STATE OF NEW YORK

8985

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

August 13, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to communications mailed to registered voters regarding primary elections

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 4-117 of the election law, as amended by chapter 481 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

1. The board of elections, between the third Tuesday in April and the second Friday in May in each year, shall send by mail on which is endorsed such language designated by the state board of elections to ensure postal authorities do not forward such mail but return it to the board of elections with forwarding information, when it cannot be delivered as addressed and which contains a request that any such mail received for persons not residing at the address be dropped back in the mail, a communication, in a form approved by the state board of elections, to every registered voter**, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision,** who has been registered without a change of address since the beginning of such year, except that the board of elections shall not be required to send such communications to voters in inactive status. The communication shall notify the voter in bold print contained in such notice of the days and hours of the ensuing [~~primary and~~] general elections **and primary elections, where applicable**, the place where [~~he or she~~] **such voter** appears by [~~his or her~~] **their** registration records to be entitled to vote, and also in other than bold type of the fact that voters who have moved or will have moved from the address where they were last registered must either notify the board of elections of [~~his or her~~] **their** new address or vote by paper ballot at the polling place for [~~his or her~~] **their** new address even if such voter has not re-registered, or otherwise notified the board of elections of

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

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the change of address. **In lieu of sending the communication to every registered voter, a board of elections, except the board of elections of the city of New York, may elect to send such communication with regard to primary elections only to those voters who are eligible to vote in such primary elections.** If the primary will not be held on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September, the communication shall contain a conspicuous notice in all capital letters and bold font notifying the voter of the primary date. If the location of the polling place for the voter's election district has been moved, the communication shall contain the following legend in bold type: "YOUR POLLING PLACE HAS BEEN CHANGED. YOU NOW VOTE AT.....". The communication shall indicate that any registered voter may vote early by mail by applying for an early mail ballot, and provide information on how to apply for an early mail ballot. The communication shall also indicate whether the polling place is accessible to physically disabled voters, that a voter who will be out of the city or county on the day of the primary or general election or a voter who is ill or physically disabled may obtain an absentee ballot, that a physically disabled voter whose polling place is not accessible may request that [~~his~~] **their** registration record be moved to an election district which has a polling place which is accessible, the phone number to call for applications to move a registration record or for early mail or absentee ballot applications, the phone number to call for the location of registration and polling places, the phone number to call to indicate that the voter is willing to serve on election day as an election inspector, poll clerk, interpreter or in other capacities, the phone number to call to obtain an application for registration by mail, and such other information concerning the elections or registration as the board may include. In lieu of sending such communication to every registered voter, the board of elections may send a single communication to a household containing more than one registered voter, provided that the names of all such voters appear as part of the address on such communication.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.