



Dear neighbors,

This week, I am thrilled to share the news that my first bill passed in the Assembly ([A05062](#)). This is doubly special because this is a bill that was brought to my desk by the Ithaca City School District, inspired by a study that showed that at least 30% of school nurses were spending more than 20 hours a week completing timeconsuming and unnecessary data entry. This bill permits nurses to download immunization data in batch mode and import that data into their database by coordinating the two systems. By streamlining the process, we will save our school nurses valuable time that they can devote to caring for the health of their students.

PASSED!

School Immunization Data Access
Assembly Bill A05062 (Kelles)

This bill helps school nurses by making it easier for school districts to track immunization records through improved access to data in the New York State Immunization Information System [NYSIIS].

ANNA KELLES
Assemblymember for the 125th

Voting Rights Legislation Passes in the Assembly

Voting is the foundation of the democratic process. This week, I was proud to stand with my colleagues to pass a package of legislation to expand voting access and protect the right for every New Yorker to have their voice heard. As we faced this pandemic, it became clear that we need additional measures in place so that elections are not disrupted by public health emergencies, as well as to eliminate barriers to voting. While some states across the country are trying to restrict voting access for political gain, New York is moving forward to support this constitutional right.

This week, the Assembly Majority passed two measures to simplify the absentee voting process. One bill would allow voters to electronically request an absentee ballot – eliminating the requirement for an in-person signature (A.6046). A second measure would temporarily eliminate the need to request an absentee ballot via signed application, allow voters to request a ballot by signed letter and require mail ballots postmarked through Election Day to be counted (A.6047-A). We also advanced two constitutional amendments that will appear on the ballot this November, including waiving the requirement that New Yorkers register to vote at least 10 days before an election and allowing voters to request an absentee ballot without a declared reason (A.502, A.4431).

[A.6046:](#)

- Temporarily eliminates the need to request an absentee ballot via signed application and allows voters to request ballots through e-mail or online application
- This measure expires on December 31, 2021

[A.6047-A:](#)

- Provides that absentee ballots having a postmark or cancellation mark through the day of an election should be counted, in order to conform with the hand-delivered ballot deadline
- Temporarily eliminates the need to request an absentee ballot via a signed application

[A.502:](#)

- Eliminates the 10-day advance voter registration provision in the New York State Constitution
- New York State continuously ranks among the lowest in voter turnout
- In 2020, voter turnout was about 65.3% of eligible voters
 - While this was higher than New York's 2016 voter turnout of 57.2%, it still falls below the national average of 66.5%
- If passed, this constitutional amendment would appear as a ballot referendum in November 2021

[A.4431:](#)

- Allows eligible voters to request an absentee ballot without a declared reason
- The New York State Constitution allows absentee voting if the individual will be absent from their county of residence at the time of an election or they have an illness or disability
- If passed, this constitutional amendment would appear as a ballot referendum in November 2021



If you have any questions, please give my office a call and my staff will be happy to help.

In good health,

Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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