Continuing 2020 Processes aka Before, Through, and After COVID
Our changes really started before COVID…

➢ After 2018 Election, both houses of the Legislature and the Governor all in same party

➢ 2019 Election cycle it starts: 52 Chapters changing Election Law

➢ Normally we’d have 1 or 2
2019... The big ones

➢ Moved all Primary Elections (Federal/State/Local) to June.
  ➢ Before - Federal in June – State/Local in September

➢ Early Voting – to start in Fall of 2019
➢ Electronic Poll Books - stood this up in less than 6 months
➢ On Demand ballot Printing
➢ 2 new Grant programs were added to help counties with these

➢ Online Voter Registration – to start in 2021
➢ Statewide Address Changes
➢ Instant Change of Party Enrollment
2019. . . There’s more

- Public Campaign Finance program –
  - this will start the day after 2022 election for the 2024

- All State & Local campaign disclosures to now come to State Board
  - About 12,000 filers

- Presidential Primary Law – Set date for April 2020
2020 – It gets better

- Only 17 Chapters- Now we’re up to 70 for two years
- Pre- COVID Main Ones:
  - Mandatory Hand recounts
    - ½ percent or less than 20 votes or less than 5000 votes for large races with one million votes cast – Not effective until 2021
- Public Campaign Finance – Part 2 – program finalized
2020 – then it begins

- Electronic Absentee Ballot Applications.
- Expanded reasons for absentee – Redefined “illness”
- Changed deadline to return absentee – now ok without postmark if received by day after election.

- Counties must have at least 1 early voting site in largest municipality
- Any change to poll site entrance – post notice on yellow paper

- Automatic Voter registration - changes how NVRA agencies register voters
2020 – Did I mention “Executive Orders”?

➢ 25 of the 95 COVID orders impacted elections
➢ Starts with March 12 – County Boards relieved of going into nursing homes to conduct voting

➢ The snowball rolls downhill –
   ➢ 2020 March 14, 16, 18, 28, 29;
     April 9, 12, 24, 25; May 1, 7; June 21, 30; July 3, 6, 30;
     August 24; September 9, 18
   ➢ 2021 December 13, 30; January 7, February 11, 14
What did the Executive Orders cover

- Allowed electronic absentee applications (what we’ve come to call “the portal”) and defined “illness” to include the potential contraction of COVID for June primary

- Mandated sending out absentee applications to all for June primary election, allowed requests by phone, internet and electronically

- Lowered ballot access petition signature requirements and suspended petition circulation for June primary

- Allowed virtual party nominating meetings
➢ Postponed Elections -
   ➢ March 17 and 18 village elections
     (Date was TBD – then finally held in September)

➢ Presidential Primary (April to June)

➢ Special Elections for CD27 (April to June)

➢ Special Elections AD 12,31 106 SD 50, Queens Boro president
  (April to June, then finally cancelled out right)
➢ August was interesting
➢ Mandated county boards to
  ➢ mail out a notice to all voters to tell them about the days and hours for voting, poll site locations, absentee ballot application process;
  ➢ Submit staffing plan to State Board for general election
➢ Mandated State Board develop uniform absentee ballot envelops by 9/8/20 which county boards must use
➢ Required counties 48 hours after general election to submit list of who voted during early and election day to State Board to conduct duplicate check
➢ So was September

➢ Requires boards to allow voters to drop off voted absentee ballots and file a plan to do so with the SBOE by 9/21 and post such plan on their website and clarifies that voters who apply by phone, fax, email and web portal do not need to file a wet signature application and boards cannot send such an application with the ballot.

➢ Amends Labor Law to exclude poll worker wages below $504 from impacting their unemployment.
2021 and the ride continues

- Another 30 Chapters - Up to 100 now - Will the madness ever end?

- With COVID still going on, change to:
  - ballot access (reduced # of signatures for petitioning),
  - election dates for party offices (optional move from 2021 to 2022)
  - eliminated a type of petition get a write in voting for a primary.
And some Non COVID Changes in 2021

- Restoration of Voting Rights for Parolees
  - This was already largely in place by a pre-covid executive order
- Change to poll site – post notice on old site – must use yellow paper
- Allow candidates to get off ballot after primary – eliminated need to nominate for another office
- Allowed on-line poll worker training
- State website in 12 most common languages
2022?

- So far, in January the first three chapters just adjusted dates in prior laws
- February added another to change in a filing date for list of party positions up for election
- And they adopted new Congressional and State Legislative Lines the court challenge on them is being heard today
What has survived?
Absenteen Voting

- Put into law the absentee web portal
- Set deadline for applying by mail to 15 days before election in person still up to the day before election
- Changed mail return deadline to postmark on election day instead of day before.
- Added Online absentee ballot tracking
- Accelerated time-line for canvassing absentee ballots –
  - 4 days after ballot is returned open and get ready
  - Start scanning first day of early voting
  - Tabulate results 8 PM election night (Polls close at 9PM)
Early voting –
- Required at least one early voting site in largest municipality in county
- Increased number of sites and expanded weekend hours
- Electronic poll books
- On-demand ballot printing
How did we pay for this

Grant programs - 2019

- Early Voting Grant $10 million for counties
  - Implement early voting. (e poll books systems, staff to implement early voting, temporary poll site improvements, developing and implementing early voting plan, security practices/equipment, cleaning supplies, etc.)
  - This ended 01-28-2022.

- E-Poll Book and Ballot Printing $14.7 million for counties
  - Purchase of E-Poll Books, software, on-demand ballot printers and cyber security.
  - This ended 01-28-2022.

- Elections Cybersecurity Remediation Grant $9 million for counties
  - Implement cybersecurity remediation and mitigation.
  - This ended 01-28-2021
➢ How did we pay for this

➢ Grant programs

➢ 2021

➢ Early Voting Grant - $2 Million for counties
  ➢ for eligible expenses for early voting expansion. (rent/lease of site location, physical security, poll site set up/cleaning, closing, early voting communication plan, etc.)
  ➢ For expenses 04-07-2021 to 01-28-2022

➢ Technology Innovation and Election Resources (TIER)
  ➢ $20 million for counties
  ➢ $5 million for State
  ➢ Voting systems/equipment, ballot scanners, tracking equipment/software, software upgrades, E-Poll book systems, connectivity services at early voting sites, etc.
  ➢ For expenses 04-07-2021 to 01-27-2023
Where do we go from here?

- Amendments to state constitution failed in 2021 election
  - No Excuse Absentee
  - Same Day voter registration
- Bill in to reduce registration deadline to 10-day constitutional minimum
- Expanded definition of “illness” in law through 2022
- Online Voter Registration - go live May 2023
- Online Absentee Ballot Tracking - go live April 2022

- And there are other things going on
  - Public Campaign Finance –
    - Statewide offices and State Legislature – starts day after 2022 general
- Redistricted Congress and State Legislature
- Renovating and Expanding our office space
- And not to mention our ongoing county cyber security initiative
Questions?