



Legislation Text

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By Council Members Powers, Cabán, Stevens, Hanif, Brewer, Dinowitz, Won, Restler, Krishnan, Hudson, Nurse, Abreu, Bottcher and Sanchez

A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to the designation and usage of public libraries as polling places

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 46 of the New York city charter is amended by adding a new section 1057-h to read as follows:

§ 1057-h Usage of public libraries as polling places. a. Where permitted by section 4-104 of the election law, the board of elections in the city of New York, in consultation with the New York Public Library system, Brooklyn Public Library system, and Queens Public Library system, shall designate every public library as a polling place for any general election, including during the early voting period for such general election. Such designation and usage of permissible public libraries as polling places shall be made in addition to the designation and usage of any other site which the board of elections in the city of New York has previously designated as a polling place for any general election and early voting period for such general election. Refusal by the board of elections in the city of New York to designate a public library as a polling place may not be based on the library's proximity to an existing polling place.

b. Report. No later than 60 days following the completion of a general election, the board of elections in the city of New York shall submit a report to the speaker of the council on the use of public libraries as polling places. Such report shall include the following information:

1. A complete list of the public libraries in the New York Public Library system, Brooklyn Public

Library system, and Queens Public Library system, and whether each such library was designated as a polling place for the preceding general election or the early voting period for such general election;

2. The criteria used to determine the permissibility of public libraries as polling places for a general election and early voting period for a general election; and

3. The reasoning used in each decision not to designate a public library as a polling place for a general election or early voting period for a general election.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law.

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