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Introduced by M. of A. KAVANAGH, WALKER, QUART, FAHY, OTIS, SIMON, ABINANTI, ROZIC, RYAN, GOTTFRIED, CUSICK, PAULIN, SKOUFIS -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. DINOWITZ, THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to establishing the "Uniform Election Night Procedure Act"

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "Uniform Election Night Procedure Act".
3 § 2. Section 9-102 of the election law, as amended by chapter 334 of
4 the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:
5 § 9-102. Canvass; general provisions for. 1. [~~Except in the city of~~
6 ~~New York, as~~] As soon as the polls of the election are closed, the
7 inspectors of election thereat shall, in the order set forth herein~~[+]~~:
8 (a) place an inspector at the ballot scanner to prevent further voting;
9 (b) reconcile the paper ballots pursuant to section 9-106 of this title;
10 (c) remove surplus ballots, if any, pursuant to section 9-108 of this
11 title; (d) scan the ballots contained in the emergency box or other
12 secure storage container pursuant to section 9-110 of this title; (e)
13 hand count and secure ballots that cannot be scanned pursuant to section
14 9-110 of this title; (f) initiate the ballot scanner, close the poll
15 mechanism, print the tabulated results tape, and post the results tape
16 or announce [~~the result~~] its contents or both; (g) remove one of the
17 portable memory devices from the ballot scanner for the purpose of
18 reporting the unofficial tally of election results pursuant to section
19 9-126 of this title; (h) post or announce the results of any hand counts
20 and sign the return of canvass pursuant to subdivisions 2 and 3 of this
21 section; [~~g~~] (i) close, lock and seal the machine; and [~~h~~] (j) sign
22 the close of poll certificate, as provided by the board of elections.

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

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~~1 [1-a. In the city of New York, as soon as the polls of the election
2 are closed, the inspectors of election thereat shall, in the order set
3 forth herein: (a) place an inspector at the ballot scanner to prevent
4 further voting; (b) scan the ballots contained in the emergency box or
5 other secure storage container pursuant to section 9-110 of this title,
6 unless it is not possible to determine which such ballots should be so
7 scanned because the accounting and reconciliation required by section
8 9-106 of this title cannot be completed without first printing the
9 results tape; (c) initiate the ballot scanner's close the poll mech-
10 anism, print the tabulated results tape, and post the results tape or
11 announce its contents or both; (d) remove one of the portable memory
12 devices from the ballot scanner for the purpose of reporting the unoffi-
13 cial tally of election results pursuant to section 9-126 of this title;
14 (e) reconcile the paper ballots pursuant to section 9-106 of this title;
15 (f) remove surplus ballots, if any, pursuant to this section and section
16 9-108 of this title; (g) hand count and secure ballots that cannot be
17 scanned pursuant to this section and section 9-110 of this title; (h)
18 post or announce the results of any hand counts and sign the return of
19 canvass pursuant to subdivisions two and three of this section; (i)
20 close, lock and seal the machine; and (j) sign the close of poll certif-
21 icate, as provided by the board of elections.]~~

22 2. (a) The inspectors shall canvass the ballot scanner tabulated
23 results by printing the results tape in the presence of the watchers and
24 all other persons who may be lawfully within the polling place, giving
25 full view of the tabulated results tape numbers. An inspector shall,
26 under the scrutiny of an inspector of a different political party,
27 either post the results tape or read and announce in the order of the
28 offices as their titles are arranged on the tabulated results tape, in
29 distinct tones the public office or party position, candidate name,
30 political party and the results as shown on the tabulated results tape
31 and then shall announce the number of write-in votes recorded for each
32 office. The inspectors shall also in the same manner post or announce
33 the results for each ballot proposal.

34 (b) The results on the tabulated results tape shall be entered on or
35 the tabulated results tape (representing the aggregate results of votes
36 cast on the ballot scanner or the results by election district as appli-
37 cable) shall be affixed to the return of canvass for that ballot scanner
38 or election district pursuant to section 9-120 of this title by an
39 inspector under the scrutiny of an inspector of a different political
40 party, in the space indicated. If any election day paper ballots were
41 hand counted pursuant to this section and subdivision two of section
42 9-110 of this title, an inspector shall, under the scrutiny of an
43 inspector of a different political party, either post or read and
44 announce the results of such hand count. The tally sheet of any such
45 hand counting shall be signed by the inspectors conducting same and
46 affixed to or recorded on the return of canvass. The return of canvass
47 and tabulated results tape shall be signed by two inspectors of each
48 major political party.

49 (c) The results tape shall include a certificate which the inspectors
50 shall sign, stating the number of voters as shown on the public counter
51 and the number on the protective counter.

52 (d) If the machine is provided with a removable electronic or comput-
53 erized device which records the total of the votes cast on such machine
54 (~~such device,~~ for purposes of this section a "portable memory
55 device"), such device shall be removed from the machine after copies of
56 the results tape, sufficient to meet the requirements of this chapter

1 and the regulations of the board of elections, have been produced. After
2 the portable memory device is removed from the machine, the inspectors
3 shall place such device in the secure envelope or other secure container
4 provided for its return to the board of elections. Such secure container
5 shall be signed by the inspectors upon the securing of the device there-
6 in.

7 3. (a) During the canvass time any candidate or duly accredited watch-
8 er who may desire to be present shall be admitted to the polling place.
9 During the proclamation of the result, ample opportunity shall be given
10 to any person lawfully present to compare the results so posted or
11 announced with the sum of the votes appearing on the tabulated results
12 tape and any hand counted election day ballots, if any, and any neces-
13 sary corrections shall then and there be made on the return of canvass
14 by the inspectors. Thereafter, the voting machine shall be closed and
15 locked. The first copy of the results tape for each voting machine
16 should be posted on the wall of the polling place forthwith; provided,
17 however, that if only one copy of such results tape can be printed by
18 any such machine at any election, such copy shall be used in preparation
19 of the returns of canvass required by this title.

20 (b) Election day paper ballots that have not been scanned shall be
21 canvassed and tallied pursuant to this section and sections 9-108 and
22 9-110 of this title.

23 (c) At a primary election, the ballots of the parties represented on
24 the board of inspectors shall be canvassed before the ballots of other
25 parties are canvassed.

26 4. All types of ballots, enclosed in properly sealed envelopes respec-
27 tively, and properly endorsed shall be filed with the original return of
28 canvass, as provided for in section 9-106 of this title.

29 5. The inspector or other courier assigned by the board filing the
30 returns shall deliver to the board or officer from whom received, the
31 keys of the voting machine, enclosed in a sealed envelope having
32 indorsed thereon a certificate of the inspectors stating the number of
33 the machine, the election district(s), ward(s) or assembly district(s)
34 where it has been used, the number on the seal and the number on the
35 protective counter. In the city of New York, police officers or peace
36 officers designated by the police commissioner of such city shall
37 provide such delivery of the devices.

38 6. The room in which such canvass is made shall be clearly lighted,
39 ingress and egress through the main entrance thereto shall be freely
40 permitted, and such canvass shall be made in plain view of those enti-
41 tled to be present. The ballots shall at all times be kept on top of the
42 table and in plain view of all persons entitled to examine them, until
43 they have been re-packaged and sealed for return to the board of
44 elections as elsewhere provided. If requested by any person entitled to
45 be present the inspectors shall, during the canvass of any ballots,
46 exhibit to him or her the ballot then being canvassed, fully opened and
47 in such a condition that he or she may fully and carefully read and
48 examine it, but no inspector shall allow any ballot to be taken from his
49 or her hand or to be touched by any person but an inspector.

50 § 3. Section 9-106 of the election law, as amended by chapter 334 of
51 the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

52 § 9-106. Official ballots; accounting for number used. After the polls
53 of the election are closed and before any boxes or envelopes containing
54 voted ballots are opened, the clerks, or if there be no clerks, two
55 inspectors representing different parties designated by the chair, shall
56 account for all of the paper ballots furnished to the election district

1 or poll site. On a reconciliation form supplied by the board of
2 elections, they shall count, verify and record on such form the number
3 of unused ballots, the number of ballots spoiled before delivery to
4 voters in the poll site, the number of ballots spoiled and returned by
5 voters and the number of affidavit ballots cast. These numbers shall be
6 added to the number of ballots cast as recorded by the public counter
7 number appearing on the ballot scanner screen(s) or results tape(s). The
8 sum shall be recorded on the ballot reconciliation form. This resulting
9 number shall be deducted from the number of ballots originally delivered
10 to the election district or poll site, and the remainder number shall be
11 determined to be the number of ballots secured in the emergency ballot
12 box(es) or other secure storage container(s) provided by the board of
13 elections. This remainder number shall be recorded on the ballot recon-
14 ciliation form. If such remainder number is zero and there are no
15 ballots in the emergency ballot box(es) or other such secure
16 container(s), inspectors shall initiate the ballot scanners' close the
17 polls mechanism and produce results tapes[~~, unless in the city of New~~
18 ~~York such scanners' close the polls mechanism has already been initiated~~
19 ~~and the results tapes already produced pursuant to paragraph (c) of~~
20 ~~subdivision one-a of section 9-102 of this title~~]. The clerks or inspec-
21 tors shall then separate, label and place each type of ballot in the box
22 or container provided by the board of elections, and securely lock or
23 seal each such box or container and record such seal number on the
24 ballot reconciliation form. They shall then sign such reconciliation
25 form. If such remainder number is not zero or there are unscanned voted
26 election day ballots in the emergency ballot box(es) or other such
27 secure container(s), the inspectors or clerks shall proceed with the
28 process provided for in section 9-108 and 9-110 of this title. Upon
29 completion of such process, the clerks or inspectors shall then sepa-
30 rate, label and place each type of ballot in the box(es) or container(s)
31 provided by the board of elections, and securely lock or seal each such
32 box(es) or container(s). They shall then sign such amended reconcil-
33 iation form.

34 § 4. Section 9-110 of the election law, as amended by chapter 334 of
35 the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

36 § 9-110. Canvass; election day paper ballots that have not been
37 scanned; method of. 1. Election day paper ballots that have not been
38 scanned because a ballot scanner was not available or because the ballot
39 has been abandoned by a voter at the ballot scanner shall be canvassed
40 as follows: a bipartisan team of inspectors shall cast such ballots on a
41 ballot scanner, if one is available, at the close of the polls before
42 the tabulated results tape is printed. If a ballot does not scan because
43 of an overvote or blank ballot warning on the ballot scanner screen, the
44 inspectors shall cause the ballot scanner to eject such ballot to be
45 hand counted pursuant to subdivision two of this section.

46 2. Election day paper ballots that cannot be scanned, as provided in
47 subdivision one [~~or one-a~~] of section 9-102 of this title as applicable
48 and subdivision one of this section shall be canvassed as follows: The
49 inspectors shall unfold each ballot of the kind then to be canvassed and
50 shall place all such ballots upon the table in one pile face down. The
51 chair shall take up each ballot in order, turn it face up and announce
52 loudly and distinctly the vote registered on each section, in the order
53 of the sections upon the ballot, or that the ballot is void or the
54 section blank, as the case may be. If more than one person is to be
55 elected to the same office or party position the chair, if the ballot is
56 void or the ballot or section is wholly blank, shall announce as many

1 void or blank votes as there are persons to be elected to the office or
2 party position. On a primary ballot a "section," as the term is used
3 above, shall mean the space occupied by the title of an office or party
4 position, names of candidates therefor and the voting squares therewith.
5 The canvass of each ballot must be completed before the next ballot is
6 taken up. When the tallies of the votes of all such ballots are proven,
7 and the results announced, the inspectors shall affix tally sheets to or
8 record the results from same on the return of canvass.

9 3. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or permit
10 affidavit ballots to be canvassed at the poll site on election day.

11 § 5. Subdivision 2 of section 9-112 of the election law, as amended by
12 chapter 334 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

13 2. A cross X mark or a check V mark, made by the voter, in a voting
14 square at the left of a candidate's name, or the voter's filling in such
15 voting square, [~~or punching a hole in the voting square of a ballot~~
16 ~~intended to be counted by machine,~~] shall be counted as a vote for such
17 candidate.

18 § 6. Subdivision 1 of section 9-114 of the election law, as amended by
19 chapter 334 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

20 1. If objection be made to the counting of any ballot or as to any
21 section of any such ballot, the board of inspectors shall forthwith and
22 before canvassing any other ballot or section thereof, rule upon the
23 objection. If the objection be continued after this ruling, the chair or
24 an inspector under the scrutiny of an inspector of the opposite party
25 shall write in ink upon the back of the ballot a memorandum of the
26 ruling and objection. The memorandum of the ruling shall be in the words
27 "Counted void", or "Counted blank", or "Counted for (naming the candi-
28 date or candidates or the presidential ticket)", or, in the case of a
29 ballot proposal "Counted for Proposal No.....," or "Counted against
30 Proposal No.....", as the case may be. The memorandum of the
31 objection shall be in the words "Objected to", followed by a brief
32 statement of the nature of the objection, the name and address of the
33 challenger and the signature of the chair or inspector.

34 § 7. Section 9-124 of the election law, as amended by chapter 334 of
35 the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

36 § 9-124. Returns of canvass, procedure after. 1. After the returns of
37 the canvass are made out and signed, the inspectors shall enclose the
38 ballot stubs, protested and void ballots and the ballots cast in affida-
39 vit envelopes in [~~a~~] separate sealed [~~envelope~~ envelopes or [~~envelopes~~
40 containers] and endorse thereon a certificate signed by each of them
41 stating the number of the district and the number of ballots contained
42 in such [~~envelope~~ envelopes or [~~envelopes~~ containers]. The inspectors
43 shall enclose the unscanned voted ballots canvassed in accordance with
44 section 9-110 of this title in a separate sealed envelope or container
45 and endorse thereon a certificate signed by each of them stating the
46 number of the district, ballot scanner identification information and
47 the number of ballots contained in such envelope or container. The
48 inspectors shall then package and seal the other voted ballots and place
49 them in one or more boxes or containers, and include within such boxes
50 or containers one portable memory device from each ballot scanner pursu-
51 ant to paragraph (d) of subdivision two of section 9-102 of this title,
52 and any absentee, military, special federal, or special presidential
53 ballots which may have been delivered to the poll site during election
54 day, and securely lock and seal such boxes or containers. Notwithstand-
55 ing the preceding sentence, such portable memory device from each ballot
56 scanner with the corresponding results tape may be enclosed in a sealed

1 container and transported prior to and separately from other materials
2 referenced in this section for the purpose of using such device to
3 provide an unofficial tally of results as required by section 9-126 of
4 this title.

5 2. Each box, envelope, or container containing the ballots and stubs,
6 if any, and all items described in subdivision one of this section shall
7 be deposited by an inspector designated for that purpose with the offi-
8 cer or board from whom or which the board of inspectors received it. In
9 the city of New York, every such box, envelope, or container shall be
10 delivered at the polling place to police or peace officers designated by
11 the police commissioner of such city, who shall deposit them with the
12 board of elections.

13 3. (a) Except in the city of New York, the registration poll records
14 or computer generated registration lists, the returns of canvass with
15 results tapes and tally sheets, if any, annexed, the voted ballots,
16 stubs, opened packages of unused ballots and ballot envelopes, any
17 absentee, military, special federal, or special presidential ballots
18 which may have been delivered to the poll site during election day, the
19 challenge report records, keys and the package of protested and void
20 ballots shall be filed with the board of elections.

21 (b) Records and supplies to be filed with a city, town or village
22 clerk shall be so filed or delivered immediately after the completion of
23 the returns of the canvass, by an inspector designated by the board of
24 inspectors. Returns, papers and registration poll records or computer
25 generated registration lists to be filed with the board of elections
26 shall be so filed by the chairman of the board of inspectors within
27 twenty-four hours after the completion of such returns. The person
28 receiving such returns in the board of elections shall give to the
29 person delivering the returns a receipt stating therein the date and
30 hour of delivery, the name of the person making the delivery, and to
31 whom said returns were delivered and shall keep a duplicate of said
32 receipt on file in the office of the board of elections.

33 ~~(c) [The county legislative body of any county in the state except the~~
34 ~~counties comprising the city of New York may, by a resolution, ordinance~~
35 ~~or act as required, provide that all returns, papers, registration poll~~
36 ~~records or computer generated registration lists, books, records, docu-~~
37 ~~ments, and other election supplies and materials shall be filed by the~~
38 ~~chairman of the board of inspectors of elections in a city or town and~~
39 ~~in a village in which elections are conducted by the board of elections,~~
40 ~~with the city, town or village clerk of such city, town or village in~~
41 ~~the county within eighteen hours after the closing of the polls at any~~
42 ~~primary, general, special or village election and the city, town or~~
43 ~~village clerk upon receiving such returns, papers, registers or lists,~~
44 ~~books, records, documents, and other election supplies and materials~~
45 ~~shall give to the person making the delivery, a receipt stating therein~~
46 ~~the date and hour of the delivery and the name of such person. Within~~
47 ~~twenty-four hours after the closing of the polls at any primary, gener-~~
48 ~~al, special or village election, the city, town or village clerk shall~~
49 ~~file all returns, papers, registration poll records or computer gener-~~
50 ~~ated registration lists, books, records, documents and other election~~
51 ~~supplies and materials filed with him by the inspectors of the election~~
52 ~~districts of the city, town or village, with the board of elections of~~
53 ~~the county and the board of elections shall give to the city, town or~~
54 ~~village clerk a receipt therefor stating therein the date and hour of~~
55 ~~the delivery and the name of the person making the delivery and to whom~~

1 ~~it was made, and shall keep a duplicate of said receipt on file in the~~
2 ~~office of the board of elections.~~

3 (d) In the city of New York, the board of inspectors shall deliver to
4 police or peace officers designated by the police commissioner of such
5 city, at the polling place the registration poll records or computer
6 generated registration lists, challenge report, records, keys, other
7 election supplies, including two copies of the returns of the canvass
8 and any absentee, military, special federal, or special presidential
9 ballots which may have been delivered to the poll site during election
10 day, voted ballots, stubs, open packages of unused ballots and ballot
11 envelopes. Such police or peace officers shall file the returns, the
12 package of void and protested ballots, if any, and the absentee, mili-
13 tary, special federal, special presidential[.] ballots which may have
14 been delivered to the poll site during election day; and emergency
15 ballots, stubs and ballot envelopes, if any, within twenty-four hours
16 after the close of the polls, in the office of the board of elections or
17 its branch office within the borough, as the case may be.

18 § 8. This act shall take effect immediately.