

# STATE OF NEW YORK

3223

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 24, 2025

Introduced by Sens. KAVANAGH, MAYER -- read twice and ordered printed,  
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections

AN ACT to amend the election law, in relation to conducting risk-limiting audits

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 9-211 of the election law, as  
2 amended by chapter 763 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as  
3 follows:  
4 1. (a) Within fifteen days after each general or special election,  
5 within thirteen days after every primary election, and within seven days  
6 after every village election conducted by the board of elections, the  
7 board of elections or a bipartisan committee appointed by such board  
8 shall conduct a risk-limiting audit, which will include a hand-to-eye  
9 review of at least three percent of the voter verifiable ~~[audit]~~ paper  
10 records ~~[from three percent of voting machines or systems within the~~  
11 ~~jurisdiction of such board. Such audits may be performed manually or via~~  
12 ~~the use of any automated tool authorized for such use by the state board~~  
13 ~~of elections which is independent from the voting system it is being~~  
14 ~~used to audit. Voting machines or systems shall be selected for audit~~  
15 ~~through a random, manual process]~~ in accordance with the regulations  
16 promulgated pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision. In addition  
17 to such audit and in accordance with the same procedures the board of  
18 elections shall audit the voter verifiable audit records from three  
19 percent of voting machines or systems within the jurisdiction of such  
20 board. At least five days prior to the time fixed for such ~~[selection]~~  
21 risk-limiting audit process, the board of elections shall send notice by  
22 first class mail to each candidate, political party and independent body  
23 entitled to have had watchers present at the polls in any election  
24 district in such board's jurisdiction. Such notice shall state the time  
25 and place fixed for such ~~[random selection process]~~ risk-limiting audit.

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

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1 The audit shall be conducted in the same manner, to the extent applica-  
2 ble, as a canvass of paper ballots. Each candidate, political party or  
3 independent body entitled to appoint watchers to attend at a polling  
4 place shall be entitled to appoint such number of watchers to observe  
5 the audit.

6 (b) The state board of elections shall promulgate regulations for the  
7 implementation of risk-limiting audits required by paragraph (a) of this  
8 subdivision. The number of voter verifiable audit records selected for  
9 such audits shall be determined pursuant to such regulations that make  
10 use of statistical methods and are designed to limit the risk of certi-  
11 fying an incorrect outcome, but shall be at least three percent of all  
12 ballots cast.

13 (c) As used in this section: (i) "Risk-limiting audit" means a post-e-  
14 lection process such that, if the reported outcome of the contest is  
15 incorrect, there is at least a ninety percent chance that the audit  
16 will replace the incorrect outcome with the correct outcome as deter-  
17 mined by a full, hand-to-eye tabulation of all votes validly cast in  
18 that election contest that ascertains voter intent manually and directly  
19 from voter-verifiable paper records.

20 (ii) "Reported outcome" means the outcome of an election contest which  
21 is determined according to the canvass and which will become the offi-  
22 cial, certified outcome unless it is revised by an audit, recount, or  
23 other legal process.

24 (iii) "Incorrect outcome" means an outcome that differs from the  
25 outcome that would be determined by a full tabulation of all votes  
26 validly cast in that election contest, determining voter intent manual-  
27 ly, directly from voter-verifiable paper records.

28 (iv) "Outcome" means the winner or set of winners of an election  
29 contest, which might be candidates or positions.

30 § 2. County boards of elections are authorized to conduct risk-limit-  
31 ing audit pilots. Any board conducting a pilot audit shall notify the  
32 New York state board of elections. The New York state board of elections  
33 must provide a report to the state legislature on June 30, 2027 with the  
34 findings from the risk-limiting audits conducted through March 31, 2027.

35 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that  
36 section one of this act shall take effect on January 1, 2028.