General Assembly	**Raised Bill No. 1536**
January Session, 2025	LCO No. **6694**

‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖‖
* 0 6 6 9 4   G A E *

Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
  (GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF RANKED-CHOICE VOTING IN PARTY CAUCUSES, CONVENTIONS AND PRIMARIES, INCLUDING PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARIES.

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

1   Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

2   (1) "Active candidate" means, with respect to a round of tabulation
3   under ranked-choice voting, a candidate (A) whose name appears on
4   the ballot or who is registered as a write-in candidate, and (B) who has
5   not been eliminated, is not a winning candidate and is not a withdrawn
6   candidate;

7   (2) "Inactive ballot" means, with respect to a given round of tabulation
8   and all subsequent rounds of tabulation under ranked-choice voting, a
9   ballot on which no vote is tabulated because (A) no candidate ranked on
10   the ballot remains an active candidate; or (B) two or more candidates are
11   ranked at the same order of preference and no other candidates that are
12   ranked higher remain as active candidates;

13 (3) "Ranked-choice voting" means a system of casting and tabulating
14 votes under which, with respect to a particular office, (A) each elector is
15 able to rank candidates on the ballot in the order of such elector's
16 preference, (B) one or more rounds of tabulation are used to determine
17 active candidates in accordance with electors' preferences, and (C) the
18 active candidate with the greatest number of votes after all rounds of
19 tabulation are complete is the winning candidate;

20 (4) "Rank" or "ranking" means an elector's vote expressed in
21 numerical order of such elector's preferences as to the candidates on the
22 ballot, where "1" indicates the highest preference and subsequent
23 numbers indicate lower preferences;

24 (5) "Repeated ranking" means markings on a ballot whereby the same
25 candidate is ranked at multiple, differing orders of preference;

26 (6) "Skipped ranking" means markings on a ballot whereby an elector
27 leaves a ranking unassigned but also ranks a candidate at a lower order
28 of preference;

29 (7) "Undervote" means, with respect to all rounds of tabulation under
30 ranked-choice voting for a particular office, a ballot on which no vote is
31 cast due to no candidate being ranked;

32 (8) "Winning candidate" means the candidate with the greatest
33 number of votes, under ranked-choice voting, after all rounds of
34 tabulation are complete; and

35 (9) "Withdrawn candidate" means a person (A) whose candidacy has
36 been withdrawn in accordance with the applicable provision of title 9 of
37 the general statutes, and (B) in a presidential preference primary, who
38 complies with all applicable party rules governing the timing,
39 procedures or substance of candidate withdrawals or campaign
40 suspensions.

41 (b) (1) Except as prohibited by any provision of title 9 of the general

42 statutes, the outcome of (A) any primary, other than a presidential
43 preference primary, held on or after January 1, 2026, or (B) any
44 presidential preference primary held on or after January 1, 2028, may be
45 determined under ranked-choice voting.

46   (2) (A) For any primary determined under ranked-choice voting for
47 an office to which electors nominate no more than one candidate, the
48 provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of this section shall apply.

49   (B) For any primary determined under ranked-choice voting for
50 offices other than those described in subparagraph (A) of this
51 subdivision, the provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of this
52 section shall not apply.

53   (c) (1) (A) At each primary conducted under ranked-choice voting,
54 the Secretary of the State shall prescribe the type of ballot to be used, the
55 instructions to appear on such ballot and the layout and orientation of
56 such ballot. The use of any ballot at any such primary shall be subject to
57 the approval of the Secretary.

58   (B) The ballot at each primary conducted under ranked-choice voting,
59 or the portion of such ballot used for ranked-choice voting, shall:

60   (i) List all candidates duly qualified to appear on such ballot for such
61 primary and in such a manner as to allow each elector who is eligible to
62 vote in such primary to rank all such candidates in the order of such
63 elector's preference, except that if such ballot cannot allow for ranking
64 of all such candidates, the Secretary may limit ranking to not less than
65 five such candidates, provided such limitation by the Secretary shall be
66 uniform with respect to all electors eligible to vote in such primary; and

67   (ii) List and identify candidates in the order and manner provided in
68 subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, and (g) of section 9-437 of the general
69 statutes, at a minimum.

70   (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-242 of the general

71   statutes, at each primary conducted under ranked-choice voting, the
72   voting tabulator shall be so constructed as to comply with the provisions
73   of this section.

74   (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, at each
75   primary for an office to which electors nominate no more than one
76   candidate, and conducted under ranked-choice voting, each ballot shall
77   be tabulated as one vote cast for the highest-ranked active candidate on
78   such ballot, and tabulation shall proceed in sequential rounds such that:

79   (A) In a round with three or more active candidates, the candidate
80   with the least number of votes at the completion of tabulation shall be
81   eliminated, the vote for such eliminated candidate shall be transferred
82   to a remaining active candidate in accordance with the ranked
83   preference expressed on such ballot and all remaining active candidates
84   shall advance to the next round; and

85   (B) In a round with fewer than three active candidates, the candidate
86   with the greatest number of votes at the completion of tabulation shall
87   be declared the winning candidate and no further rounds shall be
88   required.

89   (2) (A) If at the completion of tabulation a tie occurs between
90   candidates with the least number of votes and tabulation is unable to
91   proceed until such tie is resolved, the candidate to be eliminated shall
92   be determined by lot in accordance with regulations adopted under
93   subsection (f) of this section.

94   (B) If at the completion of tabulation a tie occurs between candidates
95   with the greatest number of votes, such tie shall be resolved in
96   accordance with the provisions of (i) section 9-446 of the general
97   statutes, in the case of a primary other than a presidential preference
98   primary, or (ii) chapter 154 of the general statutes, in the case of a
99   presidential preference primary.

100   (C) (i) If a ballot is an inactive ballot with respect to any round, no

101   vote shall be tabulated on such ballot for such round.

102   (ii) If a ballot is an undervote, no vote shall be tabulated on such ballot
103   for all rounds.

104   (iii) If a ballot contains any repeated ranking or skipped ranking with
105   respect to any round, the vote shall be tabulated on such ballot for the
106   highest-ranked active candidate.

107   (e) For any primary conducted under ranked-choice voting, the
108   provisions of section 9-445 of the general statutes shall apply to the
109   difference between the vote for the winning candidate over the vote for
110   the active candidate having the next highest number of votes.

111   (f) The Secretary of the State shall adopt regulations, in accordance
112   with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement
113   the provisions of this section.

114   Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) (a) In the case of any state or
115   district convention at which a party has adopted ranked-choice voting,
116   as defined in section 1 of this act, pursuant to its party rules, for the
117   purpose of making an endorsement for nomination to a state or district
118   office, as between three or more candidates, to which such convention
119   delegates endorse no more than one such candidate:

120   (1) The call of a roll and the recording of the vote of each delegate
121   entitled to vote and voting shall not be required; and

122   (2) The determination of the per cent of the votes of the convention
123   delegates present and voting on any roll-call vote, as described in
124   section 9-386 of the general statutes, and any similar reference thereto,
125   including in sections 9-400 and 9-706 of the general statutes, shall be the
126   number of votes received in any round of tabulation by each active
127   candidate, as defined in section 1 of this act, in the round as a percentage
128   of the votes received by all active candidates in the round.

129   (b) In all such proceedings for the making of an endorsement for

130   nomination to a state or district office, the clerk or secretary of such
131   convention shall keep a true record, in writing, of the number of votes
132   received by each active candidate in each round of tabulation and of the
133   round-by-round totals, and shall, at the conclusion of the voting and
134   tabulation process, announce the round-by-round and final results.
135   Such clerk or secretary shall file such record at the headquarters of the
136   state central committee, where it shall be preserved for a period of one
137   hundred eighty days after the adjournment of such convention, and
138   such record shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times.

139   Sec. 3. Section 9-444 of the general statutes is repealed and the
140   following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

141   (a) (1) In the case of a primary for state or district office, each person
142   certified by the Secretary of the State as provided in section 9-440, to
143   have received the greatest number of votes of the electors eligible to vote
144   in a primary for any office shall be deemed to have been chosen as the
145   nominee of such party to such office.

146   (2) In the case of a primary for a municipal office, the moderator, or
147   the head moderator, as the case may be, shall declare nominated the
148   person having the greatest number of votes for such office and, if more
149   than one person is to be nominated for the same office, he shall declare
150   nominated the persons having the greatest number of votes for such
151   office up to the number to be chosen.

152   (3) In the case of a primary for members of a town committee, such
153   moderator shall declare elected the persons having the greatest number
154   of votes for such positions up to the number to be chosen for such
155   positions.

156   (4) In the case of a primary for justice of the peace, such moderator
157   shall declare elected each person on the slate having the greatest number
158   of votes for such offices.

159   (b) (1) **[**In**]** Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, in

160   all primaries, a plurality of the votes cast shall be sufficient to nominate
161   or elect, as the case may be.

162   (2) A major party may, pursuant to its party rules, (A) adopt ranked-
163   choice voting, as defined in section 1 of this act, for the conduct of any
164   primary held on or after January 1, 2026, for any office to which electors
165   nominate no more than one candidate, and (B) implement ranked-
166   choice voting procedures, as provided in section 1 of this act, at such
167   primary. The chairperson or authorized representative of any such
168   party shall provide notice to the Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's
169   designee, of such party's adoption in accordance with a process and
170   timeline established by the Secretary for the provision of such notice.

171   Sec. 4. Section 9-473 of the general statutes is repealed and the
172   following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

173   (a) The secretary shall establish a process and timeline for the
174   certification, by the chairman of each party to the secretary, of the
175   number of delegates to which such party is entitled.

176   (b) Not later than the **[**fourteenth day before the day of the primary**]**
177   deadline set by the secretary pursuant to subsection (a) of this section,
178   the chairman of each party shall certify in writing to the secretary the
179   number of delegates to which such party is entitled pursuant to its rules.
180   If such rules provide that such delegates are to be chosen from districts,
181   the chairman shall also certify the number of delegates allocated to each
182   district and the number to be selected at large, if any. Such rules (1) may
183   **[**(1)**]** provide for ranked-choice voting, as defined in section 1 of this act,
184   at any presidential preference primary held on or after January 1, 2028,
185   and (2) may (A) prescribe a formula for the allocation of delegates to
186   candidates based upon the percentages of the total votes cast for, or
187   received in any round of tabulation under ranked-choice voting by, such
188   candidates at the primary, or **[**(2)**]** (B) require that all delegates shall be
189   allocated to the candidate **[**receiving**]** for whom the greatest number of
190   votes were cast, or by whom the greatest number of votes were received

191 in any round of tabulation under ranked-choice voting,
192 notwithstanding such candidate's percentage of the total votes cast for
193 all candidates. If such rules prescribe a formula for the allocation of
194 delegates to candidates based upon the percentages of the total votes
195 cast for, or received in any round of tabulation under ranked-choice
196 voting by, such candidates at the primary, the chairman shall also certify
197 such formula and all information necessary for the application of such
198 formula to the results of the primary.

199   (c) The chairman of a party shall furnish to the secretary, upon
200 request, a written interpretation or explanation of any ranked-choice
201 voting provided for by such party's rules, or any application of **[**such**]** a
202 delegate allocation formula prescribed, under subsection (b) of this
203 section.

204   Sec. 5. Section 9-476 of the general statutes is repealed and the
205 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

206   (a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or required for the
207 purposes of implementing ranked-choice voting, as defined in section 1
208 of this act, the provisions of chapter 145 and chapter 153 concerning
209 absentee voting at primaries, conduct of primaries and return and
210 tabulation of the vote at such primaries shall apply as nearly as
211 practicable and in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State,
212 to a presidential preference primary.

213   (b) On and after January 1, 2028, if a party's rules so provide pursuant
214 to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 9-473, as amended by this
215 act, each presidential preference primary shall be conducted under
216 ranked-choice voting. The secretary shall issue written instructions for
217 the implementation of policies and procedures regarding tabulation and
218 publication of preliminary and final results, including round-by-round
219 results. Such instructions shall provide that if a candidate withdraws as
220 of the day of the primary in accordance with applicable law, any ballot
221 cast prior to the day of the primary on which such candidate was the

222 highest-ranked candidate shall be counted as a vote for the next highest-
223 ranked candidate on such ballot. Such instructions shall take into
224 account any procedures requested in writing by the chairman of the
225 party holding such primary, which procedures are reasonable,
226 compatible with the use of ranked-choice voting ballots and capable of
227 being implemented using existing voting tabulators, including any
228 associated hardware and software. The secretary shall post all such
229 written instructions on the Internet web site of the office of the Secretary
230 of the State.

231 (c) The primary officials of each party for each polling place shall be
232 as specified in section 9-436, except that (1) the appointment of assistant
233 registrars of voters and absentee ballot counters shall be permitted but
234 not required, (2) the minimum number of official checkers shall be one,
235 (3) the minimum number of voting tabulator tenders shall be one for
236 each two voting tabulators in use, (4) if two parties are holding
237 primaries and the registrars of voters of such parties so agree, such
238 registrars of voters may jointly appoint (A) one moderator of both
239 primaries and (B) one enrolled member of either party to serve as head
240 moderator of both primaries, (5) notwithstanding any reduction in the
241 number of primary officials as permitted by this section, any duty
242 required of primary officials by the general statutes may be performed
243 by one or more primary officials, at the direction of the registrar of
244 voters of the party of such officials, and (6) the registrar of voters shall
245 have the sole power to appoint such officials. In making such
246 appointments the registrar shall attempt, to the extent practicable, to
247 provide representation for each candidate at each polling place. The
248 provisions of section 9-436a shall apply to each candidate whose name
249 appears on the ballot, except that each such candidate, through such
250 candidate's authorized or known representative, may submit to the
251 registrar of voters the name of one designee as candidate checker for
252 each polling place, and the registrar of voters shall appoint such
253 designee as candidate checker for such candidate.

254 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9-438, the polls shall be

255 open for voting at the primary between the hours of six o'clock a.m. and
256 eight o'clock p.m.

257 (e) The moderator or head moderator of the primary in each town
258 shall prepare duplicate head moderator returns in the manner provided
259 by section 9-440, but notwithstanding the provisions of said section, the
260 moderator or head moderator may electronically transmit such returns
261 not later than eleven fifty-nine o'clock p.m. on primary day, provided a
262 hard copy is mailed to the **[**Secretary of the State**]** secretary not later than
263 two o'clock p.m. of the day following the primary or shall hand deliver
264 one of such returns to either the **[**Secretary**]** secretary or the state police
265 by two o'clock p.m. of the day following the primary. Any moderator or
266 head moderator, as the case may be, who fails to deliver such returns to
267 either the **[**Secretary**]** secretary or the state police by such time shall pay
268 a late filing fee of fifty dollars.

269 Sec. 6. Section 9-484 of the general statutes is repealed and the
270 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2026*):

271 (a) If a party's chairman did not certify (1) a formula pursuant to
272 section 9-473, as amended by this act, or (2) a requirement that all
273 delegates shall be allocated to the candidate receiving the greatest
274 number of votes notwithstanding such candidate's percentage of the
275 total votes cast for all candidates, the secretary shall determine the
276 number of delegates to be so allocated to each candidate of each such
277 party in accordance with the provisions of this section, provided such
278 allocations when the party rules do not provide for ranked-choice
279 voting shall be made under subsection (b) of this section and such
280 allocations when the party rules do provide for ranked-choice voting
281 shall be made under subsection (c) of this section. As used in this section,
282 "ranked-choice voting", "active candidate" and "withdrawn candidate"
283 have the same meanings as provided in section 1 of this act.

284 (b) (1) **[**Such determination shall be made separately for delegates to
285 be selected at large and delegates to be selected from each district. Any**]**

286   For allocations under this subsection when party rules do not provide
287   for ranked-choice voting, any percentage required to be determined, in
288   accordance with the provisions of this **[**section**]** subsection, shall be
289   rounded off to the nearest one-tenth of one per cent. As used in this
290   **[**section**]** subsection, "minimum percentage" means the ratio, expressed
291   as a percentage, that the number one bears to the total number of
292   delegates to be selected, but in no event shall such percentage exceed
293   twenty-five per cent.

294   **[**(c)**]** (2) The secretary shall calculate the minimum percentage, as
295   defined in **[**subsection (b) of this section**]** subdivision (1) of this
296   subsection, using the number of delegates to be selected at large and, if
297   applicable, the number of delegates to be selected from each district
298   respectively. Except as provided in this **[**subsection**]** subdivision, a
299   candidate's percentage of the total votes cast for all candidates in the
300   state or in a district **[**must**]** is required to equal or exceed such minimum
301   percentage in order for such candidate to be allocated any at large
302   delegates or any delegates from such district, as the case may be. The
303   secretary shall determine each candidate's percentage of the total votes
304   cast for all candidates in the state and in each district. In the event two
305   or more candidates have received a percentage of such total votes cast
306   equal to or greater than the minimum percentage, the secretary shall
307   calculate an adjusted percentage, which shall be each such candidate's
308   percentage of the total votes cast for all such candidates, excluding the
309   votes cast for all other candidates. The secretary shall then calculate the
310   product of each such candidate's adjusted percentage and the total
311   number of delegates to be selected, rounding off such product to the
312   nearest integer. Such product shall be the number of delegates allocated
313   to each such candidate except as hereinafter provided. **[**(1)**]** (A) If the
314   rounding off of such products to the nearest integers causes the sum of
315   all delegates so allocated to be greater than the total number of delegates
316   to be selected at large or from the district, then one delegate shall be
317   subtracted from the number allocated to the candidate who received the
318   greatest mathematical gain from such rounding off, and if necessary one

319 delegate shall also be subtracted from the number allocated to the
320 candidate who received the next greatest gain, and so on until the sum
321 of all delegates allocated to candidates equals the total number of
322 delegates to be so selected. **[**(2)**]** (B) If the rounding off of such products
323 to the nearest integers causes the sum of all delegates so allocated to be
324 fewer than the total number of delegates to be selected at large or from
325 the district, then one delegate shall be added to the number allocated to
326 the candidate who suffered the greatest mathematical loss from such
327 rounding off, and if necessary one delegate shall also be added to the
328 number allocated to the candidate who suffered the next greatest such
329 loss, and so on until the sum of all delegates allocated to candidates
330 equals the total number of delegates to be so selected.

331 **[**(d)**]** (3) In the event one or no candidate has received a percentage of
332 the total number of votes cast for all candidates equal to or greater than
333 the minimum percentage, the secretary shall calculate an adjusted
334 percentage for each of the candidates receiving the greatest and second
335 greatest number of votes cast for all candidates. The adjusted percentage
336 shall be such candidate's percentage of the total number of votes cast for
337 both such candidates, excluding the total number of votes cast for all
338 other candidates. The secretary shall determine the number of delegates
339 allocated to each candidate by using the same procedure as prescribed
340 in **[**subsection (c) of this section**]** subdivision (2) of this subsection.

341 (c) For allocations under this subsection when party rules do provide
342 for ranked-choice voting, the secretary shall determine the number of
343 delegates, if any, to be allocated at large to each candidate and, if
344 applicable, the number of delegates, if any, to be allocated to each
345 candidate from each district respectively. An active candidate's
346 percentage of the votes received by all active candidates in the state or
347 in a district is required to equal or exceed fifteen per cent in order for
348 such candidate to be allocated any at large delegates or any delegates
349 from such district, as the case may be. The secretary shall determine each
350 candidate's percentage of the votes received by all active candidates
351 under ranked-choice voting in the state and in each district. Each ballot

352 shall count as one vote for the highest-ranked candidate on such ballot
353 and shall be deemed a vote for delegates pledged to support such
354 candidate in accordance with party rules or applicable provisions of this
355 title. Any rankings for withdrawn candidates shall be treated as
356 rankings for eliminated candidates. If the vote total for any active
357 candidate is less than fifteen per cent, the active candidate with the
358 fewest votes shall be eliminated and the votes for the eliminated
359 candidate shall be counted for each ballot's next highest-ranked active
360 candidate. If the vote total of all active candidates is above fifteen per
361 cent, tabulation shall be complete. For the purpose of applying the
362 provisions of section 9-482, votes cast for a candidate, as described in
363 said section, and each candidate's percentage of total votes shall be
364 determined by the secretary on the basis of the votes received in the final
365 round of tabulation. The secretary shall then calculate the product of
366 each such active candidate's percentage and the total number of
367 delegates to be selected, rounding off such product to the nearest
368 integer. Such product shall be the number of delegates allocated to each
369 such candidate except as hereinafter provided. (1) If the rounding off of
370 such products to the nearest integers causes the sum of all delegates so
371 allocated to be greater than the total number of delegates to be selected
372 at large or from the district, then one delegate shall be subtracted from
373 the number allocated to the candidate who received the greatest
374 mathematical gain from such rounding off, and if necessary one
375 delegate shall also be subtracted from the number allocated to the
376 candidate who received the next greatest gain, and so on until the sum
377 of all delegates allocated to candidates equals the total number of
378 delegates to be so selected. (2) If the rounding off of such products to the
379 nearest integers causes the sum of all delegates so allocated to be fewer
380 than the total number of delegates to be selected at large or from the
381 district, then one delegate shall be added to the number allocated to the
382 candidate who suffered the greatest mathematical loss from such
383 rounding off, and if necessary one delegate shall also be added to the
384 number allocated to the candidate who suffered the next greatest such
385 loss, and so on until the sum of all delegates allocated to candidates

386   equals the total number of delegates to be so selected.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*January 1, 2026*	New section
Sec. 2	*January 1, 2026*	New section
Sec. 3	*January 1, 2026*	9-444
Sec. 4	*January 1, 2026*	9-473
Sec. 5	*January 1, 2026*	9-476
Sec. 6	*January 1, 2026*	9-484

Statement of Purpose:

To afford political parties the flexibility to use ranked-choice voting in party caucuses, conventions and primaries, including presidential preference primaries.