I. Voting and Elections

1. **Absentee Voting Modernization:**

   a. **S253** (**Myrie**)/**A1144** (**Paulin**): Safeguard ballots from technical disqualification during canvass where the express intent of a voter is clear. This legislation will safeguard the constitutional right of absentee voters to have their votes counted when there are stray marks or writing on an absentee ballot, as long as the express intent of the voter is unambiguous. **This legislation passed in the Senate in Jan. 2021 and is pending in the Assembly Election Law Committee**

   b. **S492** (**Hoylman**)/**A4128A** (**Gottfried**): Authorize local Boards of Elections to deploy secure ballot drop boxes at convenient county locations. This legislation will allow local Boards of Elections to establish absentee ballot drop-off locations to provide voters with a convenient alternative option to submit their absentee ballots. **This legislation passed in the Senate in Jan. 2021 and is pending in the Assembly Election Law Committee.**

   c. **S516** (**Gianaris**): Legislation to ensure timely and uniform processing and mailing of ballots requested, regardless of application method. This legislation establishes a sliding scale of mandatory turnaround timeframes for the processing of absentee ballot applications and ballot issuance by boards of elections. **This legislation passed in the Senate in Jan. 2021 and currently there is no Assembly same-as legislation.**

   d. **S631** (**Salazar**): This bill allows absentee ballot applications to be submitted to boards of elections earlier than thirty days before the applicable Election Day. **This legislation passed in the Senate in Jan. 2021 and currently there is no Assembly same-as legislation.**

   e. **S632** (**Jackson**)/**A4564** (**Bichotte Hermelyn**): Extend laws permitting earlier absentee ballot requests. The purpose of the bill is to recognize increased options for qualified voters to request an absentee ballot by recognizing requests through electronic means, and to modify certain requirements relating to the date by which a ballot must be postmarked. **This legislation passed in the Senate in Jan. 2021 and is pending in the Assembly Election Law Committee.**

f. **[S1027](link) (Gianaris):** Authorize reviewing, curing, sorting and canvassing ballots sooner and reduce disruptive post-election tactics. **This legislation passed in the Senate in Jan. 2021 and currently there is no Assembly same-as legislation.**

g. **[S1028](link) (Comrie):** Direct the board of elections to provide an online tool for tracking ballots from request to review, cure, canvass and tabulation. This legislation will allow voters to clearly and transparently track their own absentee ballot every step of the process from the moment the original request is received, approved, mailed or delivered to the voter, received a completed ballot back, opportunities to cure and the actual counting of the vote. **This legislation passed in the Senate in Jan. 2021 and currently there is no Assembly same-as legislation.**

h. **[S909](link) (Sanders)/[A1044](link) (Dinowitz):** Provide postage paid return envelopes with all domestic mail ballots so that no one is personally burdened in casting their vote. **This legislation is in the Election Law Committee in both the Senate and Assembly.**

2. **Election Transparency and Enfranchisement:**

   a. **[S284A](link) (Myrie)/[A0624A](link) (Carroll):** This bill would amend the Election Law to avoid disqualifying a registered voter's entire ballot solely because it was cast at a poll site in their county that is different from the voter's assigned polling place. This would remedy an overbroad civil rights injustice that disqualified more than 13,800 New York ballots in the 2020 General Election. **This legislation is in the Assembly Election Law Committee and on the Senate floor calendar.**

   b. **[S286A](link) (Myrie)/[A06589A](link) (Galef):** This bill would provide public access to ballot images within a short period after an election. This bill ensures transparency and helps rebut false information about our elections, allowing academics, researchers, candidates and others understand voter behavior. **This legislation is in the Assembly Election Law Committee and on the Senate floor calendar.**

3. **Constitutional Amendments:**

   a. **[S1046A](link) (Myrie)/[A6678](link) (Walker):** The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of NYS is a state-level Voting Rights Act would help prevent and redress acts of voter suppression, disenfranchisement, or intimidation; require certain localities to clear local changes to voter access that could infringe civil rights with the NYS Attorney General; designate SUNY as a transparent state steward of election data; and improve language assistance. **This legislation is in the Election Law Committee in both the Senate and Assembly.**