



MEMO OF SUPPORT

S5452 (Comrie) / A10947 (Walker)

*Requires local election commissioners
to meet professional qualifications*

April 3, 2026

TITLE OF BILL

An act to amend the election law, in relation to requiring a commissioner of a board of elections to meet certain qualifications before their appointment.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Reinvent Albany supports this bill because it will improve election administration and public confidence in the voting process.

New York's election administration has seen significant improvements over the past few years following national embarrassments resulting from [faulty technology](#) and [human error](#). But the current election law is still [a relic of the Tammany Hall era](#), prioritizing patronage over expertise.

Requiring that election commissioners meet broad professional qualifications should, at a minimum, ensure better management in elections. We urge the Legislature to pass the bill.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section 1 adds a new subdivision 8 to Election Law §3-200 to provide that by December 31, 2026, the State Board of Elections must proscribe professional qualifications that local BOE commissioners must meet to be nominated, including but not limited to experience in administration of elections or in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors. The qualifications shall apply to appointments made 30 days after promulgation and shall be reviewed for updates every two years. The board shall consider the skills and knowledge necessary for the role without making qualifications prohibitive. Section 2 states that the bill takes effect immediately.