



MEMO OF SUPPORT

S843 (May)

Establishes minimum staffing levels for local boards of elections

January 13, 2025

TITLE OF BILL

An act to amend the election law, in relation to establishing minimum staffing levels for local boards of elections.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Reinvent Albany supports this bill, which we believe will improve election administration in New York.

New York's local boards of elections have highly inconsistent staffing levels. According to data provided by local election commissioners to Reinvent Albany in 2024, Onondaga County, with 300,000 active voters, has 18 election staffers, or only 1.17 election staffers (excluding commissioners) for every 20,000 voters. Meanwhile, Schenectady County, with 100,000 active voters, has 12 election staffers, or 2.41 full-time staffers for every 20,000 voters.

This legislation establishes basic minimum standards for election staffing to ensure all NY voters have as few barriers to voting as possible and are encouraged to vote regardless of where they live. We urge the Legislature to pass this bill, and the Governor to sign it.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section 1 inserts a new subsection 2 into Election Law §3-300 to provide that within four years of the effective date of the bill, each county board of elections shall provide:

- at least four full-time staffers, in addition to the commissioners, within four years of the bill's effective date;
- at least two full-time staffers within two years of the bill's effective date; and

- two additional employees for every 20,000 active registered voters in counties with at least 40,000 registered voters.

Section 2 states that the bill takes effect immediately.