STATE OF NEW YORK

8960

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

August 13, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to protecting the personal information of candidates for public office

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

Section 1. Section 6-132 of the election law is amended by adding two new subdivisions 1-a and 2-a to read as follows:

1-a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prior to the release of a designation or nomination petition through a freedom of information request or the publication of such document to the public, the home address of the candidate or candidates appearing on such petition shall be redacted in each instance.

2-a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prior to the release of a designation or nomination petition through a freedom of information request or the publication of such document to the public, the home address of the witness to the signatures on such petition shall be redacted in each instance.

§ 2. Section 6-140 of the election law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

1-a. (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prior to the release of a designation or nomination petition through a freedom of information request or the publication of such document to the public, the home address of the candidate or candidates appearing on such petition shall be redacted in each instance.

(ii) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prior to the release of a designation or nomination petition through a freedom of information request or the publication of such document to the public, the home address of the witness to the signatures on such petition shall be redacted in each instance.

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

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§ 3. Section 6-144 of the election law, as amended by chapter 635 of the laws of 1990, the opening paragraph as amended by chapter 150 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

§ 6-144. Nominating and designating petitions and certificates; place for filing. Petitions, certificates and minutes specified in this article shall be filed in the office of the Board of Elections of the county, except as follows: for an office or position to be voted for wholly within the city of New York, in the office of the Board of Elections of that city; for an office or position to be voted for in a district greater than one county, or portions of two or more counties, in the office of the state board of elections; for a village office to be filled in a village election not conducted by the board of elections, in the office of the village clerk. All such petitions and certificates shall at the time of filing thereof be endorsed by such officer or board with the day, hour and minute of such filing. Such officer or board shall keep a book, which shall be open to public inspection in which shall be entered the times of filing all such petitions and certificates; the names [~~and residences~~] of all candidates named therein; the names [~~and residences~~] of all candidates certified to such officer or board; the title of the office or party position; the name of the party or independent body to which the petition or certificate relates and a memorandum of any objections to such petition or certificate. Forthwith upon the filing of a petition or certificate designating or nominating a person or persons for public office, such officer or board shall mail notice thereof to each such person. Such notice shall also state the last day to decline such designation or nomination, and include a statement that the candidate's name shall appear on the ballot as it appears in such notice.

§ 4. Section 6-204 of the election law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

1-a. (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prior to the release of a designation or nomination petition through a freedom of information request or the publication of such document to the public, the home address of the candidate or candidates appearing on such petition shall be redacted in each instance.

(ii) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prior to the release of a designation or nomination petition through a freedom of information request or the publication of such document to the public, the home address of the witness to the signatures on such petition shall be redacted in each instance.

§ 5. Section 6-206 of the election law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

1-a. (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prior to the release of a designation or nomination petition through a freedom of information request or the publication of such document to the public, the home address of the candidate or candidates appearing on such petition shall be redacted in each instance.

(ii) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prior to the release of a designation or nomination petition through a freedom of information request or the publication of such document to the public, the home address of the witness to the signatures on such petition shall be redacted in each instance.

§ 6. Paragraph a of subdivision 3 of section 15-108 of the election law, as separately amended by chapters 106 and 176 of the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

a. **(1)** Party designations for elective village offices shall be made on a designating petition containing the signatures in ink of residents of the village who are registered to vote with the appropriate county board of elections at the time of signing and who are enrolled in such political party. The sheets of such a petition shall be numbered. Such petition [~~must~~] **shall** set forth in each instance the correct date of signing, the name of the signer, and [~~his or her~~] **such signer's** present address, and may set forth a committee to fill vacancies consisting of at least three qualified voters of the village enrolled in such party and their residence within the village. A signer need not [~~himself or herself~~] fill in the date or residence **themselves**. Each sheet of such petition [~~must~~] **shall** be in substantially the following form and shall contain all the information required therein:

PARTY DESIGNATING PETITION

I, the undersigned do hereby state that I am a registered voter of the Village of ..... and a duly enrolled voter of the ..... party and entitled to vote at the next primary election of such party, that my place of residence is truly stated opposite my signature hereto, and I hereby designate the following named person (or persons) as a candidate (or candidates) for nomination of such party for the public office (or public offices) to be voted for at the primary election to be held on the ..... day of ..... 20.... as hereinafter specified.

Name of Candidate	Public Office (include district number, if applicable)	Term	Residence
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

I do hereby appoint (insert names and addresses of at least three persons, all of whom shall be enrolled voters of said party) as a committee to fill vacancies in accordance with the provisions of the election law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, the day and year placed opposite my signature.

Date	Name	Residence
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

I ..... (name of witness) state: I am a duly qualified voter of the State of New York; and an enrolled voter of the ..... party. I now reside at .....(residence address). Each of the persons whose names are subscribed to this petition sheet containing ..... signatures, subscribed [~~his or her~~] **their** name in my presence.

I understand that this statement will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and, if it contains a material false

statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prior to the release of a designation or nomination petition through a freedom of information request or the publication of such document to the public, the home address of the candidate or candidates appearing on such petition shall be redacted in each instance.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prior to the release of a designation or nomination petition through a freedom of information request or the publication of such document to the public, the home address of the witness to the signatures on such petition shall be redacted in each instance.

§ 7. Subdivision 8 of section 3-220 of the election law, as added by section 6 of part F of chapter 55 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

8. Where a board of elections receives a notification pursuant to paragraph (c) of subdivision two of section eight hundred fifty-nine of the judiciary law, such board of elections shall comply with such notification[~~, except that where the notification requires the board of elections to cease making a person's address public, such board shall not comply therewith from the date of filing of any ballot access or related document containing such address until thirty days after the last day to commence a special proceeding or action with respect to such filing~~].

§ 8. This act shall take effect immediately.