



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTION DAY OPERATIONS
AND VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

SUBJECT: Enhancing the voter experience, preventing voter disenfranchisement and improving emergency voting protocols.

PURPOSE: To examine ways to improve voting and prevent voter disenfranchisement in New York State, including the use of new technologies to ease voting lines and new protocols for emergency voting in circumstances of a state of emergency.

NEW YORK CITY
Thursday, December 10th, 2015
10:30 a.m.
Assembly Hearing Room 1923, 19th floor
250 Broadway, New York, NY

On primary and election days in recent years, New York voters have experienced long lines, flooded polling sites and states of emergency. New York election officials are also preparing for the repair and/or replacement of aging ballot machines. It is, therefore, imperative to examine new policies, technologies and protocols that will help improve voting and enable resiliency in the face of potential election day challenges and emergencies.

The Committee will take testimony relating to policies and technologies aimed at easing voting lines, speeding voter check-in and making the voting process clearer, more efficient and accessible for all New Yorkers. Testimony may also include a consideration and discussion of the recommendations made in a 2014 report: *The American Voting Experience: Report and Recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration*.

The Committee will also examine ways to improve emergency voting protocols. Recent primary and election day emergencies have demonstrated the need to update the current protocols and develop a clear and concise disaster plan that will automatically take effect without the need for ad hoc communications and approvals during a disaster. The Committee will explore new protocols that will allow resiliency in the face of an emergency on election day, including the effective strategies and practices identified in the 2014 Report of the National Association of Secretaries of State Task Force on Emergency Preparedness for Elections, *State Laws & Practices for the Emergency Management of Elections*.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony may be limited to ten minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committee would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Michael J. Cusick
Member of Assembly
Chairman
Committee on Election Law

David Buchwald
Member of Assembly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Election Day Operations
and Voter Disenfranchisement

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to testify at the public hearing on examining solutions to improve voting and preventing voter disenfranchisement, as well as new protocols for emergency voting, and any costs associated with such proposals are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email or fax it to:

Matthew Aumand
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Assembly Committee on Election Law
Room 513 - Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: Aumandm@assembly.state.ny.us
Phone: (518) 455-4313
Fax: (518) 455-7083

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on examining solutions to improve voting and preventing voter disenfranchisement, as well as new protocols for emergency voting, and the effect of such proposals on the state budget to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Election Law, Subcommittee on Election Day Operations and Voter Disenfranchisement on December 10, 2015.
- I plan to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to ten minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____