

STATE OF NEW YORK

1949

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 18, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. SIMON, THIELE, DINOWITZ, ARROYO, COOK, HYNDMAN, MOSLEY, EPSTEIN, RIVERA, HUNTER, BLAKE, BARRON, GUNTHER, JEAN-PIERRE, DICKENS, SEAWRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to voter enrollment

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

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 2 and 4 of section 5-302 of the election law,
2 subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 164 of the laws of 1985 and subdivi-
3 sion 4 as amended by chapter 91 of the laws of 1992, are amended to read
4 as follows:

5 2. If the application form is for a voter who has changed his enroll-
6 ment [~~or a voter who has previously registered and not enrolled~~] from
7 one party to another, then the board of elections shall compare the
8 information and the signature appearing on each application form
9 received with that on the registration poll record of the applicant and
10 if found to correspond in all particulars shall[~~, not earlier than the~~
11 ~~Tuesday following the next general election and not later than the thir-~~
12 ~~tieth day preceding the last day for publishing enrollment lists,~~]
13 proceed in the manner specified in subdivision one [~~hereof~~] of this
14 section to enter such enrollment on such voter's registration poll card,
15 except that all forms submitted during the ninety days prior to a prima-
16 ry election shall not be processed until after that election.

17 4. Registration poll records of voters whose registrations are not
18 rejected by the board of elections shall forthwith be placed in the poll
19 ledger or such voters' names shall forthwith be entered in the computer
20 files from which the computer generated registration lists are prepared,
21 except that the registration poll record of an otherwise qualified voter
22 who registers after the twenty-fifth day before a primary election shall
23 not be placed in such poll ledger or such voters' names shall not appear
24 on such a computer generated registration list until after such primary

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

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1 and except further that the registration poll record of a voter whose
2 previous registration was cancelled pursuant to the provisions of this
3 chapter ~~[after the previous general election]~~ during the ninety days
4 prior to a primary election and who registers pursuant to the provisions
5 of this chapter after such cancellation shall not be placed in such poll
6 ledger or such voters' names shall not appear on such a computer gener-
7 ated registration list until after the ~~[fall]~~ next primary election,
8 unless such voter has enrolled with the same party as the enrollment on
9 the registration which was so cancelled.

10 The registration poll record of a voter who is not eligible to vote in
11 a primary election but who is eligible to vote in a special election
12 held before such primary election shall be placed in its regular place
13 in the poll ledger or in a special section of such poll ledger for such
14 special election as the board of elections, in its discretion, shall
15 provide, or such name shall appear in its regular place on the computer
16 generated registration list prepared for use in such special election.
17 Such poll record shall be removed from such poll ledger or computer
18 generated registration list immediately after such special election.

19 § 2. Section 5-304 of the election law, subdivision 1 as amended by
20 chapter 147 of the laws of 1982, subdivision 3 as amended by chapter 90
21 of the laws of 1991 and subdivision 4 as amended by chapter 62 of the
22 laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

23 § 5-304. Enrollment; change of enrollment or new enrollment by previ-
24 ously registered voters. 1. A registered voter may change his enrollment
25 in the manner prescribed by this section.

26 2. The term "change of enrollment" shall apply to applications by a
27 registered voter already enrolled in one party to enroll in a different
28 party~~[, or to delete his enrollment in any party, or an application by a~~
29 ~~registered voter not enrolled in any party to enroll in a particular~~
30 ~~party]~~.

31 3. A change of enrollment received by the board of elections ~~[not~~
32 ~~later than the twenty-fifth day]~~ less than ninety days before ~~[the~~
33 general] any primary election shall be deposited in a sealed enrollment
34 box, which shall not be opened until the first Tuesday following such
35 ~~[general]~~ primary election. Such change of enrollment shall be then
36 removed and entered as provided in this article.

37 4. Registered voters may apply for change of enrollment personally by
38 mail to or by appearing before a county board of elections or by appear-
39 ing before a board of inspectors. If the applicant has appeared in
40 person and if the board finds that he or she is properly registered, it
41 shall provide the applicant with an application form for voter registra-
42 tion by mail which shall be treated as an application for change of
43 enrollment filed pursuant to this section. If the voter has applied
44 personally by mail, the county board of elections shall mail him or her
45 an application form for voter registration by mail as provided by this
46 chapter. If a registered voter submits an application form for registra-
47 tion or enrollment as provided by this chapter, from the residence
48 address from which he or she is then registered, and such form reflects
49 a change of enrollment, the county board of elections shall treat such
50 form as an application for change of enrollment filed pursuant to this
51 section. If such application form also sets forth a new address within
52 the same city or county, the board of elections shall also treat such
53 form as an application for transfer of registration pursuant to section
54 5-208 of this article. If a voter has cast a ballot in an affidavit
55 ballot envelope on which such voter claims a party enrollment different

1 from the enrollment in the records of the board of elections, such affi-
2 davit shall be treated as an application for change of enrollment.

3 5. An application for enrollment by an already registered voter who is
4 not enrolled in any party shall be treated in the same manner as an
5 application for registration under section 5-210 of this article, except
6 as described in subdivision six of this section.

7 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a voter
8 enrolled with a political party on the ninetieth day before any primary
9 election may not enroll with a different political party prior to that
10 primary election.

11 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.