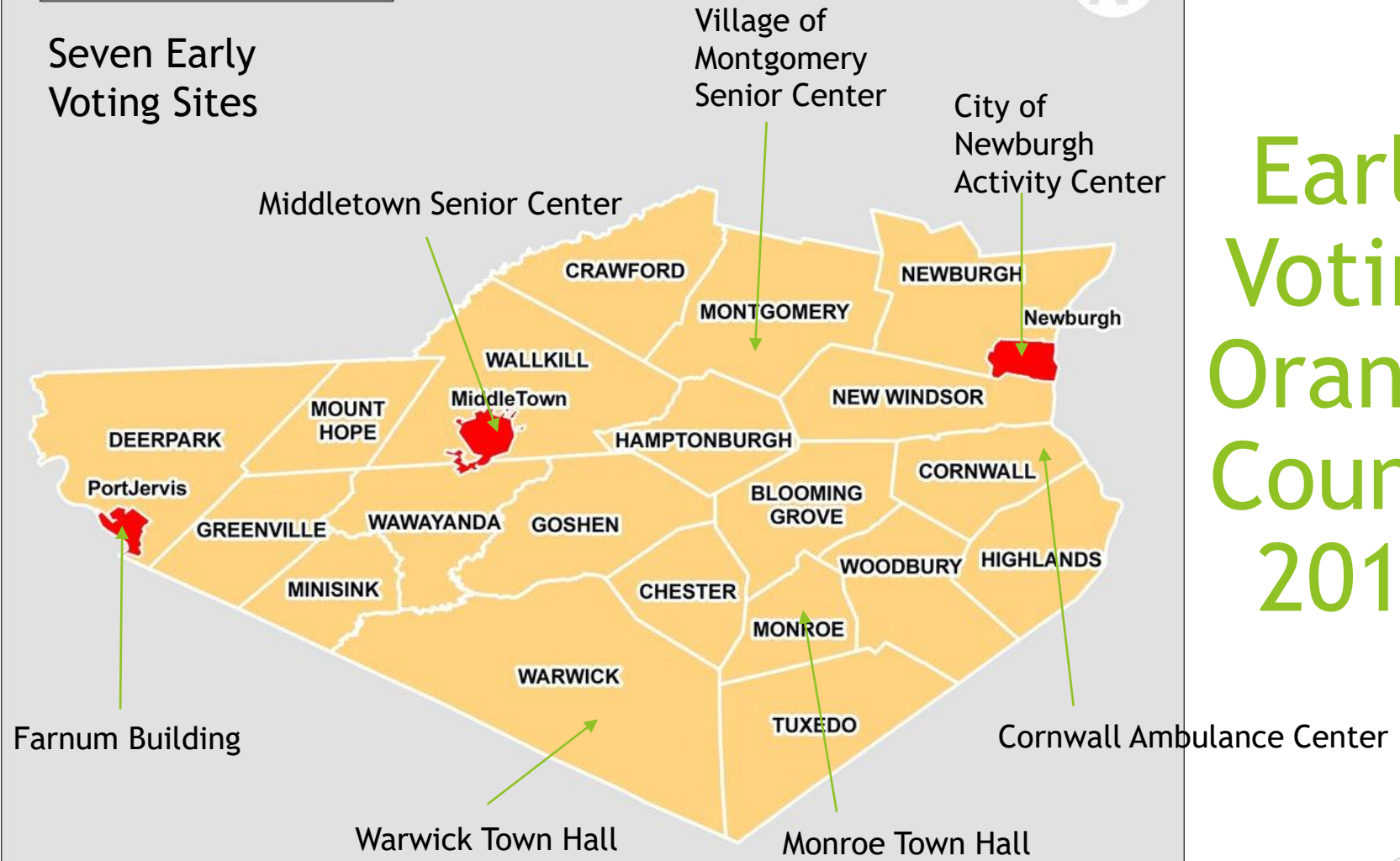
At least one polling location would have to be made available with additional locations, up to seven, for each 50,000 registered voters in each respective county. Local boards could always establish more than seven sites and a board of elections office can qualify as an early voting location.

Polling locations must be open to accommodate early voting beginning two full weekends prior to any special, primary, or general elections and staffed equally on a bipartisan basis.

Early voting would conclude the second day prior to any election. Polls would have to be open for at least 8 hours between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. each weekday during the early voting period. At least one polling place shall remain open until 8 p.m. on at least two weekdays in each calendar week during the early voting period. On weekends, polls would be required to remain open for at least 5 hours between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on each Saturday, Sunday, and legal holidays during the early voting period.

Orange County

Seven Early Voting Sites



Early Voting Orange County 2019



When: Saturday, October 26th to
Sunday, November 3rd
8 hours weekdays, 5 hours weekends

Where to Vote: Nine Regional Early Voting Sites Across the County

City of Newburgh Activity Center: Newburgh (City & Town), New Windsor

Cornwall Ambulance Building: Cornwall, Highlands, Woodbury, Blooming Grove

Middletown Senior Center: Middletown, Wawayanda, Wallkill

Warwick Town Hall: Warwick, Goshen, Chester, Tuxedo

Village of Montgomery Senior Center: Montgomery, Crawford, Hamptonburgh

Farnum Building: Port Jervis, Deerpark, Greenville, Mount Hope, Minisink

Monroe Town Hall: Monroe, Palm Tree

Plan in Orange County

- ▶ Electronic Poll Books:

NYS Board of Elections certified four electronic poll books systems. One vendor withdrew their system. The NYS Office of General Services has contracted with the remaining three vendors.

Tenex Software Solutions

Knowink

Robis

Orange County is purchasing Microsoft I pads through Verizon Wireless. Orange County will purchase the poll book software from Tenex.

Data uploads to the Board of Elections will be cellular phone service. Cellular service provides better security, increased reliability and greater inspector ease over wifi connectivity or hotspots in the poll site.

14 electronic poll books will be for early voting.

325 Electronic Poll Books will be used in the General Election.



Plan in Orange County

- ▶ Ballot on Demand Printers:

One Oki Ballot on Demand Printer will be dedicated to each Electronic Poll Book used for Early Voting.

Each Electronic Poll Book will communicate to the printer via Bluetooth.

325 Ballot on Demand Printers will be used in the General Election.

Election Reform eliminated the requirement for use of color printing of party colors in Primary Elections.





PROJECT FUNDING

Local grant contracts established by the NYS Board of Elections to reimburse County Boards of Elections for cost related to early voting or purchase of electronic poll books and/or ballot on demand printer systems.

\$14 million appropriated in the Capital Budget for electronic poll books and ballot on demand systems. Each county will receive \$15 thousand per planned site with the remainder of the funding to be distributed based on enrollment.

\$10 million appropriated in the Aid to Localities budget for expenses related to conducting early voting in 2019. State Budget language requires the Director of the Division of Budget to approve the grant values.

Capital Asset Budget - Orange County

Tenex Software Solutions (325 units)	\$287,960.00
Includes Software License, Training, blue tooth receipt printers, carrying case, flip & share stand	
Verizon Wireless - ePoll Books (325 units)	\$68,246.75
Other Capital Assets	<u>\$312,060.00</u>
Ballot on Demand Printer Bags, Oki Ballot Printers, Back-up batteries for ePoll Books and Ballot on Demand Printers, iPad Charging Carts.	
TOTAL	\$668,266.75
Funding Source:	
Capital Project Grant	\$293,891.00
Localities Grant Program	\$220,713.00
Orange County	<u>\$153,662.75</u>
TOTAL	\$668,266.75