The Implementation of Early Voting

In New York State

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The State Board of Elections was established in the Executive Department June 1, 1974 as a bipartisan agency vested with the responsibility for administration and enforcement of all laws relating to elections in New York State. The State Board is also responsible for regulating campaign finance disclosure and limitations and administering the Fair Campaign Code intended to govern campaign practices. In conducting these wide-ranging responsibilities, the State Board offers assistance to county election boards. In addition to the regulatory and enforcement responsibilities the board is charged with the preservation of citizen confidence in the democratic process and enhancement of voter participation in elections.

Chapter 6 of the Laws of 2019 created early voting in New York State. It provides that for every primary, special or general election, there shall be nine days of early voting ahead of election day. Early voting was enacted on January 24, 2019, and had an effective date that provided that it would first apply to the general election held on November 5, 2019, and to any general, primary, run-off primary or special election held thereafter. Early Voting does not apply to village elections conducted by the board of elections on a date other than the date of the November General Election nor does it apply to village elections conducted pursuant to Article 15 of the Election Law.

This report will detail the following areas of early voting:
- Voter Outreach
- Poll Site Designation
- Poll Site Hours
- Voting Integrity
- Turnout
- Budget
- Grant Funding
- E-Poll Books
- Security
- Moving Forward

To implement the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Laws of 2019, the State Board adopted four regulations: Part 6210.10 – Relative to Ballot Accountability; Part 6210.8 – Relative to Audit Status for Early Voting; Part 6210.9 – Relative to Number of Machines/Privacy Booths for Early Voting; and Part 6211 – Relative to Early Voting. A copy of Chapter 6 of the Laws of 2019 and each regulation is provided in Appendix A.
Voter Outreach

County Boards of Elections worked diligently in their outreach to residents, voters and community organizations. County Boards of Elections promoted early voting in many different manners in an attempt to broaden outreach efforts.

State Law requires each Board of Elections between 65 days and 70 days before the June primary in each year, to mail to each voter a notice listing the days and hours of the primary, general election and early voting periods. Boards may also provide early voting times and location information by having a website and phone number printed on the notice. All County Boards of Elections provided early voting sites and hours on their webpage.

Outreach was also conducted by County Boards through posting information on their websites, and/or through social media such as Facebook and Twitter, holding new technology demonstrations at the State and local fairs, holding community outreach meetings to local groups, and by hosting open office meetings for the public and media to discuss early voting and electronic poll books.

Each County Board was required to create a communication plan to inform eligible voters of the opportunity to vote early. The plan could include the use media outlets and social media. It was required to: publicize the location and dates of all early voting polling sites, an indication of whether each polling place is accessible for voters with physical disabilities, a clear notice to voters that if they cast a vote during early voting that they may not vote on election day, if polling places for early voting are limited to voters from certain areas, the location of polling places for early voting that serve voters of particular cities, towns or other subdivisions. Communications plans are required to be filed annually by June 1st of each year with the State Board. Every County Board of Elections submitted a communications plan.
Media across New York State contributed greatly to voter outreach. The counties worked with local media to create coverage of early voting prior to and during early voting that was unprecedented and widespread.

**Early Voting Site Designation**

The Early Voting statute required a minimum of 147 sites to be designated. In 2019, there were 248 early voting sites designated throughout New York State. Of the 58 local boards of elections, only four (4) – Albany, New York City, Orange and Westchester assigned voters to specific early voting centers. Albany utilized a hybrid model enabling any voter in the County to visit the County Board site to vote. The other fifty-four (54) County Boards of Elections implemented countywide early voting, meaning a voter could vote at any early voting site in the County.

Section 8-600 (2)(a) of the Election Law puts forth requirements for polling site designation. There are requirements to have at least one early voting polling place for every full increment of 50,000 registered voters in each county, provided that a county is not required to have more than seven and not less than one. Nothing prohibits a Board from opening more early voting sites than required. The minimum number of sites, in a primary or special election, can be reduced by a full vote of the County Board, if the County Board determines a lesser number of sites is sufficient to meet the needs of eligible voters. This would be utilized, for example, if there were primary on a minor party line and that minor party had a handful of people registered in the party. Consolidating such sites would help to preserve the privacy of the voter.

Polling sites must be located so that voters in the county have access, taking into account population density, travel time to the site, proximity to other sites, public transportation routes, commuter traffic patterns and any other factors that County Boards deems appropriate. Poll site designations must occur by May 1st for a general election and no later than 45 days before a primary or special election.

Of the 58 Boards of Elections:

- 30 Counties maintained one early voting site;
- 4 Counties maintained two early voting sites;
- 6 Counties maintained three early voting sites;
- 2 Counties maintained four early voting sites;
- 1 County maintained five early voting sites;
- 1 County maintained six early voting sites;
- 3 Counties maintained seven early voting sites;
- 1 County maintained eight early voting sites;
- 2 Counties maintained nine early voting sites;
- 2 Counties maintained ten early voting sites;
- 1 County maintained fourteen early voting sites;
- 1 County maintained fifteen early voting sites;
- 1 County maintained seventeen early voting sites;
- 1 County maintained twenty-five early voting sites;
- 1 County maintained thirty-seven early voting sites;
- and 1 County maintained sixty-one early voting sites.

The State Board recognizes that of any topic, poll site designation, will be in the forefront of conversation for many election cycles. The Election Law, section 8-600(2)(1), sets minimum site requirements and flexibility for Boards to put sites in areas that fit their community.

Poll site designations made headlines in 2019. Initial county board decisions on both the number of sites as well as the location of sites will be considered to determine how to provide future early voting services. This is something the County Boards will have to review as they select sites for 2020 Presidential Primary in April, the regular primary in June and the November general election. One issue that also came to the forefront was the citing of early voting sites at public schools. With the need to provide security and educational space versus the increased number of early voting days for 2020 (it will be 27 which is up from 9 this year) the discussion on locating such sites in schools will increase. Currently the Election Law requires Boards to select sites at are accessible to the disabled. Public Schools meet that requirement. The Election Law also enables County and City Boards to utilize State or County funded buildings. County Boards were not provided with appropriation to rent private space to implement early voting and rely on this section of the Election Law.
The 2019 initial roll out of early voting provided valuable information to which to build on in 2020. The State Board would recommend working with the County Boards and refrain from enacting sweeping legislative changes requiring or limiting any public space from being used as poll sites. The more legislation around what can or cannot be used will drastically reduce the flexibility needed by County Boards when citing early voting sites. County Boards need to find rooms that can accommodate their population needs, that are accessible to all populations and have dedicated access to the room and provided security for the room, voting equipment and ballots for nine days of early voting. In 2020, there will be a minimum of 27 days of early voting. Do not restrict the County Board’s flexibility from finding sites. The State Board would advocate another year to monitor the designation of poll sites prior to legislative action.

**Early Voting Hours**

Chapter 6 of the Laws of 2019 (section 8-600 (4)) set specific requirements for how County Boards must set their sixty hours of early voting but also provided Counties with flexibility on setting the hours. The Statute requires:

- (a) early voting poll sites to be open for early voting at least eight hours between seven o’clock in the morning and eight o’clock in the evening each weekday during early voting;
- (b) at least one polling place for early voting shall remain open until 8 pm in the evening on at least two weekdays in each calendar week during early voting;
- (c) early voting poll sites to be open for at least five hours between 9 am and 6pm in the evening on each Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday during early voting; and
- (d) nothing to limit a Board from being open a greater number of hours beyond the sixty required hours.

A minimum of sixty (60) hours of early voting was required by law. Of the 248 sites, 113 were open for sixty (60) hours. 135 sites were open for more than sixty (60) hours. The average poll site was open for 65.7 hours.
Providing sixty hours of early voting provided great opportunity and flexibility to the voter. It provided County Boards with the flexibility to best address their constituency by setting hours that best meet local needs. On the other side, having neighboring counties setting different hours was somewhat confusing for voters to navigate, especially for those who reside in a media market covering multiple jurisdictions. Recognizing that, some County Boards coordinated hours among their counties. Specifically, Albany, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington Counties set the same daily hours for uniformity issues.

In 2019, the only State races on the ballot that crossed county lines were for Supreme Court Justice. In 2020, there will be Congressional, State Senate and Assembly races on the ballot. Differing poll sites between counties within a particular congressional, senate or assembly district may lead to voter confusion.

In addition, for the general election, a number of counties revised early voting hours for October 31st as it was Halloween. The revision was to close poll sites, under the advice of local public safety offices, at an earlier time. Along the same lines, the last weekend of early voting occurred during the change from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time adding an issue for County Boards.

The State Board does not have a specific recommendation but does recognize that that issue of standardization of polling place hours would be consistent with the uniform hours for voting in
all primary, general and special elections, but also this must also be considered in light of the competing needs of uniformity and flexibility.

While addressing increased access to voting, the legislature made uniform primary election day hours across the State to be 6 am to 9 pm. The extension of primary day hours while adding nine days of early voting may add to local responsibility with regards to budgeting and poll worker staffing. Fifteen hours of open poll sites plus opening and closing of polls, and the reporting of election night results equates to a minimum of an 18-hour workday.

Another election reform enacted into law was providing all registered voters with up to three hours off from their job, without loss of pay, to allow a person to vote on election day. The State Board posted a new notice and “Frequently Asked Questions” on this topic. Even with the published information, our Public Information Office fielded a large number of calls from registered voters seeking clarity on how to request the time and if there are penalties in doing so. A large number of school districts and private employers also inquired to the requirement to grant all registered voters with time off and how they would both staff and verify that the employee did in fact vote.

**Voting Integrity**

**State Board of Elections – Regulatory Authority** Section 8-602 of the Election Law provides the State Board with regulatory authority to oversee procedures that (1) ensure ballots cast early, are counted and canvassed as if cast on election day (2) ensure an efficient and fair early voting process that respects the privacy of the voter, and (3) require the voting history record for each voter to be continually updated to reflect each instance of early voting by such voter. The State Board is in the process of reviewing statutory and regulatory requirements with an eye toward standardizing time requirements to synchronize, as applicable, and to streamline certifications required of County Boards of Elections.

**Voting wait times cannot be more than 30 minutes.** New York State Election Law requires that each Board must assign staff and resources to ensure a voter’s wait time at an early voting site, as well as on election day, cannot exceed thirty minutes. Early voting data from both NYSBOE reviews of early voting sites, and metric information as provided to us by each Board, demonstrate that this standard was effectively met.

**Ensuring One Vote Per Election.** Each County Board of Elections conducted nine days of early voting starting on October 26, 2019 and ending on Sunday, November 3, 2019. Each County Board of Elections submitted a procedure to the State Board of Elections ensuring that those persons who early vote cannot subsequently vote in the same election. Every County is required to provide a procedure to the State Board of Elections for approval. All County Boards of Elections met that requirement.
The Canvass of Early Voting Ballots. Voting at early voting sites shall be conducted in the same manner as election day with exception to the tabulation and proclamation of election results. Section 8-600 (8) provides that at the end of each day of early voting, any early voting ballots that have not been scanned shall be secured until after the close of polls on election day. All ballots and scanners used for early voting shall be secured through the close of polls on election day.

The State Board of Elections, through regulation, required each County Board of Elections to file a procedure detailing how early voting results will not be canvassed until after 8 pm and results kept confidential until 9 pm on Election Night. All County Boards of Elections filed the procedure with the State Board.

Unofficial Early Voting Counts. Every County Board of Elections is required to provide the unofficial number of machine voters to the State Board of Elections at the close of each day of early voting. The State Board compiled and shared this information with County Boards, advocacy groups and the media to report on daily early voting reporting trends. All County Boards met this requirement.

Turnout

Unofficial machine election results show that approximately 2.98 million ballots were cast on ballot scanners in the November 5, 2019 general election representing out of 12,869,977 total registered voters (11,783,911 Active and 1,086,066 Inactive). Of the 2.98 million, 256,251 cast their votes on ballot scanners during the early voting period. The unofficial machine election results do not include absentee and affidavit ballots as of the date of this hearing, they are still being canvassed.

Attached as Part F of the appendix is a table showing the preliminary, unofficial election turnout comparison by county and the day-by-day early voting turnout. We’ve also included columns showing the number of votes cast during the 2015 election for comparison.
Early Voting Turnout

Budget and Resources

The State Board is in routine contact with each of the State’s 62 county boards of elections. Since every political subdivision of New York State relies on the advice and expertise of the personnel at the State Board, staff must be accessible and well-trained to ensure that the impact the Agency has on the public is a positive one. Since 1974, the scope of the State Board’s services has expanded from an advisory capacity to one that is more interactive, collaborative and proactive.

In 2019, the Election Law saw the most changes since its recodification in 1976. Fifty (50) bills passed both houses of the State Legislature. The State Board is ready to implement these chapters which will require significant software upgrades and sufficient resource support.

Related to early voting, the State Board was required to develop procedures to ensure orderly administration and accurate recordkeeping to ensure the integrity of the electoral process. Further, upgrades to the statewide voter registration list (NYSVoter) are required to provide for new fields and values to indicate a voter voted early. In relation to electronic poll books, the State Board is required to evaluate and approve different e-poll books and vendors, as well as promulgate regulations and evaluate security standards for e-poll books in order to preserve election security. Each of these initiatives carries an operational impact and most will require
development of new systems, or significant enhancements to existing systems, to support them.

The SFY 2019/20 budget did not provide the State Board with any additional resources to implement the various election reforms enacted in 2019. In fact, the State Board of Elections incurred eleven (11) line item vetoes to its State Operations budget, reducing the NYSBOE reappropriation authority by $1,197,000.

**Early Voting Grant Funding**

As part of the New York State Budget, enacted on April 12, 2019, New York State created two grant programs to reimburse County Boards of Elections for some of the cost incurred by implementing the early voting mandate.

$14.7 million dollars was allocated in a Capital Grant program and made available to local boards of elections for the reimbursement of eligible expenses related to the use of e-poll books, on-demand ballot printer systems, and related cybersecurity software. $14 million directly reimbursed County Boards utilizing a formula that provided $15,000 per poll site and the remainder of the funding to be distributed based on enrollment. $700,000 was set aside for the State Board to utilize for State testing of e-poll book systems and the implementation of cybersecurity software to benefit all County Boards. Grant paperwork was finalized by SBOE and the Office of General Services and provided to each County on July 22, 2019.

To date, 52 capital grant contracts have been received (90%), 46 of which were approved by the Office of State Comptroller and sent back to each County Board. Two claims for payment have been submitted.

Yates County was the first county to submit a claim for payment under the Capital Grant fund program. The County had $32,557 in e-poll book system and on demand printer costs and were afforded $26,419 in Capital Grant funds. Yates purchased 24 Robis e-poll books and one on-demand ballot printer.

$10 million in Aid to Localities was appropriated to be made available to local boards of elections for the reimbursement of eligible expenses related to the implementation of early voting under the approval of the Division of Budget (DOB). On June 5, 2019, the State Board provided DOB with a county grant allocation plan and requested DOB’s approval. DOB approved access to all $10 million on August 29, 2019. Grant paperwork was finalized by SBOE and the Offices of General Services and provided to each County on September 20, 2019. Eligible county costs include, but are not limited to, renting early voting space, hiring of temporary staff, training staff, temporary poll site improvements, voter outreach, and the purchase of equipment for early voting.
To date, 32 Aid to Localities contracts have been received (55%), 2 of which were approved by the Office of State Comptroller and sent back to each County Board. No claim for payment has yet been submitted to the State Board.

**Implementation of Electronic Poll Books**

Part XX of Chapter 55 of the New York Laws of 2019 allowed for the use of Electronic Poll Book Systems (EPBS) in New York State during elections. Electronic poll books allow a County Board to use a digital version of the poll book in lieu of the traditional paper poll book. In that legislation, the State Board was tasked with developing and promulgating minimum functional and security standards for any electronic device, and any network or system to which the electronic device is connected, that is used to store or otherwise access a computer-generated registration list. The State Board was also made responsible for promulgating a list of systems that are approved for use. County Boards could only use a system if the State Board had approved it for use and has certified that the network to which any components are connected is compliant with the minimum-security standards.

To accomplish this task, the State Board researched evaluation criteria and processes in place throughout the country, reviewed any requirements utilized by other states, and compiled a comprehensive set of over 150 separate requirements for Electronic Poll Book Systems. We then developed an evaluation process designed to validate, via vendor attestations, provided artifacts and demonstrations that mandatory functional, non-functional, security, and networking requirements were understood and able to be met by each EPBS submitted for review. Requirements were evaluated against each vendor configuration submitted for determination if a requirement had been implemented and observed via demonstration or explained and attested to by the vendor.

The State Board also partnered with the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and the NYS Technology Enterprise Corporation (NYSTEC) for performing vulnerability scans of all applicable system components for any potential vulnerabilities and to confirm that no unnecessary ports or services were exposed beyond those required for the operation of the system. In addition, DHSES scanned all submitted systems to determine if information was being properly protected through encryption. NYSTEC was also engaged to review a subset of technical documentation submitted by each vendor and to provide assurance that documentation requirements were addressed. In addition, they reviewed the State Board’s evaluation of functional and security requirements to provide assurance that all processes were followed consistently for each system reviewed. To date, NYSBOE has approved three systems for use in the State and worked with the NYS Office of General Services to establish a state contract for counties to purchase Electronic Poll Book Systems and related products.

In order to observe and certify that the approved systems purchased by County Boards of Elections were being implemented per the requirements set forth by the State Board, we
undertook an effort to visit every county in the state to review Early Voting services. Covering 4,300 miles during the Early Voting period, State Board staff visited 62 locations to make technical and operational observations for later aggregation and analysis.
The Security of Elections

The newly established Secure Elections Center (SEC) of the State Board of Elections is responsible for securing the statewide elections infrastructure, end-to-end, from cyber-related threats by developing an elections cyber security tool kit, providing risk vulnerability assessments and support for local board of elections. Since the 2016 elections, the SEC has:

- continued extensive outreach to inform and involve federal, state and local stakeholders to increase the communication, expertise and cybersecurity resources available for the State and County Boards of Elections;
- extended a uniform cybersecurity hygiene web-based training for all State Board, County Board and IT staff supporting elections infrastructure;
- participated in Federal DHS-based tabletop exercises for local elections officials;
- implemented a uniform cyber incident reporting and response procedure;
- completed on-site comprehensive risk assessments of all County Boards;
- implemented uniform Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) at all County Boards; and
- began implementation of Managed Security Services (MSS) for use by County Boards.
The State Board initiated a comprehensive risk assessment at all 62 County Boards. Risk assessment findings will highlight the priorities and areas of greatest impact for SEC remediation efforts during SFY 2019-20 and beyond. The SEC expects remediation efforts to include a virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO or CISO-as-a-Service) to assist the County's local CISO. A service to provide "boots on the ground" for direct help to County Boards implementation, and a cyber navigator to aid County Boards in the procurement of a product or service to the extent funds are available. The implementation of IDS is complete with successful delivery across all County Boards. MSS is in progress with 24 County Boards successfully implemented and will continue through SFY 2019-20.

As the Secure Elections Center procures and implements security technologies on behalf of County Boards, we've noticed our efforts improve the cybersecurity posture for the county as a whole. This directly benefits every county department and secures IT functions for municipalities and network connections with other NYS entities.

The Secure Elections Center partners with DHSES in responding to County Board incidents. Since tracking began, there have been 34 incidents reported (19 in 2018, 15 in 2019), of which over 13 had an operations impact of at least one day, and the longest outage at 55 days.

The Secure Elections Center participated in a Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Penetration Test of State Board information systems. They identified 14 areas of improvement which helped guide the design of the State Board's Information Security Plan, whose implementation will continue through SFY 2020-21.

The Secure Elections Center is also taking numerous measures to increase the State Board's own security posture through the addition of multiple layers of firewalls, intrusion prevention, vulnerability scanning, zero-trust network implementation, application code scanning, and the implementation of multi-factor authentication for access to State Board web-based applications. The latter effort requires retrofitting existing applications such as the statewide voter registration system (NYSVoter), as well as, increasing the in-progress scope for the candidate management system and the campaign financial disclosure system (CAPAS/FIDAS) and the Military and Overseas voter ballot delivery system (MOVE) projects.

The Secure Elections Center has set up a situational awareness group comprising many stakeholders, including but not limited to, the federal Department of Homeland Security, the NYS DHSES, NYS Information Technology Services, the Public Service Commission, NYS Intelligence Center, NYC Cyber Command, and during federal elections, the FBI, to provide a daily update on State situational awareness. While this was set up as a cybersecurity tool, it has enabled the State Board to address emergency situations such as power outages and road closures near poll sites.
Moving Forward

2019 has been a transformative year for Election Law reform. Notably, New York State became the 39th State in the Nation to implement early voting.

The State and County Boards of Elections were given nine months to implement early voting and approximately six months to create a procedure for procuring, testing, and certifying electronic poll books. By all indications, including press coverage and feedback from election administrators, and even special interest groups, early voting implementation was successful. Voters reported enjoying the convenience of selecting a day and having time to go and vote. Wait times were minimal and the experience was streamlined.

County Boards of Elections are to be commended for the amount of effort, hard work and determination to implement a new program in such a narrow time frame and with minimal fiscal support.

Elections at their core are run by people. Election administrators take great care in the accuracy of the job they do and stand ready to take all the steps needed to ensure that voters are registered, ballots are produced, and the votes are counted in a fair, open and transparent process.

The strength in our election system is in this decentralized structure. There is no single point of weakness that can be co-opted. State and local election officials work tirelessly to ensure the integrity of the election system and to implement early voting Statewide. Election officials not only prepared for the implementation of early voting and, at some locations, the roll out of electronic poll books and on demand ballot printers, but also have set contingency plans in place to continue to run the election and report the results, should an issue arise.

The State Board of Elections has provided testimony to the New York State Senate and Assembly Election Law Committees at a joint hearing held in New York City on November 20, 2019. The State Board will continue to review the implementation of early voting by holding a series of statewide roundtable meetings scheduled in December 2019. Our goal is to obtain feedback from election administrators, interest groups and technology vendors on the implementation and cost of early voting. After this initiative is complete, the State Board will report further findings to the Legislature.
Appendix A:

Part A: Chapter 6 of the Laws of 2019
Part B: 6210.10 – Relative to Ballot Accountability
Part C: 6210.18 – Relative to Audit Status for Early Voting
Part D: 6210.19 – Relative to Number of Machines/Privacy Booths for Early Voting
Part E: 6211 – Relative to Early Voting
Part F: Unofficial Election and Early Voting Turnout
Part A:  Chapter 6 of the Laws of 2019
STATE OF NEW YORK

S. 1102
A. 780

2019-2020 Regular Sessions
SENATE - ASSEMBLY

January 10, 2019

IN SENATE -- Introduced by Sens. MYRIE, ADDABBO, BAILEY, BENJAMIN, BIAGGI, BRESLIN, BROOKS, CARLUCCI, CONRIE, GAUGHAN, GIANARIS, GOUNARDES, HARKHAM, HOYLMAN, JACKSON, KAMINSKY, KAPLAN, KAVANAUGH, KENNEDY, KRUEGER, LIU, MARTINEZ, MAY, MAYER, METZGER, MONTGOMERY, PARKER, PERSAUD, RAMOS, RIVERA, SALAZAR, SANDERS, SAVINO, SEPULVEDA, SERRANO, SKOUFIS, STAVISKY, STEWART-COUSINS, THOMAS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections

IN ASSEMBLY -- Introduced by M. of A. LAVINE, HEASTIE, CUSICK, BLAKE, SIMON, PAULIN, DINOWITZ, L. ROSENTHAL, LIFTON, FAHY, LUPARDO, ABINANTI, ROZIC, GALEF, COOK, RAMOS, CIMBRONITZ, JAFFEE, CARROLL, TAYLOR, ORTIZ, WALKER, PEOPLES-STOKES, COLTON, DE LA ROSA, WRIGHT, BARRON, GOTTFRIED, OTIS, NANGLEBRIGHT, MOSLEY, GLICK, BURKE, CRUZ, EPSTEIN, FALL, PRONTUS, GRIFFIN, JACOBSON, McMAHON, RAYNOR, REYES, ROMEO, THIELE, WEINSTEIN -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BUCHWALD, LENTOL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to early voting

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 3-400 of the election law is amended by adding a new subdivision 9 to read as follows:

9. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provisions of this article, election inspectors or poll clerks, if any, at polling places for early voting, shall consist of either board of elections employees who shall be appointed by the commissioners of such board or duly qualified individuals, appointed in the manner set forth in this section. Appointments to the offices of election inspector or poll clerk in each polling place for early voting shall be equally divided between the major political parties. The board of elections shall assign staff and provide resources

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted. LBD04589-04-9
to ensure a voter's wait time to vote at an early voting site shall not exceed thirty minutes.

§ 2. Section 4-117 of the election law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

1-a. The notice required by subdivision one of this section shall include the dates, hours and locations of early voting for the general and primary election. The board of elections may alternatively satisfy the notice requirement of this subdivision by providing in the notice instructions to obtain the required early voting information by means of a website and phone number of the board of elections.

§ 3. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 and subdivision 2 of section 8-100 of the election law, paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 as added by chapter 373 of the laws of 1978 and subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 367 of the laws of 2017, are amended to read as follows:

(b) In the event a run-off primary election is required in the city of New York, it shall be held on the second fourth Tuesday next succeeding the date on which the initial primary election was held.

2. Polls shall be open for voting during the following hours: a primary election from twelve o'clock noon until nine o'clock in the evening, except in the city of New York and the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam, Dutchess and Erie, and in such city or county from six o'clock in the morning until nine o'clock in the evening; the general election from six o'clock in the morning until nine o'clock in the evening; a special election called by the governor pursuant to the public officers law, and, except as otherwise provided by law, every other election, from six o'clock in the morning until nine o'clock in the evening. Early voting times shall be as provided in section 8-600 of this article.

§ 4. Subdivision 1 of section 8-102 of the election law is amended by adding a new paragraph (k) to read as follows:

(k) Voting at each polling place for early voting shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the provisions of this article, with the exception of the tabulation and proclamation of election results which shall be completed according to subdivisions eight and nine of section 8-600 of this article.

§ 5. Section 8-104 of the election law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

7. This section shall apply on all early voting days as provided for in section 8-600 of this article.

§ 6. Subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (e) of subdivision 3 and subdivision 3-a of section 8-302 of the election law, subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (e) of subdivision 3 as amended by chapter 164 of the laws of 2010 and subdivision 3-a as amended by chapter 511 of the laws of 1985, are amended to read as follows:

(ii) He or she may swear to and subscribe an affidavit stating that he or she has duly registered to vote, the address in such election district from which he or she registered, that he or she remains a duly qualified voter in such election district, that his or her registration poll record appears to be lost or misplaced or that his or her name and/or his or her signature was omitted from the computer registration list or such record indicates the voter already voted when he or she did not do so or that he or she has moved within the county or city since he or she last registered, the address from which he or she was previously registered and the address at which he or she currently resides, and at a primary election, the party in which he or she is enrolled. The inspectors of election shall offer such an affidavit to
each such voter whose residence address is in such election district. Each such affidavit shall be in a form prescribed by the state board of elections, shall be printed on an envelope of the size and quality used for an absentee ballot envelope, and shall contain an acknowledgment that the affiant understands that any false statement made therein is perjury punishable according to law. Such form prescribed by the state board of elections shall request information required to register such voter should the county board determine that such voter is not registered and shall constitute an application to register to vote. The voter's name and the entries required shall then be entered without delay and without further inquiry in the fourth section of the challenge report or in the place provided at the end of the computer generated registration list, with the notation that the voter has executed the affidavit hereinabove prescribed, or, if such person's name appears on the computer generated registration list, the board of elections may provide a place to make such entry next to his or her name on such list. The voter shall then, without further inquiry, be permitted to vote an affidavit ballot provided for by this chapter. Such ballot shall thereupon be placed in the envelope containing his or her affidavit, and the envelope sealed and returned to the board of elections in the manner provided by this chapter for protested official ballots, including a statement of the number of such ballots.

3-a. The inspectors shall also give to every person whose address is in such election district for whom no registration poll record can be found and, in a primary election, to every voter whose registration poll record does not show him to be enrolled in the party in which he wishes to be enrolled or who claims to be incorrectly identified as having already voted, a copy of a notice, in a form prescribed by the state board of elections, advising such person of his right to, and of the procedures by which he may, cast an affidavit ballot, or seek a court order permitting him to vote, and shall also give every such person who does not cast an affidavit ballot, an application for registration by mail.

§ 7. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 8-508 of the election law, as amended by chapter 200 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The second section of such report shall be reserved for the board of inspectors to enter the name, address and registration serial number of each person who is challenged (on the day of election) at the time of voting together with the reason for the challenge. If no voters are challenged, the board of inspectors shall enter the words "No Challenges" across the space reserved for such names. In lieu of preparing section two of the challenge report, the board of elections may provide, next to the name of each voter on the computer generated registration list, a place for the inspectors of election to record the information required to be entered in such section two, or provide at the end of such computer generated registration list, a place for the inspectors of election to enter such information.

§ 8. Article 8 of the election law is amended by adding a new title 6 to read as follows:

TITLE VI
EARLY VOTING

Section 8-600. Early voting.

8-602. State board of elections; powers and duties for early voting.
§ 8-600. Early voting. 1. Beginning the tenth day prior to any general, primary, run-off primary pursuant to subdivision one of section 5-162 of this chapter or special election for any public or party position except for such an election held pursuant to title two of article six or article fifteen of this chapter, and ending on and including the second day prior to such general, primary, run-off primary or special election for such public office or party position, persons duly registered and eligible to vote at such election shall be permitted to vote as provided in this title. The board of elections shall establish procedures, subject to approval of the state board of elections, to ensure that persons who vote during the early voting period shall not be permitted to vote subsequently in the same election.
2. (a) The board of elections shall designate polling places for early voting, which may include the offices of the board of elections, for persons to vote early pursuant to this title. There shall be so designated at least one early voting polling place for every full increment of fifty thousand registered voters in each county; provided, however, the number of early voting polling places in a county shall not be required to be greater than seven, and a county with fewer than fifty thousand voters shall have at least one early voting polling place.
(b) The board of elections of each county or the city of New York may establish additional polling places for early voting in excess of the minimum number required by this subdivision for the convenience of eligible voters.
(c) Notwithstanding the minimum number of early voting polling sites otherwise required by this subdivision, for any primary or special election, upon majority vote of the board of elections, the number of early voting sites may be reduced when the board of elections determines a lesser number of sites is sufficient to meet the needs of early voters.
(d) Polling places for early voting shall be located so that voters in the county have adequate and equitable access, taking into consideration population density, travel time to the polling place, proximity to other early voting polling sites, public transportation routes, commuter traffic patterns and such other factors the board of elections deems appropriate. The provisions of section 4-104 of this chapter, except subdivisions four and five of such section, shall apply to the designation of polling places for early voting except to the extent such provisions are inconsistent with this section.
3. Any voter may vote at any polling place established pursuant to subdivision two of this section in the county where such voter is registered to vote; provided, however, if it is impractical to provide each polling place for early voting all of the election district ballots or if early voting at any such polling place makes ensuring that no voter has not previously voted early during such election, the board of elections may assign election districts to a particular early voting polling site. All voters in each county shall have one or more polling places at which they are eligible to vote throughout the early voting period on a substantially equal basis. If the board of elections does not agree by majority vote to plan to assign election districts to early voting polling sites, all voters in the county must be able to vote at any polling site for early voting in the county.
4. (a) Polls shall be open for early voting for at least eight hours between seven o'clock in the morning and eight o'clock in the evening each week day during the early voting period.
(b) At least one polling place for early voting shall remain open until eight o'clock in the evening on at least two week days in each calendar week during the early voting period. If polling places for early voting are located in voters from certain areas pursuant to subdivision three of this section, polling places that remain open until eight o'clock shall be designated such that any person entitled to vote early may vote until eight o'clock in the evening on at least two week days during the early voting period.

(c) Polls shall be open for early voting for at least five hours between nine o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening on each Saturday, Sunday and legal holiday during the early voting period.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any board of elections from establishing a greater number of hours for voting during the early voting period beyond the number of hours required in this subdivision.

(e) Early voting polling places and their hours of operation for early voting at a general election shall be designated by May first of each year pursuant to subdivision one of section 4-104 of this chapter. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision one of section 4-104 of this chapter early voting polling places and their hours of operation for early voting for: (i) a primary or special election shall be made not later than forty-five days before such primary or special election; and (ii) a run-off primary pursuant to subdivision one of section 6-162 of this chapter shall be made as soon as practicable.

5. Each board of elections shall create a communication plan to inform eligible voters of the opportunity to vote early. Such plan may utilize any and all media outlets, including social media, and shall publicize: the location and dates and hours of operation of all polling places for early voting; an indication of whether each polling place is accessible to voters with physical disabilities; a clear and unambiguous notice to voters that if they cast a ballot during the early voting period they will not be allowed to vote election day; and if polling places for early voting are limited to voters from certain areas pursuant to subdivision three of this section, the location of the polling places for early voting serving the voters of each particular city, town or other political subdivision.

6. The form of paper ballots used in early voting shall comply with the provisions of article seven of this chapter that are applicable to voting by paper ballot on election day and such ballot shall be cast in the same manner as provided for in section 8-312 of this article, provided, however, that ballots cast during the early voting period shall be secured in the manner of voted ballots cast on election day and such ballots shall not be canvassed or examined until after the close of the polls on election day, and no unofficial tabulations of election results shall be printed or viewed in any manner until after the close of polls on election day.

7. Voters casting ballots pursuant to this title shall be subject to challenge as provided in sections 8-500, 8-502 and 8-504 of this article.

8. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, at the end of each day of early voting, any early voting ballots that have not been scanned because a ballot scanner was not available or because the ballot has been abandoned by the voter at the ballot scanner shall be cast in a manner consistent with section 9-110 of this chapter, except that such ballots which cannot then be cast on a ballot scanner shall be held inviolate and unexamined and shall be duly secured until after the close.
of polls on election day when such ballots shall be examined and
canvassed in a manner consistent with subdivision two of section 9-110
of this chapter.
9. The board of elections shall secure all ballots and scanners used
for early voting from the beginning of the early voting period through
the close of the polls on election day; provided, however, the state
board of elections may by regulation duly adopted by a majority of such
board establish a procedure whereby ballot scanners used for early
voting may also be used on election day if the portable memory devices
used during early voting containing the early voting election informa-
tion and vote tabulations are properly secured apart from the scanners,
and the results therefrom shall be duly canvassed after the close of
polls on election day.
10. After the close of polls on election day, inspectors or board of
elections employees appointed to canvass ballots cast during early
voting shall follow all relevant provisions of article nine of this
chapter that are not inconsistent with this section, for canvassing,
processing, recording, and announcing results of voting at polling plac-
es for early voting, and securing ballots, scanners, and other election
materials. Such canvass may occur at the offices of the board of
elections, at the early voting polling place, or such other location
designated by the board of elections.
11. Notwithstanding the requirements of this title requiring the
 canvass of ballots cast during early voting after the close of polls on
election day, such canvass may begin one hour before the scheduled close
of polls on election day provided the board of elections adopts proce-
dures to prevent the public release of election results prior to the
close of polls on election day and such procedures shall be consistent
with the regulations of the state board of elections and shall be filed
with the state board of elections at least thirty days before they shall
be effective.
§ 8-602. State board of elections: powers and duties for early voting.
The state board of elections shall promulgate rules or regulations
necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this title. Such
rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, provisions
to (i) ensure that ballots cast early, by any method allowed under law,
are counted and canvassed as if cast on election day, (ii) ensure an
efficient and fair early voting process that respects the privacy of the
voter, and (iii) require that the voting history record for each voter
be continually updated to reflect each instance of early voting by such
voter.
§ 9. The opening paragraph of section 9-209 of the election law, as
amended by chapter 163 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as
follows:
Before completing the canvass of votes cast in any primary, general,
special, or other election at which voters are required to sign their
registration poll records before voting, the board of elections shall
proceed in the manner hereinafter prescribed to cast and canvass any
absentee, military, special presidential, special federal or other
special ballots and any ballots voted by voters who moved within the
county or city after registering, voters who are in inactive status,
voters whose registration was incorrectly transferred to another address
even though they did not move, voters whose registration poll records
were missing on the day of such election, voters who have not had their
identity previously verified and voters whose registration poll records
did not show them to be enrolled in the party in which they claimed to
be enrolled \textit{and voters incorrectly identified as having already voted.}

Each such ballot shall be retained in the original envelope containing
the voter's affidavit and signature, in which it is delivered to the
board of elections until such time as it is to be cast and canvassed.

§ 10. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however that
early voting pursuant to the provisions of this act shall first apply to
the general election held in November 2019, and to any general, primary,
run-off primary or special election held thereafter as provided for in
the election law.
Part B: 6210.10 – Relative to Ballot Accountability
Part 6210.7 and 6210.10 are hereby amended to read as follows:

§6210.7

(a) For the production of paper ballots or ballot faces for DRE voting systems, the county board shall contract with a printer or use in-house print services that have the requisite expertise, staff, and equipment for printing ballots of the complexity and in the volume required for the conduct of elections in that county, and that ensures delivery of finished ballots in time to comply with the relevant provisions of the Election Law and the election calendar.

(b) Detailed specifications for production of ballots shall be supplied to the county board by the voting system vendor. These shall include but not be limited to particulars of the system’s ballot such as weight, grain and color of stock; dimensions of ballot faces, ballots and ballot cards; corner cuts; perforations, both for ballot boundaries and for stub boundaries, when appropriate; ballot positions, sensitive areas and voting targets; pre-marks for imprinting of ballot configuration information; printing registration and tolerances; ink; use of drying powder; and packaging of printed ballots for shipment and for storage until time of use. The county board shall transmit these specifications to the printer chosen to produce its ballots.

(c) In the first year that the voting system is in use, a copy of the final form and arrangement of each ballot configuration shall be filed with the State Board.

(d) Ballots shall be identified by ballot configuration, using marks which are machine readable and human readable text. A sheet of ballot paper becomes a ballot when the contents of the ballot are printed thereon.

(e) Ballots to be used with poll site optical scan voting systems, shall be in a form consistent with Election Law [section 7-106]. Each ballot shall have a numbered stub which can be separated from it along a perforated boundary. Such ballot shall be detached from the numbered stub prior to the election inspector giving the ballot to the voter and be retained by the county board in a manner consistent with election-related document retention requirements. Ballot stubs, however, shall not be required if the board of elections implements procedures to provide for ballot accountability equivalent to the use of ballot stubs as provided for in subdivision 6210.10 (b) of this Part.
(1) The ballot stubs, when required, shall be sequentially numbered, and shall include the date of the election, the political subdivision in which the ballot is valid, and in a primary election, the name of the party conducting the primary, and further, stubs may be color coded, to correspond to same.

(2) Ballot stubs, when required, shall include spaces for inspectors to indicate with their initials, whether the ballot was used for affidavit or emergency purposes.

(3) Ballots shall be bound in [booklets] packages of 100, or in such other increments as a county board may, by written procedure, deem appropriate. When ballot stubs are used, [B]inding shall be by staples, to help ensure ballot accountability. Packages of ballots not requiring ballot stubs shall be shrink wrapped or otherwise sealed in a heat-sealed or gummed bag with a cover.

(4) Ballot [booklets] packages shall have a cover, on which shall be printed the date of the election, the political subdivision in which the ballot [booklet] package shall be valid, the number of ballots therein, the sheet number of a ballot when it is part of a multiple sheet ballot, the range of sequential ballot stub numbers contained therein, if applicable, and such other administrative information as the county board may deem necessary. In primary elections, booklet covers shall include the name of the party conducting a primary, and may be color coded, to correspond to same.

(5) When more than one ballot [booklet] package is to be used in any election district, a transmittal sheet shall accompany the [booklets] packages, which shall specify how many [booklets] packages are included in the inspector supply bag, the number of ballots in total and the complete range of sequential ballot stub numbers for that district, if applicable, and shall further provide a space or spaces for inspectors to confirm receipt of all ballots.

(6) Ballot [booklet(s)] packages and any transmittal sheet, shall be delivered to inspectors with other election day supplies, in a separate, secure, sealed and labeled container, envelope or pouch.

(7) Only one ballot [booklet] package at a time should be on the inspector table, and the remaining booklets shall be kept in their secure container.
envelope or pouch[, in the inspector supply case].

(8) Upon opening a package of ballots that are not stubbed, the inspectors shall count the number of ballots in such package to ensure it is the number indicated on the coversheet. When all ballots in a [booklet] package have been used, leaving only the cover and the stapled pad of stubs, in the case of ballots that are stubbed, such [booklet] package shall be returned to the ballot [booklet] package container/envelope/pouch and the next appropriately numbered ballot [booklet] package shall be removed for use.

(9) After the close of polls, the transmittal sheet shall be completed by the inspectors, indicating which [booklets] packages were completely used, partially used, or not used. The ballot [booklet] package container/envelope/pouch shall be sealed and returned to the county board with all other election day supplies.

(f) The county board shall cause its respective printer(s) to certify to the county board, upon delivery of ballots ordered:

(1) the actual number of ballots printed;

(2) the number of ballots delivered; and

(3) that all other ballots printed have been destroyed.

The county board shall inventory all ballots and ensure the security of any and all ballots while they are in the possession of the county board.

(g) For central count paper-based voting systems, ballots printed for absentee voting, and those printed for emergency, special and affidavit purposes shall be tabulated by batch, and be subject to all appropriate provisions of these regulations. The county board shall provide a means by which affidavit, emergency, and special ballots shall be distinguished from absentee ballots.

(h) Ballots With Multiple Sheets. A board of elections may provide a voter a ballot consisting of more than one separate, unconnected sheets, provided:
(1) The ballot includes a statement that the voter must receive the number of ballot sheets the voter is entitled to, specifying such number. Such notice may be substantially in the following form: “Your ballot consists of (here insert the total number of sheets comprising the ballot) separate sheets. All of the sheets must be provided to you at the same time.”

(2) Each ballot sheet shall be prominently labeled as “ballot sheet (here insert the number of the ballot sheet) of (here insert the total number of sheets comprising the ballot).

(3) Ballot accountability and reconciliation procedures shall apply to each sheet of a multiple sheet ballot. Each sheet or a multiple sheet ballot may be spoiled without spoiling another sheet comprising the same multiple sheet ballot.

(i) Ballots Printed on Demand

(1) Ballot on demand printers and supplies shall be secured as provided by the procedures of the State Board of Elections.

(2) Inspectors shall keep a record of the number of ballots of each ballot style printed by a ballot on demand printer. Such ballots shall be considered delivered to the inspectors at the time of printing, and the inspectors shall record the distribution of such ballots in the same manner as provided for in this section. Logs maintained by the ballot on demand printer application may be used by the inspectors to meet the requirements of this paragraph to record the number of ballots printed.

§6210.10 Ballot accounting
(a) Following the counting of all votes in an election, a full accounting of paper ballots shall be made, and shall be reported on a form to be provided by the State Board, and attested to by the county board commissioners which shall be retained in accordance with Election Law section 3-222, which shall include:

(1) For each entire election and for each ballot configuration used in it, the number of paper ballots shall equal the sum of paper ballots issued to voters and paper ballots not issued to voters, returned but not sent for tabulation because the voter voted at the polls, ballots spoiled, and paper ballots not returned. In each category of ballots issued, the report shall specify how many, if any, and in what category any emergency or affidavit ballots were used.

(2) For each entire election and for each ballot configuration used in it, the number of paper ballots not issued to voters shall equal the sum of the number of paper ballots used for testing/sample purposes and paper ballots remaining unissued and unused.

(b) [The ballot accounting report shall be attested to by the county board commissioners and shall be retained in accordance with Election Law section 3-222.] Discontinuance of ballot stubs. Ballot stubs shall not be required if the board of elections provides for the following ballot accountability requirements:

(1) Election inspectors shall confirm receipt of ballot quantities by confirming ballot packages received and counting the number of ballots in a ballot package when it is first opened to confirm the quantity stated on the coversheet.

(2) Election inspectors shall retain a written running tally of ballots distributed by ballot style, including the total number of ballots distributed to voters, included in such number the number distributed as affidavit ballots, and the number of ballots spoiled. Such tally shall be maintained in a manner that would permit an interim reconciliation of ballots at any time during voting.

(3) At the close of polls, the inspectors shall record ballot reconciliation totals to verify the number of ballots distributed to voters or spoiled when added to the number of unvoted ballots equals
the number of ballots received by the inspectors at the beginning of voting.

(c) Certification of ballot stub discontinuance. Upon certification authorized by a majority vote of the commissioners of a board of elections filed with the State Board of Elections, that the procedures required in subdivision (b) of this section and all other applicable ballot requirements of this Part will be followed, for any election conducted thereafter the board of elections may determine not to use ballot stubs. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent a board of elections from using ballot stubs as provided for in this Part at any election, and nothing herein shall prevent the optional use of party color on a primary ballot.
Part C:  6210.18 – Relative to Audit Status for Early Voting
Section 6210.18 is amended to add a new paragraph (l) to read as follows:

(l) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, voting machines or systems used for early voting shall be separately audited pursuant to this subdivision and the provisions of this section not inconsistent with this subdivision after the date of the election. For purposes of selecting the voting machine(s) or system(s) used in early voting to be audited, each separate memory storage device containing election results, exclusive of any redundant memory storage devices, used during early voting from which a result tape is generated shall be considered a separate voting machine or system for purpose of the audit. As provided by the procedures of the state board of elections and the provisions of this Part consistent with this subdivision, initially three percent of such voting machines or systems used for early voting shall be audited in addition to the initial audit of three percent of voting machines or systems used on election day as provided for in subdivision (a) of this section. The audit expansion steps for ballots voted early shall be the same as for other ballots, and both early voted ballots and all other ballots counted by machine shall be included in any full manual count conducted pursuant to this section. The cast ballots corresponding to each memory storage device containing election results shall be kept together and not intermingled with any other voted ballots.
Part D:  6210.19 – Relative to Number of Machines/Privacy Booths for Early Voting
Section 6210.19 is amended as follows:

§ 6210.19 Minimum number of voting machines

(a) The purpose of these determinations is to establish the minimum number of required voting machines and privacy booths needed for each polling place based upon whether the voting system is used on election day or for the early voting period, and [,,] the type of voting system and the number of registered voters (excluding voters in inactive status) assigned to use that specific voting device in accordance with NYS Election Law, sections 7-200, [and] 7-203 and 8-600.

(b) Determinations by type of voting system. Minimum Number of Voting Machines For Election Day Polling Sites

(1) Direct recording electronic voting systems.
   (i) There shall be at least one direct recording electronic voting device for every 550 registered voters (excluding voters in inactive status) [at the] assigned to a polling place.

(2) Precinct based optical scan voting systems.
   (i) There shall be at least one scanning device for every 4,000 registered voters (excluding voters in inactive status) [at the] assigned to a polling place.
   (ii) Privacy booths:
      (a) there shall be at least one privacy booth for every 300 registered voters (excluding voters in inactive status), except that in a general election for
governor, or at elections at which electors for President of the United States are selected there shall be at least one privacy booth for every 250 registered voters (excluding voters in inactive status); (b) at polling places that accommodate more than 6,000 registered voters (excluding voters in inactive status), there shall be one privacy booth for every 350 registered voters (excluding voters in inactive status) in a general election for governor, or at elections at which electors for President of the United States shall be selected; and one privacy booth for every 400 active voters in all other elections; and (c) a sufficient number of the privacy booths must be accessible to voters with disabilities.

(c) **Minimum Number of Voting Machines for the Early Voting Period**

(1) Direct recording electronic voting systems.  
(i) There shall be at least one direct recording electronic voting device for every 3,000 registered voters (excluding voters in inactive status) assigned to the early voting period polling place; provided, however, no early voting site shall have less than two direct recording electronic devices.

(2) Precinct based optical scan voting systems.  
(i) There shall be at least one scanning device for every 25,000 registered voters (excluding voters in inactive status) assigned to the early voting polling place; provided, however, no early voting site shall have less than two optical scanners.
(ii) Privacy booths:
(a) there shall be at least one privacy booth for every 4,200 registered voters (excluding voters in inactive status), except that in a general election for governor, or at elections at which electors for President of the United States are selected there shall be at least one privacy booth for every 3,600 registered voters (excluding voters in inactive status);
(b) a sufficient number of the privacy booths must be accessible to voters with disabilities.

(3) Distribution of Voting Systems and Privacy Booths for Vote Centers. In counties where a voter is able to vote at more than one early voting site, the total number of voting systems and privacy booths required by this section at such sites shall be determined in the aggregate for such sites and such voting systems and privacy booths shall be divided amongst such early voting sites in the manner the board determines will best meet the needs of the voters, provided no fewer than two voting systems are assigned to each site, and sufficient voting systems and privacy booths are assigned to ensure voter wait time is less than thirty minutes.

(d) Obligations of the county boards of elections.

(1) County boards shall deploy sufficient voting equipment, election workers and other resources so that voter waiting time at a poll site does not exceed 30 minutes. Each county board of elections may increase in a
non-discriminatory manner, the number of voting devices used in any specific polling place. If the voter waiting time at an early voting site exceeds thirty minutes the board of elections shall deploy such additional voting equipment, election workers and other resources necessary to reduce the wait time to less than thirty minutes as soon as possible but no later than the beginning of the next day of early voting.

(2) The inspectors in each election district and at each early voting site shall record the number of persons using audio, tactile or pneumatic switch ballot devices. The county board of elections shall furnish additional voting machines equipped with audio, tactile or pneumatic switch ballot devices when it appears that the number of persons historically using such devices warrant additional devices.

([d]e) The State Board of Elections may authorize a reduction in the number of voting devices and privacy booths provided in these regulations upon application of a county board of elections which demonstrates that such a reduction will not create excessive waiting time by voters. The request for such a reduction shall be made by both commissioners, in writing, to the co-executive directors of the state board and shall set forth the rationale being used for the requested reduction. The request for such reduction shall be made no later than twenty days before the beginning of the early voting period.
(f) Provisions of this section applicable to early voting shall apply in relation to any election at which early voting is held pursuant to title VI of article 8 of the election law as enacted by chapter 6 of the laws of 2019.
Part E: 6211 – Relative to Early Voting
A new Part 6211 is added to read as follows:

**PART 6211- Early Voting Regulations**

6211.1 Early Voting Site Designations

(a) *Deadline for Early Voting Site Designations.* By May first of each year, the board of elections shall designate early voting sites for the general election held in such year. Early voting sites for primaries and special elections shall be designated no later than forty-five days before such an election.

(b) *Minimum Number of Early Voting Sites*

   (i) For a general election, the board of elections shall designate at least the number of early voting sites required by this Part, based on the number of registered voters in each county, including voters in active and inactive status as of February 1, as follows:

   (i) If the number of voters in the county is less than 99,999, the county must have at least one early voting site.

   (ii) If the number of voters in the county is equal to or more than 100,000 and less than or equal to 149,999, the county must have at least two early voting sites.

   (iii) If the number of voters in the county is equal to or more than 150,000 and less than or equal to 199,999, the county must have at least three early voting sites.
(iv) If the number of voters in the county is equal to or more than 200,000 and less than or equal to 249,999, the county must have at least four early voting sites.

(v) If the number of voters in the county is equal to or more than 250,000 and less than or equal to 299,999, the county must have at least five early voting sites.

(vi) If the number of voters in the county is equal to or more than 300,000 and less than or equal to 349,999, the county must have at least six early voting sites.

(vii) If the number of voters in the county is equal to or more than 350,000, the county must have at least seven early voting sites.

(2) For a primary election or special election, the minimum number of early voting sites shall be based on the number of voters eligible to participate in the election pursuant to subparagraph 1 of this subdivision, unless the board of elections adopts a resolution determining that a lesser number of early voting sites is sufficient to meet the needs of early voters. Such resolution shall state the basis of such determination and shall specify how the board of elections will monitor voter wait times at early voting sites and ensure compliance with 6210.19 (d) throughout the period of early voting.

(3) The board of elections may designate more early voting sites than the minimum number required for the convenience of voters.
(4) All sites must be open for voting for the sixty-hours required by Election Law § 8-600, but the board of elections may expand the hours the early voting sites are open beyond the statutory minimums.

(c) Standards For Early Voting Site Designation

(1) Adequate and Equitable Access. Early voting sites shall be located so that voters in each county have adequate and equitable access to early voting, and such sites shall comply with the provisions of the Election Law related to poll sites and accessibility for voters with physical disabilities. A polling place accessibility survey shall be completed, filed and updated for each early voting site as required by Part 6206.

(2) The board of elections shall consider, in totality, the following factors when designating early voting sites:

(i) population density;

(ii) travel time to the early voting location from the voter's place of residence;

(iii) proximity of an early voting site to other early voting sites;

(iv) whether the early voting site is on or near public transportation routes;

(vi) commuter traffic patterns;

(vii) any other factors the board of elections deems appropriate.
6211.2 Canvass of Ballots Cast During Early Voting.

(a) All ballots cast during early voting period, by any method allowed under law, shall be canvassed and counted as if cast on Election Day. At the end of each day of early voting, all voted and unvoted ballots shall be reconciled and, along with any portable memory devices containing voting information and registration poll records, returned to the board of elections or otherwise secured pursuant to a plan approved by the state board at least sixty days before the first election at which such plan shall be applicable. Such plan submitted by the commissioners of a board of elections shall be approved or rejected by the co-executive directors of the state board no later than two weeks after receipt.

(b) The manner of canvassing the voting machines used at early voting and announcing the results shall be consistent with section 8-600 of the election law and in the same manner as provided by title one of article 9 of the election law and the procedures of the state board of elections, except that the canvass of ballots cast during the early voting period may begin no earlier than at eight o’clock p.m. on Election Day, provided the board of elections adopts procedures to prevent the public release of any election results prior to the close of polls on election day. Such procedures must be consistent with the regulations of the state board of elections and must be filed with the state
board of elections at least thirty days before any early voting period for an election to which they will apply. To prevent the premature release of voting results prior to the close of all polls on Election Day, all persons lawfully present at the canvass of ballots cast during early voting period shall remain incommunicado with all persons outside of the place of canvass and shall remain at the room or area of the canvass once the canvass has begun, absent exigency or a board of elections purpose that requires leaving the canvass room or area, until at least the close of polls on the day of election.

6211.3 Ballots Cast When Scanner Unavailable During the Early Voting Period.

At the end of each day of early voting, those ballots which were not scanned because a scanner was not available or because the ballot was abandoned at the ballot scanner, shall, if a scanner is then available, be scanned by the election inspectors as provided for by Election Law § 9-110. Any ballots that are unscannable because it is rejected by the scanner or because of an overvote or wholly blank vote warning provided by the ballot scanner, shall be secured in the manner applicable to voted ballots on election day and shall remain unexamined until the time of canvass on the day of the election, at which time they shall be examined as provided for in Election Law § 9-110 and duly canvassed. Such ballots shall be reconciled as required by the procedures of the state board and must be held inviolate until the time of canvass
on election day under tamper evident seal and lock and key.

6211.4 Affidavit Ballots Cast During Early Voting.

Affidavit ballots cast during early voting shall be accounted for in the manner of affidavit ballots cast on election day. Boards of elections shall complete the bi-partisan review of the affidavits to determine the eligibility of such voter prior to the canvass of affidavit ballots cast during the early voting period, in the same manner as for affidavit ballots submitted on election day. Until the time of canvassing, affidavit ballot envelopes shall be secured, when not in bipartisan custody for processing and researching, under tamper evident seal and lock and key as required by the procedures of the state board.

6211.5 Privacy of Voting.

To ensure an efficient and fair early voting process that respects the privacy of the voter, the manner of voting on days of the early voting period shall be the same as the manner of voting on the day of election.

6211.6 Voter History and Prevention of Duplicate Voting.

(a) During the early voting period, the voting history record for each voter shall be continually updated to reflect that a voter has voted early. A record indicating a voter has voted during the early voting period shall be available to poll workers at every
early voting site at which a voter is eligible to vote in near real
time. In such instance where a voter is only eligible to vote at
one early voting site, the single poll book at such site for such
voter may serve as the continually updated record of voter
history throughout the early voting period.

(b) By Election Day, the voting history record of each voter who
has cast a ballot during the early voting period shall be entered
into the voter registration system of the board of elections. Such
voting history shall be included in the voter registration poll
record that is used on Election Day to determine the eligibility of
voters. Such Election Day record must differentiate voters who
voted early from those who appeared to vote on the day of
election.

(c) Any voter who the board of elections has identified as having
voted during the early voting period shall not be eligible to vote
on Election Day, except such voter shall be entitled to complete
an affidavit ballot if such voter claims not to have voted early.
Such affidavit shall be marked as such.

(d) No later than the seventh day after a primary or special
election or the tenth day after the general election, the voting
history record of each voter who has signed a poll record and
thus cast a ballot on such election day shall be entered into the
voter registration system of the board of elections, and the voter
history for such election day voters and early voters shall be
uploaded to the statewide voter registration list.
(c) Not later than the seventh day after a primary or special
election or the tenth day after a general election, by five o'clock
p.m. on such day, the board of elections shall prepare a list,
including data elements prescribed by the board of elections and
in the format specified by the state board of elections, of all
persons who submitted an affidavit ballot. Such list shall be
provided to the state board of elections, and the state board of
elections shall provide a combined list of all affidavit ballots
submitted statewide to the boards of elections.

(f) No later than seven businesses days after the completion of
the canvass, the voting history record of each voter who has cast
an absentee, military, special or federal ballot on Election Day or
who has cast an affidavit ballot during early voting or on Election
Day shall be entered into the voter registration system of the
board of elections and the statewide voter registration list.

(g) Boards of elections shall provide information regarding voter
registration records or voting records in their custody to other
boards of elections, upon request, as soon as reasonably
practicable.

(h) The board of elections, as required by Election Law § 8-600
(i), shall establish procedures to ensure that persons who vote
during early voting shall not be permitted to vote subsequently
in the same election. Such procedures shall remain in effect until
amended by the board of elections and shall be filed with the
state board of elections on or before the sixtieth day preceding
the first day of the early voting period. Such procedures shall be
approved or rejected by the co-executive directors of the state board of elections within one week of filing. If such procedures are rejected, notice shall be provided to the board of elections of the reasons therefor. The board of elections shall then have three business days to amend their procedures and resubmit the same to the state board of elections for approval.

(i) Boards of elections shall provide to the state board, in the manner specified by the state board, the number of voters who vote early on each day of early voting by the next business day after such day of early voting.

6211.7 Early Voting Communications Plan.

(a) Early Voting Information. The board of elections shall provide at least the following information to media outlets within the county:

(i) The location of early voting sites and their dates and hours of operation;

(ii) A statement that all early voting sites are accessible to voters with physical disabilities;

(iii) A clear statement that if a voter casts a ballot during early voting the voter will not be allowed to vote on election day or on a subsequent day of early voting;

(iv) If early voting sites are specific to particular cities, towns or other political subdivisions, a statement describing the area served by each early voting site.
(b) **Communications Outreach.** County board of elections may also provide early voting information by using social media venues and any other communication mechanisms, including but not limited to broadcast advertisements, direct mail or newspaper advertisements. The board of elections communications plan shall identify the community based groups that were involved in the development of the plan or were provided early voting information.

(c) **Filing Communications Plan With State Board of Elections.** The board of elections shall annually file a copy of the communications plan on or before June 1, except in the first year of early voting, on or before the first day of July.

6211.8 **Applicability**

This part shall apply in relation to any election at which early voting is held pursuant to title VI of article 8 of the election law as enacted by chapter 6 of the laws of 2019.
Part F: Unofficial Election and Early Voting Turnout
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<td>8,462</td>
<td>94,626</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>68,788</td>
<td>17,522</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>18,474</td>
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</tr>
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<td>4,833</td>
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<td>17,172</td>
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<td>313</td>
<td>15,359</td>
<td>15,672</td>
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<td>17,012</td>
<td>250,109</td>
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<td>1,115</td>
<td>14,499</td>
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<td>1,411</td>
<td>14,997</td>
<td>16,408</td>
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<td>26.6%</td>
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## Turnout Comparison
2015 General Election and 2019 General Election

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ENROLLMENT</td>
<td>VOTES</td>
<td>TURNOUT</td>
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<td>EARLY VOTING SITES</td>
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<td>ELECTION DAY BALLOTS CAST</td>
<td>Total Turnout</td>
<td>EV % OF TOTAL</td>
<td>TURNOUT</td>
<td>CHANGE FROM 2015</td>
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<td>ULCSTER</td>
<td>118,339</td>
<td>38,682</td>
<td>32.69%</td>
<td>130,112</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7,438</td>
<td>119,875</td>
<td>127,313</td>
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<td>WARREN</td>
<td>43,690</td>
<td>13,911</td>
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<td>862</td>
<td>12,184</td>
<td>13,046</td>
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<td>-2.93%</td>
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<td>WASHINGTON</td>
<td>35,624</td>
<td>7,630</td>
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<td>290</td>
<td>6,767</td>
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<td>55,716</td>
<td>12,666</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>1,625</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>149,282</td>
<td>170,169</td>
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<td>6.53%</td>
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<td>24,942</td>
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<td>6,248</td>
<td>6,557</td>
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<td>13,947</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>3,483</td>
<td>3,957</td>
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<td>0.49%</td>
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<td>7,149,772</td>
<td>1,829,212</td>
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<td>188</td>
<td>196,141</td>
<td>2,053,435</td>
<td>2,249,576</td>
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<td>29.6%</td>
<td>1.32%</td>
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<td>4,893</td>
<td>82,180</td>
<td>87,073</td>
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<td>10.5%</td>
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<td>17,976</td>
<td>212,134</td>
<td>230,110</td>
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<td>14.1%</td>
<td>9.64%</td>
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<td>36,911</td>
<td>3.57%</td>
<td>1,197,797</td>
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<td>19,865</td>
<td>155,575</td>
<td>175,440</td>
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<td>14.6%</td>
<td>11.08%</td>
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<td>177,583</td>
<td>190,712</td>
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<td>4,551,796</td>
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<td>677,808</td>
<td>737,918</td>
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<td>2,987,494</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td>5.56%</td>
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