

**COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION
MINUTES MARCH 30, 2009**

<p>LEGISLATION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:</p>	<p>Chair: Burton, Legislators: Myers, Jenkins, Nonna, Harckham, Maisano and Abinanti</p>
<p>ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:</p>	<p>County Executive: A. Neuman, B. Randolph, Board of Legislators Staff: R. Pezzullo, M. Montalto, M. McGovern, Guests: B. Strauss, R. MacLaughlin, L. Wilson</p>

With a quorum present, the Committee on Legislation was called to order at 1:46 p.m.

MINUTES

Legislator Jenkins made a motion, seconded by Legislator Nonna, to approve the minutes of September 22, 2008, September 29, 2008, March 16, 2009 and March 23, 2009. After discussion, the Motion was approved 5-0.

LETTERS TO STATE DELEGATION REGARDING STATE VOTING LAWS

Chairman Burton opened the discussion on the proposed letter to the State Legislature on early voting. Member Nonna indicated that new bills had been introduced in the current legislative session of both the Assembly and the Senate (A3315A/S3250). He proposed that the letter be addressed to the Chairmen of the respective committees on Election Law, rather than to the head of the Westchester delegation. The delegation will be copied

The members then discussed whether they supported the foregoing bills, which would permit voting in person at a single location in the County 14 days prior to Election Day. The process would require a paper ballot, rather than a machine to be available. On the other hand, as the voter would have to be physically present to complete and deliver the ballot, these bills would be distinguishable from proposed changes to the absentee ballot provisions (ie where the voter cannot be physically present), which would require a constitutional amendment.

Some members expressed concern about permitting voting as early as 14 days prior to Election Day. This would not permit voters to evaluate issues that might be raised in the last days of a campaign. On the other hand, permitting voters to vote at least on the weekend before an Election Day would permit voters to vote that might otherwise find voting on a working day difficult. The members also discussed concerns about last-minute approved changes to the ballot itself. While some members expressed concerns about paper ballots themselves, other members pointed out that it would be difficult to maintain machines in a single location in the County because each district's ballot would be completely different. In any event, the pending state bills permit paper ballots only.

In light of the possibility of the State Legislature holding public hearings on the bills in the spring, the members decided to write a letter in support of the proposed early voting legislation but with a recommendation that the time for the early voting be shortened to five days from fourteen days. The members then discussed other specific revisions to the proposed letter and agreed that the revision be circulated for the signature of the members of the Board.

The League of Women Voters indicated their support for the early voting legislation as "the appropriate thing to do."

The committee then discussed the proposed letter with respect to same-day registration of voters, which has been introduced in the Legislature as bills AO3734/S1616. The League of Women Voters does not take a position on this issue.

The members expressed many reservations about same-day registration. There were some expressed concerns about the possibility for fraud and of duplicate voting. On the other hand, some members indicated that they would at least support permitting voters to register to vote closer to Election Day. The committee decided that further information on this issue would be necessary before the committee would consider supporting the legislation.

Legislator Jenkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Maisano. Motion approved 7-0. The Committee adjourned at 2:43 pm.

AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE FOR REVIEW UPON REQUEST