

**STATE OF NEW YORK**

**STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Albany, New York

July 28, 2021

**CERTIFICATION**

To the Boards of Elections of the State of New York:

Notice is hereby given, that as to the General Election to be held in this State on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, the following proposal will be submitted to the people for their approval: Proposal Number Four, an Amendment

**TEXT OF PROPOSAL NUMBER FOUR, AN AMENDMENT  
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY**

proposing an amendment to section 2 of article 2 of the constitution, in relation to authorizing ballot by mail by removing cause for absentee ballot voting

Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section 2 of article 2 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

§ 2. The legislature may, by general law, provide a manner in which, and the time and place at which, qualified voters [~~who, on the occurrence of any election, may be absent from the county of their residence or, if residents of the city of New York, from the city, and qualified voters who, on the occurrence of any election, may be unable to appear personally at the polling place because of illness or physical disability,~~] may vote and for the return and canvass of their votes in any election.

§ 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment be submitted to the people for approval at the general election to be held in the year 2021 in accordance with the provisions of the election law.

## **ABSTRACT OF PROPOSAL NUMBER FOUR, AN AMENDMENT**

### **Authorizing No-Excuse Absentee Ballot Voting**

The purpose of this proposal is to eliminate the requirement that a voter provide a reason for voting by absentee ballot. The proposed amendment would do so by deleting the requirement currently in the Constitution that restricts absentee voting to people under one of two specific circumstances: (1) those who expect to be absent from the county of their residence, or from New York City for residents of that city, on Election Day, and (2) those who are unable to appear at their polling place because of illness or physical disability.

**FORM OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL NUMBER FOUR, AN AMENDMENT**

**Authorizing No-Excuse Absentee Ballot Voting**

The proposed amendment would delete from the current provision on absentee ballots the requirement that an absentee voter must be unable to appear at the polls by reason of absence from the county or illness or physical disability. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

We hereby certify that the foregoing text Ballot Proposal Four, an Amendment, is a correct copy of the original as certified to be on file in the Department of State.

*Given under our hands and seal of office of the New York State Board of Elections, at the City of Albany this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year two thousand twenty-one.*

---

Douglas A. Kellner  
Co-Chair  
New York State Board of Elections

---

Peter S. Kosinski  
Co-Chair  
New York State Board of Elections