



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 7228***

LCO No. 6356



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REFORMS TO THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS IN THIS STATE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. Section 9-140c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

3       (a) (1) The municipal clerk shall retain the envelopes containing  
4       absentee ballots received by him under section 9-140b and shall not  
5       open such envelopes. The municipal clerk shall endorse over his  
6       signature, upon each outer envelope as he receives it, (A) the date and  
7       precise time of its receipt, and (B) the method of its receipt, in  
8       accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection. The  
9       clerk shall make an affidavit attesting to the accuracy of all such  
10      endorsements, and at the close of the polls shall deliver such affidavit to  
11      the head moderator, who shall endorse the time of its receipt and return  
12      it to the clerk after all counting is complete. The clerk shall preserve the  
13      affidavit for one hundred eighty days in accordance with the  
14      requirements of section 9-150b. The clerk shall keep a list of the names

15 of the applicants who return absentee ballots to the clerk under section  
16 9-140b. The list shall be preserved as a public record as required by  
17 section 9-150b.

18 (2) The municipal clerk shall record on the outer envelope of each  
19 absentee ballot returned under section 9-140b whether such ballot was  
20 (A) sent by the United States Postal Service or any commercial carrier,  
21 courier or messenger service, (B) deposited in a secure drop box, in  
22 which case the location of such drop box shall also be so recorded, (C)  
23 returned in person by an elector, or (D) returned in person by the  
24 designee or immediate family member of an elector. As soon as  
25 reasonably practicable after the close of the polls at an election or  
26 primary, the municipal clerk shall submit to the Secretary of the State a  
27 report detailing the total count of all absentee ballots returned for such  
28 election or primary, broken down by each method described in  
29 subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision.

30 (b) (1) Beginning not earlier than the [seventh] fourteenth day before  
31 the election, primary or referendum and on any weekday thereafter, all  
32 absentee ballots received by the municipal clerk at or prior to eleven  
33 o'clock a.m. of such day may be sorted into voting districts by the  
34 municipal clerk and checked as provided in this subsection. On any  
35 such day, beginning as soon as the ballots have been sorted, the  
36 registrars of voters, without opening the outer envelopes, may check the  
37 names of the applicants returning ballots on the official checklist to be  
38 used at the election, primary or referendum by indicating "absentee" or  
39 "A" preceding each such name and, if unaffiliated electors are  
40 authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two  
41 parties, the designation of the party in which the applicants are voting  
42 preceding each such name. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in  
43 the respective polling places, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-  
44 147a, as amended by this act, the registrars shall also place such  
45 indication on a duplicate checklist to be retained by the municipal clerk  
46 until the municipal clerk delivers such duplicate checklist to the  
47 registrars, in accordance with subsection (e) of this section, for the use

48 of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

49 (2) All absentee ballots received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. of  
50 the last day before the election, primary or referendum which is not a  
51 Sunday or legal holiday, shall be sorted into voting districts by the  
52 municipal clerk and checked as provided in subdivision (1) of this  
53 subsection not later than such last day.

54 (c) If the name of the applicant returning the ballot is not on the  
55 official checklist for any polling place in such municipality, the  
56 registrars shall endorse on the face of such outer envelope the word  
57 "rejected", followed by a statement of the reasons for rejection, and the  
58 outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot counted.

59 (d) After such checking has been completed on any such day, the  
60 municipal clerk shall seal the unopened ballots in a package and retain  
61 them in a safe place.

62 (e) (1) (A) [Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
63 ballots] Ballots received, sorted and checked prior to five o'clock p.m. on  
64 the (i) fourth day before the election, primary or referendum may be  
65 delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars at five o'clock p.m. on  
66 such fourth day, (ii) third day before the election, primary or  
67 referendum may be so delivered at five o'clock p.m. on such third day,  
68 and (iii) second day before the election, primary or referendum may be  
69 so delivered at five o'clock p.m. on such second day; and

70 (B) Ballots received at or prior to eleven o'clock a.m. on the last day  
71 before the election, primary or referendum that were not already  
72 delivered under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be delivered  
73 by the municipal clerk to the registrars [between ten o'clock a.m. and  
74 twelve o'clock noon] at eight o'clock a.m. on the day of the election or  
75 primary and at twelve o'clock noon on the day of a referendum.

76 (2) Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the respective polling  
77 places [,] pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by

78 this act, each time ballots are delivered pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
79 this subsection, the municipal clerk shall also deliver to the registrars at  
80 [this] such time a copy of the duplicate checklist provided for in  
81 subsection (b) of this section, current as of the time of such delivery, for  
82 the use of the absentee ballot counters pursuant to subsection (i) of this  
83 section.

84 [(2) The municipal clerk may deliver the ballots at a time that is later  
85 than the time provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, provided  
86 such time is mutually agreed upon by the municipal clerk and registrars  
87 and is not later than eight o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary  
88 or referendum.]

89 (f) Absentee ballots timely received by the clerk after eleven o'clock  
90 a.m. of such last day before an election, primary or referendum shall be  
91 sorted into voting districts by the clerk and retained by the clerk  
92 separately until delivered to the registrars of voters for checking.

93 (g) Any or all of such ballots received after eleven o'clock a.m. of such  
94 last day before an election, primary or referendum and before six o'clock  
95 p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall, upon  
96 request of the registrars, be delivered to the registrars by the municipal  
97 clerk at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election, primary or  
98 referendum for checking. [ or at a later time mutually agreed upon by  
99 the clerk and registrars, provided such time is not later than eight o'clock  
100 p.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.]

101 (h) Absentee ballots received after six o'clock p.m. on the day of the  
102 election, primary or referendum and any ballots received prior to six  
103 o'clock p.m. of such day which were not delivered earlier shall be  
104 delivered to the registrars at the close of the polls for checking.  
105 [Although absentee ballots shall be checked by the registrars of voters  
106 at various times throughout the election, primary or referendum day,  
107 absentee ballots may be counted at one single time during such day.]

108 (i) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the absentee

109 ballot counters, upon receipt of the ballots delivered by the municipal  
110 clerk to the registrars at six o'clock p.m. on the day of the election,  
111 primary or referendum and at the close of the polls pursuant to  
112 subsections (g) and (h) of this section, shall check the names of the  
113 applicants returning ballots on the duplicate checklist in the same  
114 manner as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

115 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,  
116 the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m.  
117 on the day of the election, primary or referendum shall be called in to  
118 the appropriate polling places where they shall be checked by the  
119 checkers on the official checklists, and they shall also be checked by the  
120 absentee ballot counters on the duplicate checklist required under  
121 subsection (b) of this section.

122 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place  
123 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the  
124 names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at six o'clock p.m. on  
125 the day of the election, primary or referendum shall be checked by the  
126 absentee ballot counters and checkers at such polling place on the  
127 official checklist used at such polling place.

128 (3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,  
129 the names of applicants whose ballots were delivered at the close of the  
130 polls shall be checked by the absentee ballot counters on the official  
131 checklists used at the polling places and such official checklists, bearing  
132 the certifications required by section 9-307, shall be delivered by the  
133 registrars or assistant registrars to the central counting moderator for  
134 that purpose.

135 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place  
136 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the  
137 official checklist used at such polling place shall remain in such polling  
138 place for checking by the absentee ballot counters at such polling place.

139 (4) If the name of an applicant returning a ballot has been checked on

140 the official checklist as having voted in person the absentee ballot  
141 counters shall, in checking the ballots, endorse on the face of the outer  
142 envelope the word "rejected" followed by a statement of the reason for  
143 rejection, and the outer envelope shall not be opened or the ballot  
144 counted.

145 (5) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,  
146 when central counting is completed and the result is announced, the  
147 central counting moderator shall deliver the duplicate checklist, the  
148 official checklists and the returns required by section 9-150b, to the head  
149 moderator.

150 (B) Whenever absentee ballots are counted in any polling place  
151 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, and  
152 such counting is completed and the result for such polling place is  
153 announced, the moderator for such polling place shall deliver the  
154 official checklist used at such polling place and the return required by  
155 section 9-150b to the head moderator.

156 (j) Each time absentee ballots are delivered by the clerk to the  
157 registrars pursuant to this section, the clerk and registrars shall execute  
158 an affidavit of delivery and receipt stating the number of ballots  
159 delivered. The clerk shall preserve the affidavit for the period prescribed  
160 in section 9-150b.

161 (k) (1) [The] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
162 the absentee ballot counters shall count, in the manner provided in  
163 section 9-150a, as amended by this act, each group of absentee ballots  
164 upon receipt from the registrars.

165 (2) Whenever absentee ballots are to be processed before the day of  
166 the election, primary or referendum, pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
167 subsection (c) of section 9-147a, as amended by this act, the absentee  
168 ballot counters shall process, in the manner provided in section 3 of this  
169 act, each group of absentee ballots upon receipt from the registrars.

170 (l) The municipal clerk shall retain all outer envelopes containing  
171 absentee ballots received by him after the close of the polls, unopened,  
172 for the period prescribed in section 9-150b.

173 Sec. 2. Section 9-147a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
174 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

175 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) or (c) of this section, at any  
176 election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots shall, within  
177 existing resources, be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a,  
178 as amended by this act, at a central location designated by the registrars  
179 of voters in writing to the municipal clerk at least twenty days before  
180 the election, primary or referendum, which location shall be published  
181 in the warning for the election, primary or referendum. Except as  
182 provided in subsection (b) of this section, if unaffiliated electors are  
183 authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two  
184 parties, all absentee ballots shall be separated, counted, tallied and  
185 placed in depository envelopes by voting district. Any member of the  
186 public may observe the counting of absentee ballots at such central  
187 location, provided no candidate for election or nomination shall be  
188 allowed to participate in such counting, except (1) a municipal clerk or  
189 registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (2) a  
190 deputy registrar of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar  
191 of voters, performing such official's duties.

192 (b) At any election, primary or referendum, all absentee ballots may  
193 be counted in the manner provided in section 9-150a, as amended by  
194 this act, in the respective polling places if the registrars of voters agree  
195 that such absentee ballots should be so counted. If unaffiliated electors  
196 are authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of  
197 two parties, absentee ballots may be counted in the respective polling  
198 places if the parties agree that such absentee ballots should be so  
199 counted. Any election official serving in a polling place may observe the  
200 counting of absentee ballots at such polling place, provided no  
201 candidate for election or nomination shall be allowed within such

202 polling place during the hours of voting for any purpose other than  
203 casting such candidate's vote and no such candidate shall be allowed to  
204 participate in such counting, except (1) a municipal clerk or registrar of  
205 voters, who is a candidate for the same office, and (2) a deputy registrar  
206 of voters, who is a candidate for the office of registrar of voters,  
207 performing such official's duties.

208 (c) (1) Absentee ballots may be processed before the day of an  
209 election, primary or referendum in the manner provided in section 3 of  
210 this act. Any such processing shall take place at a central location  
211 designated by the registrars of voters in writing to the municipal clerk  
212 at least ten days before such election, primary or referendum, which  
213 location shall be published in the warning for such election, primary or  
214 referendum.

215 (2) If absentee ballots are to be processed pursuant to subdivision (1)  
216 of this subsection, the registrars of voters and municipal clerk shall  
217 jointly certify such fact in writing to the Secretary of the State at least ten  
218 days before such election, primary or referendum. Such written  
219 certification shall (A) include the name, street address and relevant  
220 contact information associated with the designated central location, and  
221 (B) list the name and address of each absentee ballot counter appointed  
222 pursuant to section 9-147c. The Secretary shall approve or disapprove  
223 such written certification not later than two days after receipt of such  
224 certification and may require the appointment of one or more additional  
225 absentee ballot counters.

226 (3) In the case of absentee ballots delivered to the registrars on the  
227 day of such election, primary or referendum, nothing in this subsection  
228 shall preclude the counting of such absentee ballots in the respective  
229 polling places pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

230 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) Notwithstanding the  
231 provisions of section 9-150a of the general statutes, as amended by this  
232 act, whenever absentee ballots are processed before the day of an



233 election, primary or referendum pursuant to subdivision (1) of  
234 subsection (c) of section 9-147a of the general statutes, as amended by  
235 this act:

236 (a) (1) Not earlier than five o'clock p.m. on the fourth day before such  
237 election, primary or referendum, the absentee ballot counters shall  
238 proceed to the central counting location at the times designated by the  
239 registrars of voters;

240 (2) At the time each group of ballots is delivered pursuant to  
241 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 9-140c  
242 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the counters shall  
243 proceed as hereinafter provided;

244 (3) Except with respect to ballots marked "Rejected" pursuant to  
245 section 9-140c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or other  
246 applicable law, the counters shall then remove the inner envelopes from  
247 the outer envelopes, shall note the total number of absentee ballots  
248 received and shall report such total to the moderator. The counters shall  
249 similarly note and separately so report the total numbers of presidential  
250 ballots and overseas ballots received pursuant to sections 9-158a to 9-  
251 158m, inclusive, of the general statutes;

252 (4) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as  
253 required by section 9-140a of the general statutes, such inner envelope  
254 shall not be opened or the ballot removed therefrom, and such inner  
255 envelope shall be replaced in the opened outer envelope which shall be  
256 marked "Rejected" and the reason therefor endorsed thereon by the  
257 counters. The registrars of voters shall use best efforts to notify each  
258 absentee ballot applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected" under this  
259 subdivision for the purpose of advising that (A) such applicant's ballot  
260 has been rejected, and (B) such applicant may still be able to vote in  
261 person on the day of the election, primary or referendum; and

262 (5) Not earlier than the day of such election, primary or referendum,  
263 and after the duties under subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this

subsection have been performed, absentee ballots shall be counted in the manner provided in subsections (e) to (m), inclusive, of section 9-150a of the general statutes.

(b) In accordance with instructions which shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the State not later than ten days before such election, primary or referendum, each group of ballots delivered pursuant to subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (e) of section 9-140c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall be kept secure (1) throughout the performance of the duties under subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section, and (2) after such performance until such time on the day of such election, primary or referendum that absentee ballots are counted in the manner provided in subsections (e) to (m), inclusive, of section 9-150a of the general statutes. The requirements of this subsection shall be in addition to all other applicable requirements under title 9 of the general statutes regarding the security of absentee ballots and any related materials.

Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 9-150a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

(d) (1) If the statement on the inner envelope has not been signed as required by section 9-140a, such inner envelope shall not be opened or the ballot removed therefrom, and such inner envelope shall be replaced in the opened outer envelope which shall be marked "Rejected" and the reason therefor endorsed thereon by the counters. The registrars of voters shall use best efforts to notify each absentee ballot applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected" under this subdivision for the purpose of advising that (A) such applicant's ballot has been rejected, and (B) such applicant may still be able to vote in person on the day of the election, primary or referendum.

(2) If such statement is signed but the individual completing the ballot is an individual described in subsection (a) of section 9-23r and

295 has not met the requirements of subsection (e) of section 9-23r, the  
296 counters shall replace the ballot in the opened inner envelope, replace  
297 the inner envelope in the opened outer envelope and mark "Rejected as  
298 an Absentee Ballot" and endorse the reason for such rejection on the  
299 outer envelope, and the ballot shall be treated as a provisional ballot for  
300 federal offices only, pursuant to sections 9-232i to 9-232o, inclusive. The  
301 registrars of voters shall use best efforts to notify each absentee ballot  
302 applicant whose ballot was marked "Rejected as an Absentee Ballot"  
303 under this subdivision for the purpose of advising that (A) such  
304 applicant's ballot has been rejected, and (B) such applicant may still be  
305 able to vote in person on the day of the election, primary or referendum,  
306 provided such applicant meets the requirements of subsection (d) of  
307 section 9-23r.

308 Sec. 5. Section 9-159o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
309 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

310 Any elector who has returned an absentee ballot to the municipal  
311 clerk and who finds such elector is able to vote in person shall proceed  
312 before [ten o'clock a.m.] five o'clock p.m. on the fourth day before  
313 election, primary or referendum day to the municipal clerk's office and  
314 request that such elector's ballot be withdrawn. The municipal clerk  
315 shall remove the ballot from the sealed package and shall mark the  
316 serially-numbered outer envelope, which shall remain unopened,  
317 "rejected" and note the reasons for rejection. The elector shall also  
318 endorse the envelope. The rejected ballot shall then be returned to the  
319 sealed package until delivered on election, primary or referendum day  
320 to the registrars of voters in accordance with section 9-140c, as amended  
321 by this act. The municipal clerk shall then give the elector a signed  
322 statement directed to the moderator of the voting district in which the  
323 elector resides stating that the elector has withdrawn such elector's  
324 absentee ballot and may vote in person. Upon delivery of the statement  
325 by the elector to the moderator, the moderator shall cause the absentee  
326 indication next to the name of the elector to be stricken from the official  
327 checklist and the elector may then have such elector's name checked and

328 vote in person. Unless absentee ballots are to be counted in the  
329 respective polling places pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as  
330 amended by this act, the municipal clerk shall also cause the absentee  
331 indication next to the name of the elector to be stricken from the  
332 duplicate checklist to be used by the absentee ballot counters.

333 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-150a of the general statutes is  
334 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
335 *1, 2026*):

336 (a) The absentee ballot counters shall proceed to the central counting  
337 location or to the respective polling places when counting is to take  
338 place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this  
339 act, [at the times designated by the registrars of voters] not later than  
340 eight o'clock a.m. on the day of the election, primary or referendum.

341 Sec. 7. Section 9-163bb of the general statutes is repealed and the  
342 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

343 (a) Early voting ballots received by the municipal clerk prior to the  
344 day of an election or primary, and same-day election registration ballots  
345 received by the municipal clerk prior to the day of a regular election [ ]  
346 shall be delivered by the municipal clerk to the registrars between six  
347 o'clock a.m. and [ten] eight o'clock a.m. on the day of the election or  
348 primary.

349 (b) The ballot counters for such early voting ballots and same-day  
350 election registration ballots shall proceed to the central counting  
351 location or to the respective polling places when counting is to take  
352 place pursuant to subsection (b) of section 9-147a, as amended by this  
353 act, at the time, between six o'clock a.m. and [ten] eight o'clock a.m. on  
354 the day of the election or primary, designated by the registrars of voters.  
355 At the time such ballots are delivered to the ballot counters pursuant to  
356 subsection (a) of this section, the ballot counters shall perform any  
357 checking of such ballots and proceed, as nearly as possible, as provided  
358 in section 9-150a, as amended by this act.

359       Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 9-404b of the general statutes is  
360       repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
361       *1, 2026*):

(a) The petition form for candidacies for nomination to state or district office shall be prescribed and provided by the Secretary of the State, and signatures shall be obtained only on such form or on duplicate petition pages produced in accordance with the provisions of section 9-404a. Such form shall include, at the top of the form and in bold print, the following:

## WARNING

# IT IS A CRIME TO SIGN THIS PETITION

## IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON

WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY TO DO SO

AND YOU MAY NOT SIGN THIS PETITION

IF YOU ARE NOT AN ELECTOR.

The form shall include a statement of instructions to persons using the form and shall indicate the date and time by which it shall be filed and the person with whom it shall be filed. The form shall provide spaces for the names and addresses of the candidates, the offices to which nomination is sought and the political party holding the primary, and shall provide lines for the signatures, dates of such signatures, street addresses, dates of birth and the printing of the names of enrolled party members supporting the person or persons on behalf of whose candidacy the petition is used.

383       Sec. 9. Section 9-409 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
384       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

385 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, petition forms

386 for candidacies for nomination to municipal office or for election as  
387 members of town committees shall be available from the [registrar]  
388 Secretary of the State beginning on the day following the making of the  
389 party's endorsement of a candidate or candidates for such office or  
390 position, or beginning on the day following the final day for the making  
391 of such endorsement under the provisions of section 9-391, whichever  
392 comes first.

393 (b) Petition forms for candidacies for nomination to the municipal  
394 offices of state senator and state representative shall be available from  
395 the [registrar] Secretary of the State beginning on the seventy-seventh  
396 day preceding the day of the primary for such office.

397 (c) Any person who requests a petition form shall give his name and  
398 address and the name, address and office or position sought of each  
399 candidate for whom the petition is being obtained, and shall file a  
400 statement signed by each such candidate that he consents to be a  
401 candidate for such office or position. In the case of the municipal offices  
402 of state senator and state representative, each such candidate shall  
403 include on the statement of consent his name as he authorizes it to  
404 appear on the ballot. Upon receiving such information and statement,  
405 the [registrar] Secretary of the State shall type or print on a petition form  
406 the name and address of each such candidate, the office sought and the  
407 political party holding the primary. The [registrar] Secretary shall give  
408 to any person requesting such form one or more petition pages, suitable  
409 for duplication, as the [registrar] Secretary deems necessary. If the  
410 person is requesting the form on behalf of an indigent candidate or a  
411 group of indigent candidates listed on the same petition, the [registrar]  
412 Secretary shall give the person a number of petition pages determined  
413 by the [registrar] Secretary as at least two times the number needed to  
414 contain the required number of signatures for a candidacy for  
415 nomination to municipal office or a number of petition pages  
416 determined by the [registrar] Secretary as at least five times the number  
417 needed to contain the required number of signatures for a candidacy for  
418 election as a town committee member. An original petition page filled

419 in by the [registrar] Secretary may be duplicated by or on behalf of the  
420 candidate or candidates listed on the page and signatures may be  
421 obtained on such duplicates. The duplicates may be filed in the same  
422 manner and shall be subject to the same requirements as original  
423 petition pages. All information relative to primary petitions shall be a  
424 public record.

425 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 9-410 of the general statutes is  
426 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
427 *1, 2026*):

428 (a) The petition form for candidacies for nomination to municipal  
429 office or for election as members of town committees shall be prescribed  
430 and provided by the Secretary of the State, [and provided by the  
431 registrar of the municipality in which the candidacy is to be filed or  
432 duplicate petition pages shall be produced in accordance with section 9-  
433 409,] and signatures shall be obtained only on such [forms or] form or  
434 on such duplicate petition pages produced in accordance with the  
435 provisions of section 9-409, as amended by this act. Such form shall  
436 include, at the top of the form and in bold print, the following:

437 WARNING

438 IT IS A CRIME TO SIGN THIS PETITION

439 IN THE NAME OF ANOTHER PERSON

440 WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORITY TO DO SO

441 AND YOU MAY NOT SIGN THIS PETITION

442 IF YOU ARE NOT AN ELECTOR.

443 The form shall include thereon a statement of instructions to persons  
444 using the form and shall indicate the date and time by which it shall be  
445 filed and the person with whom it shall be filed. The form shall provide  
446 spaces for the names and addresses of the candidates, the offices to

447 which nomination is sought or the positions to which election is sought  
448 and the political party holding the primary, and shall provide lines for  
449 the signatures, dates of such signatures, street addresses, dates of birth  
450 and the printing of the names of enrolled party members supporting the  
451 person or persons on behalf of whose candidacy the petition is used.  
452 Only as many candidates may be proposed in any one primary petition  
453 for the same office or position as are to be nominated or chosen by such  
454 party for such office or position; but any one primary petition may  
455 propose as many candidates for different offices or positions as there are  
456 nominations to be made or positions to be filled.

457 Sec. 11. Section 9-309 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
458 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

459 Upon the close of the polls, the moderator, in the presence of the other  
460 election officials, shall immediately lock the voting tabulator against  
461 voting and immediately cause the vote totals for all candidates and  
462 questions to be produced. The moderator shall, in the order of the offices  
463 as their titles are arranged on the ballot, read and announce in distinct  
464 tones the result as shown, giving the number indicated and indicating  
465 the candidate to whom such total belongs, and shall read the votes  
466 recorded for each office on the ballot. The moderator shall also, in the  
467 same manner, announce the vote on each constitutional amendment,  
468 proposition or other question voted on. The vote so announced by the  
469 moderator shall be taken down by each checker and recorded on the  
470 tally sheets. Each checker shall record the number of votes received for  
471 each candidate on the ballot and also the number received by each  
472 person for whom write-in ballots were cast. The moderator shall make  
473 a preliminary list from the vote totals produced by the tabulators and  
474 shall prepare such preliminary list for transmission to the Secretary of  
475 the State pursuant to section 9-314. [After] Only after such preliminary  
476 list has been transmitted to the Secretary of the State [, the canvass] in  
477 accordance with the provisions of section 9-314, or in case of an event  
478 described in subparagraphs (B) to (G), inclusive, of subdivision (2) of  
479 section 9-174a or a declaration of an emergency by the Governor or the



480 President of the United States, may the canvass be temporarily  
 481 interrupted. [, during which time] During such temporary interruption,  
 482 the moderator shall (1) return the keys for all tabulators to the registrars  
 483 of voters, (2) seal the tabulators against voting or being tampered with,  
 484 (3) prepare and seal individual envelopes for all (A) write-in ballots, (B)  
 485 absentee ballots, (C) moderators' returns, and (D) other notes,  
 486 worksheets or written materials used at the election, and (4) store all  
 487 such tabulators and envelopes in a secure place or places directed by the  
 488 registrars of voters. At the end of such temporary interruption, the  
 489 moderator shall receive such keys from the registrars and shall take  
 490 possession of and break the seal on all such tabulators and envelopes for  
 491 the purpose of completing the canvass. The result totals shall remain in  
 492 full public view until the statement of canvass and all other reports have  
 493 been fully completed and signed by the moderator, checkers and  
 494 registrars, or assistant registrars, as the case may be. Any other  
 495 remaining result of the votes cast shall be publicly announced by the  
 496 moderator not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls.  
 497 Such public announcement shall consist of reading both the name of  
 498 each candidate, with the designating number and letter on the ballot and  
 499 the absentee vote as furnished to the moderator by the absentee ballot  
 500 counters, and also the vote cast for and against each question submitted.  
 501 While such announcement is being made, ample opportunity shall be  
 502 given to any person lawfully present to compare the results so  
 503 announced with the result totals provided by the tabulator and any  
 504 necessary corrections shall then and there be made by the moderator,  
 505 checkers and registrars or assistant registrars, after which the  
 506 compartments of the voting tabulator shall be closed and locked. In  
 507 canvassing, recording and announcing the result, the election officials  
 508 shall be guided by any instructions furnished by the Secretary of the  
 509 State.

510 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 9-311 of the general statutes is  
 511 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
 512 *1, 2026*):

513 (a) If, within three days after an election, it appears to the moderator  
514 that there is a discrepancy in the returns of any voting district, such  
515 moderator shall forthwith within said period summon, by written  
516 notice delivered personally, the recanvass officials, consisting of at least  
517 two checkers of different political parties and at least two absentee ballot  
518 counters of different political parties who served at such election, and  
519 the registrars of voters of the municipality in which the election was  
520 held and such other officials as may be required to conduct such  
521 recanvass. Such written notice shall require the clerk or registrars of  
522 voters, as the case may be, to bring with them the depository envelopes  
523 required by section 9-150a, as amended by this act, the package of write-  
524 in ballots provided for in section 9-310, the absentee ballot applications,  
525 the list of absentee ballot applications, the registry list and the  
526 moderators' returns and shall require such recanvass officials to meet at  
527 a specified time not later than the fifth business day after such election  
528 to recanvass the returns of [a] each voting tabulator [or voting tabulators  
529 or] and all absentee ballots [or] and write-in ballots used in [such  
530 district] the municipality in such election. If any of such recanvass  
531 officials are unavailable at the time of the recanvass, the registrar of  
532 voters of the same political party as that of the recanvass official unable  
533 to attend shall designate another elector having previous training and  
534 experience in the conduct of elections to take his place. Before such  
535 recanvass is made, such moderator shall give notice, in writing, to the  
536 chairperson of the town committee of each political party which  
537 nominated candidates for the election, and, in the case of a state election,  
538 not later than twenty-four hours after a determination is made  
539 regarding the need for a recanvass to the Secretary of the State, of the  
540 time and place where such recanvass is to be made; and each such  
541 chairperson may send party representatives to be present at such  
542 recanvass. Such party representatives may observe, but no one other  
543 than a recanvass official may take part in the recanvass. If any  
544 irregularity in the recanvass procedure is noted by such a party  
545 representative, he shall be permitted to present evidence of such  
546 irregularity in any contest relating to the election.

547 Sec. 13. Subsection (d) of section 9-311 of the general statutes is  
548 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
549 *1, 2026*):

550 (d) (1) The moderator may, when any disorder arises that interferes  
551 with the conduct of a recanvass, including any attempt by a person other  
552 than a recanvass official to take part in such recanvass or by such a  
553 person to communicate with a recanvass official, [other than the  
554 moderator,] and the offender refuses to submit to the moderator's lawful  
555 authority, order that the offender be removed by the recanvass officials  
556 from such recanvass until the offender conforms to order or, if need be,  
557 until such recanvass is completed.

558 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
559 subsection, one party representative from each political party which  
560 nominated a candidate for the election may communicate directly with  
561 the moderator during a recanvass.

562 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) At least thirty days prior to  
563 each primary and election, the Secretary of the State shall (1) conduct a  
564 test of the election management system to be used at such primary or  
565 election, and (2) provide a demonstration to registrars of voters on such  
566 system's use, including, but not limited to, entry of voting results after  
567 the close of the polls at such primary or election. At least one registrar  
568 of voters from each municipality shall attend such test and  
569 demonstration.

570 Sec. 15. Subsection (e) of section 9-163aa of the general statutes is  
571 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*  
572 *1, 2026*):

573 (e) (1) If the elector is allowed to vote, the registrars of voters shall  
574 provide such elector with an early voting ballot and early voting  
575 envelope and shall make a record of such issuance. The elector shall  
576 complete an affirmation printed upon the back of the early voting  
577 envelope and shall declare under oath that the voter has not previously

578 voted in the election or primary. The affirmation shall be in the form  
579 substantially as follows and signed by the voter:

580 AFFIRMATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby state, under penalty  
581 of false statement (perjury), that:

582 1. I am the elector appearing in person to vote at an election or  
583 primary prior to the day of such election or primary.

584 2. I am eligible to vote in the election or primary indicated for today.

585 3. I have identified myself to the satisfaction of the registrars of voters.

586 4. I have not voted in person or by absentee ballot and I will not vote  
587 otherwise than by this ballot at this election or primary.

588 5. I have received an early voting ballot for the purpose of so voting.

589 .... (Signature of voter)

590 (2) During the period of early voting at each election and primary  
591 held on or after January 1, 2026, in each municipality divided into voting  
592 districts, for the purpose of assisting each elector in ensuring such  
593 elector has been provided the early voting ballot for such elector's  
594 proper respective voting district, the registrars of voters shall display, at  
595 each location designated for the conduct of early voting in such  
596 municipality, at least one poster explaining how electors are able to look  
597 up their proper respective voting districts through the online voter  
598 registration system described in section 9-19k.

599 Sec. 16. Section 9-261c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
600 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

601 [The] Not later than January 1, 2027, the Secretary of the State shall  
602 (1) review, in consultation and coordination with The University of  
603 Connecticut, electronic devices that could assist official checkers in  
604 checking the names of electors pursuant to section 9-234 or 9-261 or any

605 regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter, [. Not later than September  
606 1, 2015, the Secretary shall include on a list any such device that the  
607 Secretary approves and shall make such list] and (2) approve one or  
608 more such electronic devices for inclusion on a list to be made available  
609 to municipalities in a manner determined by the Secretary. [The  
610 Secretary may add or remove a device from such list, as the Secretary  
611 determines such addition or removal is necessary.]

612 Sec. 17. Section 9-438 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
613 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

614 (a) [In] Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, in each  
615 municipality or voting district, the polling place or places for [primaries]  
616 a primary held under sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, shall be the same  
617 as those used for the election to be held. When unaffiliated electors are  
618 authorized under section 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two  
619 parties, both parties shall hold their primaries in the same room of each  
620 such polling place. On the day of the primary, the polls shall remain  
621 open for voting from six o'clock a.m. until eight o'clock p.m.

622 (b) The registrars of voters of a municipality with a population of not  
623 more than thirty-five thousand may reduce the number of polling places  
624 required under subsection (a) of this section and shall designate such  
625 polling place or places not later than sixty days prior to a primary held  
626 under sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, the location of which may be the  
627 same or different than of those polling places required under subsection  
628 (a) of this section. Not earlier than sixty days prior to such primary, but  
629 not later than forty-five days prior to such primary, such registrars of  
630 voters shall notify the Secretary of the State and the candidates seeking  
631 nomination to an office in such primary of the change in the polling  
632 place or places. If such a candidate objects to a change in the polling  
633 place or places, the candidate shall notify the Secretary of such objection  
634 not later than four o'clock p.m. on the thirtieth day prior to the primary.  
635 Such notification from the candidate shall be in the form of a written  
636 letter, signed by the candidate, and shall be held confidential by the

637 Secretary. The Secretary shall promptly notify such registrars of voters  
 638 and any candidate seeking nomination to an office in such primary that  
 639 the Secretary has received a letter of objection, which notification shall  
 640 not identify the candidate who objected. If such a candidate so objects,  
 641 or if such a municipality's registrars of voters cannot agree upon a  
 642 polling place or places for a primary, the polling place or places shall be  
 643 the same as those used for the election to be held. Not later than twenty-  
 644 one days prior to a primary, such registrars of voters shall send  
 645 notification of the polling place for the primary, by mail, to each elector  
 646 whose polling place for the primary will be different than the elector's  
 647 polling place for the election, except that no such registrar of voters shall  
 648 be required to so notify an elector for any subsequent primary, provided  
 649 the primary polling place for such elector remains the same as that  
 650 which was provided for in the initial notification. If any polling place  
 651 that would otherwise be open pursuant to subsection (a) of this section  
 652 is closed pursuant to this subsection, such registrars of voters shall  
 653 ensure that a sign is posted at such polling place providing electors with  
 654 information to redirect the electors to the open polling place or places  
 655 for the primary. When unaffiliated electors are authorized under section  
 656 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties, both parties shall  
 657 hold their primaries in the same room of each such polling place.  
 658 Notwithstanding any provision of title 7 or this title, any special act,  
 659 charter or ordinance, if the number of polling places are reduced  
 660 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, the number of moderators  
 661 required for such primary may be reduced, if such registrars of voters  
 662 so agree, provided at least one certified moderator serves each polling  
 663 place. For the purposes of this subsection, "population" means the  
 664 estimated number of people according to the most recent version of the  
 665 State Register and Manual prepared pursuant to section 3-90.

666       Sec. 18. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of one million three hundred  
 667 twenty thousand dollars is appropriated to the office of the Secretary of  
 668 the State from the General Fund, for each of the fiscal years ending June  
 669 30, 2025, and June 30, 2026, for purposes related to the administration of

670 early voting.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2026	9-140c
Sec. 2	January 1, 2026	9-147a
Sec. 3	January 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 4	January 1, 2026	9-150a(d)
Sec. 5	January 1, 2026	9-159o
Sec. 6	January 1, 2026	9-150a(a)
Sec. 7	January 1, 2026	9-163bb
Sec. 8	January 1, 2026	9-404b(a)
Sec. 9	January 1, 2026	9-409
Sec. 10	January 1, 2026	9-410(a)
Sec. 11	January 1, 2026	9-309
Sec. 12	January 1, 2026	9-311(a)
Sec. 13	January 1, 2026	9-311(d)
Sec. 14	January 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 15	January 1, 2026	9-163aa(e)
Sec. 16	January 1, 2026	9-261c
Sec. 17	January 1, 2026	9-438
Sec. 18	July 1, 2025	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) allow certain processing of absentee ballots prior to the day of an election, primary or referendum, (2) provide for notification of electors whose absentee ballots have been marked "Rejected" to advise of the opportunity to vote in person, (3) require that ballots be counted on the day of an election or primary beginning at eight o'clock a.m., (4) require individuals signing petitions to date their signatures thereon, (5) provide that petition forms for candidacies for municipal offices are available from the Secretary of the State instead of the registrar of voters, (6) limit the reasons after the close of the polls for which the canvass may be interrupted prior to the transmission of the preliminary results to the Secretary, (7) for discrepancy recanvasses, (A) require that all districts in a municipality be examined and not just the district in which the discrepancy was found, and (B) allow one party representative to communicate directly with the moderator, (8) require the Secretary to test the election management system, and give a demonstration thereon

to local election officials, prior to each election and primary, (9) require the registrars of voters in each municipality to display a poster in each early voting location to assist electors in looking up their proper respective voting district to ensure they receive the correct early voting ballot, (10) require the Secretary to approve at least one electronic poll book for local election official use by January 1, 2027, (11) allow municipalities of a certain size to reduce their number of polling places for primaries, and (12) appropriate funds to the office of the Secretary of the State for early voting purposes.

***[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]***