



## News from Livingston County, NY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Heather Grant, Public Information Coordinator

**Phone:** 585-243-7051

**Email:** [hgrant@co.livingston.ny.us](mailto:hgrant@co.livingston.ny.us)

### **Recent Changes to NYS Election Law**

Geneseo, NY- Shortly after the New Year, seven bills were passed relating to New York State Election Law. Two of these new laws were effective immediately and will have an impact on the local Board of Elections. The first will combine the June and September primaries into one event and the second is the Early Voting Bill.

Democratic Commissioner David DiPasquale commented, "New York State is the only state that has a separate Federal primary; combining the two primaries into one will save Livingston County approximately \$25,000." Republican Commissioner Becky Schroeder agrees, stating, "One primary is more desirable for efficiency in the Board of Elections office but the entire political calendar has been modified pushing election activities from fall into the spring." Commissioners DiPasquale and Schroeder are hopeful that candidates considering running for county or local seats this year will educate themselves on these changes.

The Early Voting Bill provides for voting nine days prior to primary and general elections. Because Livingston County is below the 50,000 registered voter cap, only one poll site will be required for early voting. Both commissioners agreed that voting will take place at the Board of Elections Office at 6 Court Street, Geneseo, NY.

Other bills passed:

- Same Day Registration (will require NYS Constitution Amendment)
- No Excuse Requirement for Absentee Voting (will require NYS Constitution Amendment)
- Address changes to be statewide
- 16-year old pre-registration
- Campaign finance changes specific to how corporation contributions are reported

Additional election reform changes are expected to be presented to the Assembly and Senate this week. Both Commissioner DiPasquale and Commissioner Schroeder agree that all of these election reforms should have funding attached to them in the Governor's budget. Please do not hesitate to contact either Commissioner with any questions at 585-243-7090.

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