

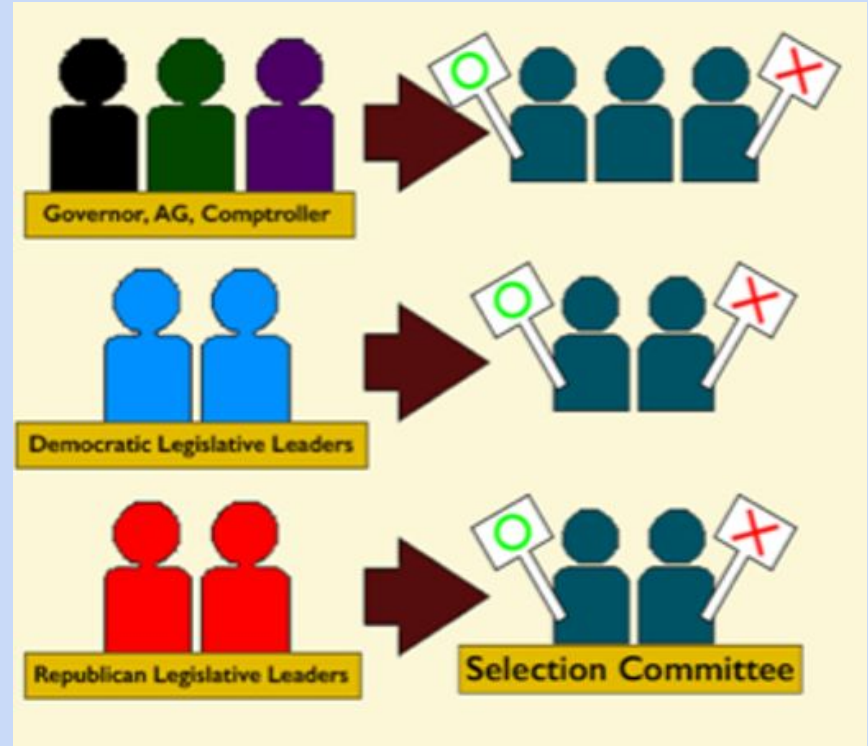
# Proposed New State Ethics Commission

## *Selection Committee = No More Direct Appointments by Elected Officials*

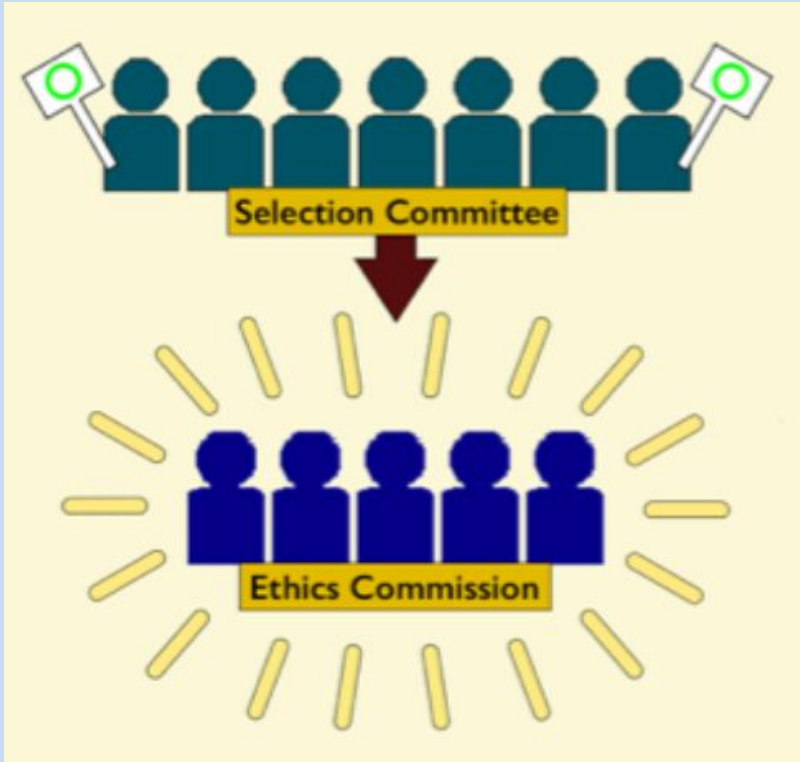
A 7-member **Selection Committee** is appointed, with 1 Member appointed by each of the following:

1. Governor
2. Comptroller
3. Attorney General
4. Majority Leader of the Senate
5. Minority Leader of the Senate
6. Speaker of the Assembly
7. Minority Leader of the Assembly

[See here for the detailed proposal submitted to the Governor and Legislature.](#)



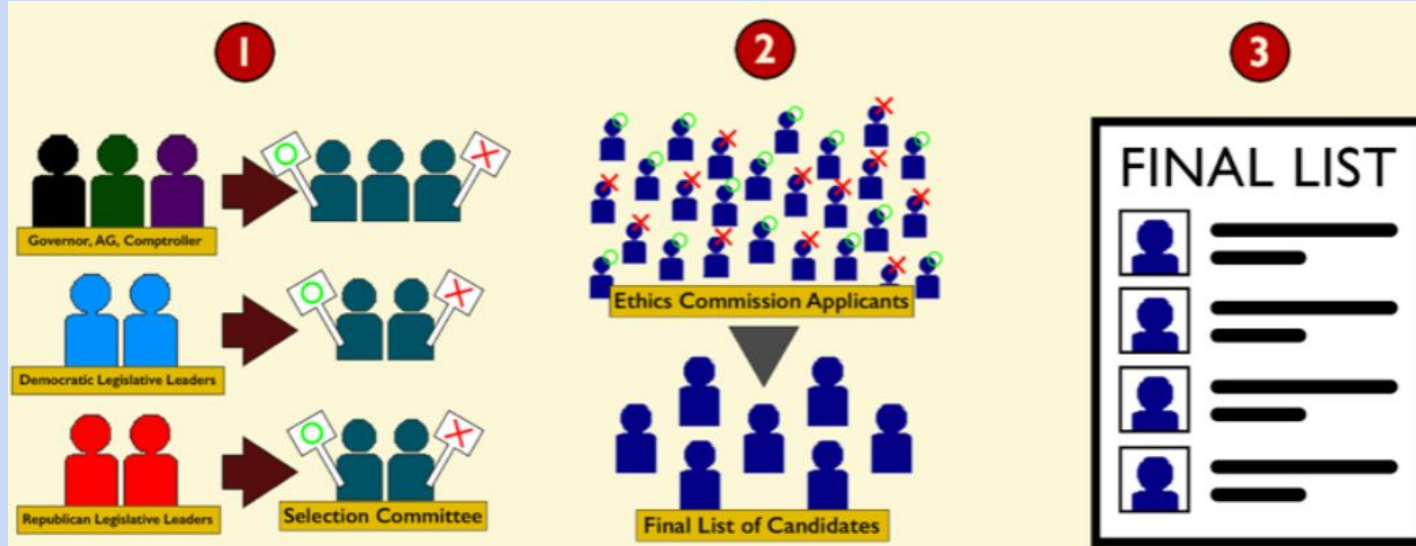
# ***Selection Committee Approves 5-Member Ethics Commission***



Mechanisms to create independence and greater transparency of ***Ethics Commission***:

- **Public can apply** to serve
- **Qualifications and criteria for who *can* serve:** experience, education, diversity, etc.
- **Disqualifications for who *can't* serve:** lobbyists, electeds, contractors, and big donors
- **Term limits for commissioners**
- **Ranked Choice Voting** used to create final list of candidates
- **Final list of candidates released 15 days before public vote**
- **Public report released by Selection Committee** after conclusion of vetting process, including data on number and diversity of applicants

# In Total, 6 Steps to Create Independence and Transparency



The statewide elected officials and legislative leaders each individually appoint one member of seven-person committee to select applicants to the Ethics Commission.

Members of the public may apply to the Commission. Using criteria written in law, the selection committee creates a final list of candidates using Ranked Choice Voting.

The final list of candidates is released 15 days prior to the selection committee's public vote to confirm members.

4



The selection committee holds a final public meeting to vote to approve five ethics commissioners.

5



After the vote, the selection committee releases a public report on the vetting process, including data on applications received and diversity of applicants.

6



The Commission selects a chair from among its members, then hires an Executive Director who hires staff.

## **Additional Measures to Improve Ethics Enforcement and Public Disclosure:**

1. **\$10 million for the new Ethics Commission**, up from \$5.6 million
2. **Simple majority votes for commission** (no political party tests)
3. **Direct discipline of all non-elected public officers**; power to recommend discipline of electeds (per constitutional limits)
4. **Expanded Code of Ethics**, with duty to report misconduct and link to NYS Human Rights Law anti-discrimination and harassment requirements
5. **Commission subject to Freedom of Information Law, Open Meetings Law**
6. **Ban on *ex parte* communications**; breaches of confidentiality referred to Attorney General, not just Inspector General
7. After a finding of probable cause/substantial basis finding, subsequent **hearings should be public**; substantial basis reports released quickly
8. **Improved lobbying reports** that show support or opposition to legislation, campaign contributions by lobbyists
9. **Improved financial disclosure statements**, with all electronic filings that are published on commission website; economic development entities also must file