

2019 EARLY VOTING AND ELECTION REFORMS: THE LAWS THAT TRANSFORMED NEW YORK'S ELECTORAL PROCESS.

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**OUR GOAL:
ENSURE EVERY
ELIGIBLE VOTER
HAS UNFETTERED
ACCESS TO THE
POLLS.**

- ▶ **Early Voting**
- ▶ **Consolidated Federal and State/Local Primary in June.**
- ▶ **Universal Registration Transfers.**
- ▶ **Pre-Registration of 16 & 17 year olds.**
- ▶ **LLC Loophole closed.**
- ▶ **Constitutional process begins for**
 1. **No Excuse Absentee Voting**
 2. **Same Day Voter Registration**



**HAPPY NEW
YEAR: JANUARY
2019 USHERS IN
SIGNIFICANT
VOTING
REFORMS**



EARLY VOTING IN NEW YORK

- ▶ New York joins 38 other states and Washington DC.
- ▶ Law provides for 9 days of early voting prior to every Primary, Special, or General Election.
- ▶ New York's Early Voting Law includes two weekends and will begin on the tenth day prior to each election and end on the Sunday before each election.
- ▶ Early Voting begins with the November 5, 2019 General Election.



EARLY VOTING HOURS

- ▶ Hours for early voting: Minimum of 8 hours on weekdays and 5 hours on the weekends.
- ▶ At least two weekday nights must remain open after hours, until 8PM.
- ▶ Issue: County hours vary. What if counties share a media area? Will voters be confused by different hours in different counties?
- ▶ Should we think about uniform hours in the future? For example: Hudson Valley counties coordinate hours.



EARLY VOTING POLL SITES: VOTE CENTERS VS. TRADITIONAL POLL SITES

- ▶ Counties are required to have 1 early voting site for every 50,000 voters.
- ▶ The law encourages vote centers, allowing all county voters to vote at all sites. Counties can limit voters geographically if it is impracticable to open vote centers.
- ▶ Electronic Poll Books are necessary for Vote Centers. Traditional paper poll books require regional centers. We cannot have multiple poll books.



- ▶ **Vote Centers: Voters do not need to identify by Election District.**
- ▶ **Chapter 55 Part XX of the Laws of 2019: authorized Electronic Poll Books.**
- ▶ **Chapter 63 of the Laws of 2019: authorized On Demand Ballots.**
- ▶ **Eventually, this will lead to cost savings. We will be able to move to ballot on demand and eliminate waste.**
- ▶ **Transition to Vote Centers for all Elections. May cut down on poll sites and other costs.**

E-POLL BOOKS AND BALLOT ON DEMAND



ROCKLAND EARLY VOTING HOURS

- ▶ Saturday, October 26, 2019 From 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- ▶ Sunday, October 27, 2019 From 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- ▶ Monday, October 28, 2019 From 12 Noon to 8:00 PM
- ▶ Tuesday, October 29, 2019 From 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- ▶ Wednesday, October 30, 2019 From 12 Noon to 8:00 PM
- ▶ Thursday, October 31, 2019 From 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- ▶ Friday, November 1, 2019 From 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- ▶ Saturday, November 2, 2019 From 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- ▶ Sunday, November 3, 2019 From 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM



2 late nights



UNIFORM PRIMARY AND CALENDAR CHANGES



- ▶ Moved the State and Local Primary from September to June.
- ▶ Prior to 2019, New York was the only state to have separate primaries for Federal Offices and State and Local Offices.
- ▶ The September Primary was the latest in the nation and was in violation of the MOVE (Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act) for over a decade.
- ▶ The benefits:
 1. Cost. The consolidation will save up to \$25 Million State Wide.
 2. Voter Fatigue. Turnout is always an issue. We want more voters to participate. They do not understand multiple primaries.



- ▶ Well, we don't have to worry about soaring temps during petitioning! Petitioning shifted from June to Late February. Tip: Bring extra pens. The ink freezes!
- ▶ More space between the Primary and the General Election.
- ▶ Additional time to register voters.

**THE 2019 POLITICAL CALENDAR:
CHANGE, CHANGE, CHANGE!**

- ▶ Universal Transfers took effect on *March 25, 2019*.
- ▶ Recognizes a State Wide system for registration.
- ▶ Eliminates the need to re-register when crossing county lines.
- ▶ Registration is now portable: party enrollment, voter history, and address changes move with the voter.
- ▶ Affidavit ballots will be easier to process from county to county. More Affidavit ballots will be valid.



**UNIVERSAL TRANSFERS: YOUR VOTER
REGISTRATION AND PARTY AFFILIATION
MOVE WITH YOU!**

PRE-REGISTRATION OF 16 & 17 YEAR OLDS

- ▶ Effective January 1, 2020. New York joins 18 other states to allow pre-registrations.
- ▶ Allows Board of Elections to accept registrations from citizens who are least 16 years of age. Current law: 17 year olds who turn 18 within the calendar year can pre-register.
- ▶ Registrations are kept in inactive status until they turn 18.
- ▶ Eliminates first barrier for young person to register and now DMV and social agencies can register them.
- ▶ Captures 16 year old new drivers.

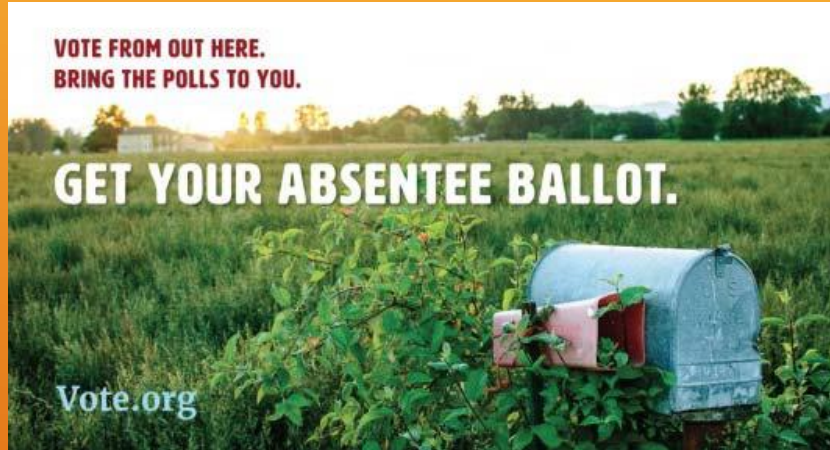


MONEY, MONEY, MONEY: THE INFAMOUS LLC LOOPHOLE



- ▶ Treats LLCs the same as Corporations.
- ▶ Previously, LLC were treated as individuals, with a higher contribution limit than corporations.
- ▶ LLCs are:
 - Limited to an aggregate \$5,000 annual contribution limit.
 - LLC contributions are attributed to each member in proportion to the member's ownership interest.
 - Required to file a yearly statement of identity of all direct and indirect owners.

FIRST STEPS: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

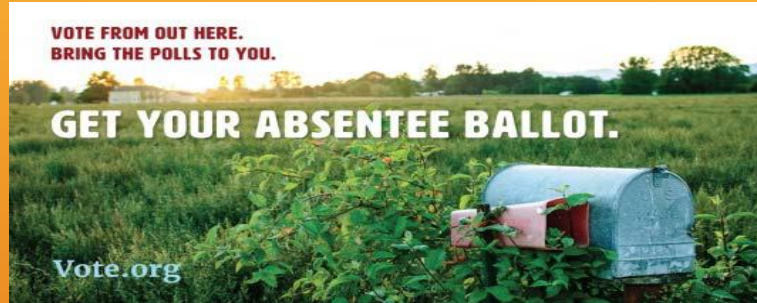


No Fault Absentee

Same Day Registration

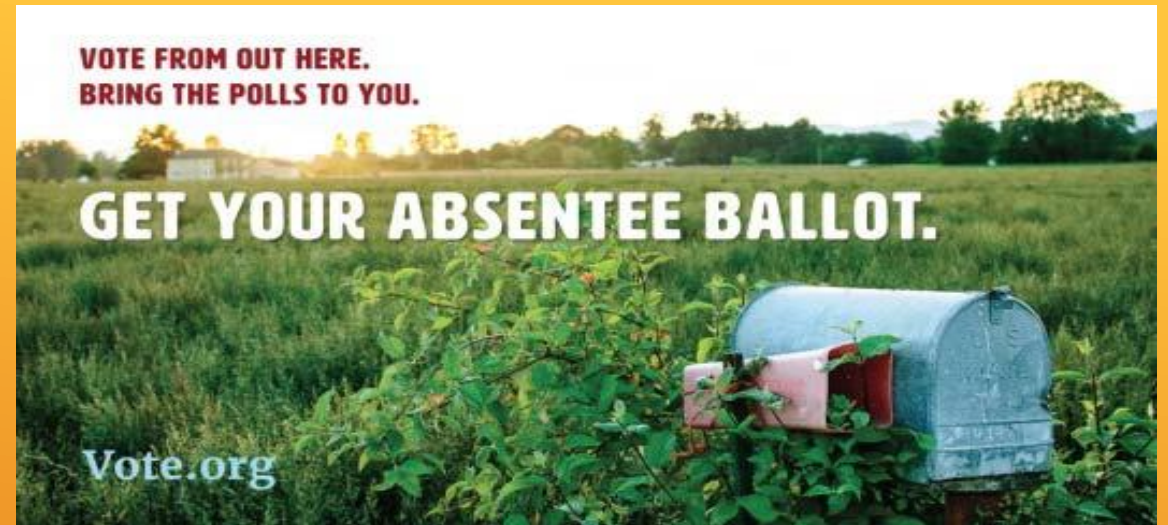


FIRST STEPS: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS



- ▶ Both are New York State Constitutional Amendments.
- ▶ Amendments must pass two separate legislatures: passed 2019, will need to pass again in 2021.
- ▶ After passing two legislatures, the amendments will need to go before the voters via referendum.
- ▶ Cannot take effect until 2022.

NO FAULT ABSENTEES



- ▶ Removes the excuse from absentee voting.
- ▶ Current Law: Voters must fall within one of six categories.
- ▶ 30 States and Washington DC have No-Fault Absentee voting.



ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN 2019

- ▶ Time off for Employees to Vote: 3 hours.
- ▶ Uniform Primary Hours: Begins in 2020. 6AM-9PM throughout NYS.
- ▶ Online Voter Registration. Chapter 55 Part CCC. Requires research and funding for State Board of Elections.
- ▶ Special Ballots may be mailed to victims of domestic violence.

PENDING LEGISLATION



- ▶ County Boards must publish local office contribution limits on the county website.
- ▶ Arrow to indicate two-sided ballot.
- ▶ Eliminate duplicate financial filings (county and state).
- ▶ Voter Friendly Ballot Act.
- ▶ Presidential Primary Date.
- ▶ Changes Inspector Special Ballots: May be mailed the same time as Regular absentees.
- ▶ Ward, Town, City or County Committee races on absentee ballots.

PENDING LEGISLATION



- ▶ **Affidavit Ballot Substantial Compliance.**
- ▶ **Committee to Receive Notices: Members must file acceptance.**
- ▶ **Special Election Notice.**
- ▶ **Independent Body Name: Cannot be changed.**
- ▶ **Political Communication Disclosure.**
- ▶ **Poll Site Staff Plan.**

PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- ▶ **Commission Established.**
- ▶ **First meeting last week.**
- ▶ **May address Fusion Voting.**





FUNDING

- ▶ **Capital Grant Program: \$14 Million**
- ▶ **Aid to Localities Grant: \$10 Million**
- ▶ **Cost considerations:**
 - scanners (life).
 - maintenance agreements.
 - additional costs.



FUNDING

- ▶ We need a real conversation about how we fund elections.
- ▶ Strain on counties.
- ▶ Chargebacks to towns.

VOTING = VOICE

- ▶ Change is always challenging. We want to facilitate voting and increase turnout.
- ▶ Success requires cooperation across election professionals, counties, towns, and other municipalities.

