

STATE BOARD ANNOUNCES LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR 2001

ALBANY, NY – (2/26/01) – The State Board of Elections today urged the Legislature to act on its package of proposals submitted to the Elections committees today. The package includes proposed changes to the election law that would make it easier to vote in New York and to allow complete public access to campaign spending.

"After many meetings, and following careful review and consideration, our staff has prepared several proposals that make it easier for many voters to exercise their right to vote and for officials to administer elections with the highest degree of accuracy and convenience", said Thomas Wilkey, Executive Director of the State Board. "These proposals are aimed at correcting those few problems that have occurred during recent elections and addresses the need for access to new technologies developed for election management. We hope that these recommendations will be fully discussed and become law during this session."

Listed below are brief descriptions of each proposal.

SBE 01-1 County Ownership of Voting Equipment Act: The State Board proposes that local boards of election assume ownership and control of voting machines. The legislation also provides an appropriation of \$25,000,000 to create a matching grant program to allow local boards to purchase new voting machines. In concert with this new proposal the State Board continues to support it's past proposal, SBE 99-6, introduced in 2001 as Assembly Bill 1430 (sponsored by Assemblyman Kaufman) and Senate Bill 54 (sponsored by Senator Maltese), to allow the State Board to authorize a county board of elections or a city, town or village to use a voting system not previously approved by State Board; and authorize the use of experimental voting machines for counting absentee, military, special federal, emergency and affidavit ballots.

SBE 01-2 Election Administration Training Services Act: The State Board proposes that inspectors be trained annually; and that a minimum election day pay level of \$130 for inspectors and poll clerks and \$200 for election coordinators be established statewide with payment made by the local boards of elections.

Programmatically, the State Board encourages state sponsored universities and colleges to provide credit to students for service as election inspectors, poll clerks and election coordinators; supports the restoration of Election Day as a regular state holiday; and encourages the expanded use of persons who are 17 years old and will be registered to vote by the general election to as election inspectors and poll clerks.

SBE 01-3 Extension of Time for Military Voting: The State Board proposes that the time to receive military ballots be extended from 7 days after the election to 10 days after a

primary and 13 days after a general election and a presidential primary election.

SBE 01-4 Voting List Maintenance: The State Board proposes that the State Board shall annually develop and disseminate to all local boards of election a complete electronic statewide voter list so that the local boards may be able to identify duplicate voters from other counties.

SBE 01-5 Extending the Use of Federal Write-In Ballots: The State Board proposes that the use of the federal write-in ballots be extended from use for only federal offices to allow for voting for both federal and state offices.

SBE 01-6 Local Electronic Campaign Financial Disclosure Act: The State Board proposes that all local financial filings be filed electronically with the State Board to be disseminated via the State Board's web site. Counties would be required to provide public access to the filings at the local board. An appropriation of \$500,000 will be necessary to support the increased burden upon the State Board.

SBE 01-7 Exemption from Jury Duty for Election Day Workers: The State Board of election proposes that service as an election inspector, poll clerk or election coordinator act as an exemption from jury duty.