



MEMO OF SUPPORT

S2050 (Webb)

Increases election commissioner terms from two to four years

February 28, 2025

TITLE OF BILL

An act to amend the election law, in relation to the terms of office of election commissioners.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Reinvent Albany supports this bill because it will create a uniform term for election commissioners, reduce an unnecessary legislative appointment process for localities, and create more predictability for election commissioners without a meaningful loss in accountability.

The vast majority of local election commissioners are approved and re-approved by county legislatures for their positions, barring scandal. This bill will make it so that commissioners only need approval every four years instead of every two, saving time and allowing county legislatures to focus on other matters. It will also end a bizarre and illogical law that has commissioner term limits differ by county.

We ask the Legislature to pass this bill, and the Governor to sign it.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section 1 amends Election Law §3-202(1) to increase local election boards' commissioner terms from two to four years, and remove language stating that NYC and Schenectady terms shall be four years and that counties may set their own commissioner term limits of up to four years.

Section 2 states that the bill takes effect immediately and applies to elections after November 1, 2026.