

STATE OF NEW YORK

8683

IN ASSEMBLY

January 10, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. SALKA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to the number of signatures for independent nominating petitions

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 6-142 of the election law, as amended by chapter 90 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

1. An independent nominating petition for candidates to be voted for by all the voters of the state must be signed by at least [~~forty-five~~ fifteen] thousand voters, or one percent of the total number of votes, excluding blank and void ballots, cast for the office of governor at the last gubernatorial election, whichever is less, of whom at least five hundred, or one percent of enrolled voters, whichever is less, shall reside in each of one-half of the congressional districts of the State.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 6-142 of the election law, as amended by section 9 of part ZZZ of chapter 58 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

1. An independent nominating petition for candidates to be voted for by all the voters of the state must be signed by at least [~~forty-five~~ fifteen] thousand voters, or one percent of the total number of votes, excluding blank and void ballots, cast for the office of governor at the last gubernatorial election, whichever is less, of whom at least five hundred, or one percent of enrolled voters, whichever is less, shall reside in each of one-half of the congressional districts of the State.

§ 3. Subdivision 3 of section 1-104 of the election law, as amended by section 10 of part ZZZ of chapter 58 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

3. The term "party" means any political organization which, excluding blank and void ballots, at the last preceding election for governor received, at least two percent of the total votes cast for its candidate for governor, or [~~one hundred thirty~~ fifty] thousand votes, whichever [~~is greater~~ lesser], in the year in which a governor is elected and at

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 least two percent of the total votes cast for its candidate for presi-
2 dent, or [~~one hundred thirty~~] fifty thousand votes, whichever is [~~great-~~
3 ~~er~~] lesser, in a year when a president is elected.

4 § 4. Subdivision 4 of section 6-138 of the election law, as amended by
5 chapter 88 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as follows:

6 4. [~~A signature made earlier than six weeks prior to the last day to~~
7 ~~file independent petitions shall not be counted.~~] (a) A signature on an
8 independent petition for a special election made earlier than the date
9 of the proclamation calling the special election shall not be counted.

10 (b) Signatures for an independent petition for the general election
11 shall be collected during a twelve week period beginning June first and
12 ending August thirty-first. No signature for an independent petition for
13 the general election shall be counted if made prior to or after such
14 period.

15 § 5. Subdivisions 9, 11 and 12 of section 6-158 of the election law,
16 as amended by chapter 5 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as
17 follows:

18 9. A petition for an independent nomination for an office to be filled
19 at the time of a general election shall be filed not earlier than [~~twen-~~
20 ~~ty-four~~] six weeks and not later than [~~twenty-three~~] five weeks preced-
21 ing such election. A petition for an independent nomination for an
22 office to be filled at a special election shall be filed not later than
23 twelve days following the issuance of a proclamation of such election.

24 11. A certificate of acceptance or declination of an independent nomi-
25 nation for an office to be filled at the time of a general election
26 shall be filed not later than [~~the third day after the twenty-third~~
27 ~~Tuesday~~] seven weeks preceding such general election [~~except that a~~
28 ~~candidate who files such a certificate of acceptance for an office for~~
29 ~~which there have been filed certificates or petitions designating more~~
30 ~~than one candidate for the nomination of any party, may thereafter file~~
31 ~~a certificate of declination not later than the third day after the~~
32 ~~primary election~~]. A certificate of acceptance or declination of an
33 independent nomination for an office to be filled at a special election
34 shall be filed not later than fourteen days following the issuance of a
35 proclamation of such election.

36 12. A certificate to fill a vacancy caused by a declination of an
37 independent nomination for an office to be filled at the time of a
38 general election shall be filed not later than [~~the sixth day after the~~
39 ~~twenty-third Tuesday~~] seven weeks preceding such general election. A
40 certificate to fill a vacancy caused by a declination of an independent
41 nomination for an office to be filled at a special election shall be
42 filed not later than sixteen days following the issuance of a proclama-
43 tion of such election.

44 § 6. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 6 of section 6-158 of the election
45 law, as amended by chapter 290 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read
46 as follows:

47 (a) A certificate of a party nomination made other than at the primary
48 election for an office to be filled at the time of a general election
49 shall be filed not later than [~~thirty days after the June primary~~
50 ~~election~~] seven weeks preceding such general election,

51 § 7. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 6 of section 6-158 of the election
52 law, as amended by chapter 5 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as
53 follows:

54 (a) A certificate of a party nomination made other than at the primary
55 election for an office to be filled at the time of a general election

1 shall be filed not later than [~~thirty days after the primary election~~]
2 seven weeks preceding such general election,

3 § 8. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that:

4 a. the amendments to subdivision 1 of section 6-142 of the election
5 law made by section one of this act shall be subject to the expiration
6 and reversion of such subdivision when upon such date the provisions of
7 section two of this act shall take effect; and

8 b. the amendments to paragraph (a) of subdivision 6 of section 6-158
9 of the election law made by section six of this act shall be subject to
10 the expiration and reversion of such subdivision when upon such date the
11 provisions of section seven of this act shall take effect.