

Brehm, Robert (ELECTIONS)

From: ele.sm.CoExeDir
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 11:55 AM
To: Brehm, Robert (ELECTIONS); Valentine, Todd (ELECTIONS)
Cc: Connolly, Thomas (ELECTIONS); Lovullo, Brendan (ELECTIONS); Quail, Brian (ELECTIONS); Galvin, Kimberly (ELECTIONS); Cartagena, Nicholas (ELECTIONS); McCann, William (ELECTIONS); Conklin, John (ELECTIONS); Cross, William D (ELECTIONS)
Subject: Enrollment Update Memo
Attachments: 2017 Enrollment Update Memo - Final - 09.21.2017.pdf

Dear County Boards,

We write to remind you of your obligation to keep track of those voters who have chosen to list themselves as “other” in one of the recognized groups. In order to assist you, please see the attached memorandum.

Please contact us with any questions.

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Robert A. Brehm
Co-Executive Director

TO: County Commissioners
FROM: Todd Valentine and Robert Brehm
RE: Changes of Party Status and Enrollment
DATE: September 12, 2017

Dear County Boards,

We write to remind you of your obligation to keep track of those voters who have chosen to list themselves as "other" in one of the recognized groups.

As you know, pursuant to litigation (Green Party of New York State v New York State Board of Elections 267 F.Supp.2d 342 (EDNY 2003), affirmed 389 F 3d 411 (2d Circ 2004), in addition to enrolling voters in the eight recognized political parties in the State of New York Democratic (DEM), Republican (REP), Conservative (CON), Green (GRN), Working Families (WOR), Independence (IND), Women's Equality (WEP) and Reform (REF) - all county boards are obligated to maintain lists which reflect all independent bodies which placed a gubernatorial candidate on the ballot at the most recent gubernatorial election, and to provide that information to the State Board.

This option is available to voters when they complete the 'OTHER' space on the voter registration application. The following independent bodies have met that criteria and should be identified with the following codes: Libertarian (OTH-LBT), and Sapient (OTH-SAP). These two independent bodies are to be tracked as though they are recognized parties, for enrollment report purposes only. For all other purposes, they should be treated in the same manner as voters with no enrollment.

By way of information:

- County boards continue to be required to keep a record of all persons who indicate a desire to affiliate with either of the two independent bodies noted above.
- When county boards send out acknowledgement notices to new voters affiliating with either of the two independent bodies noted above, the card shall indicate that affiliation.
- Whenever county boards publish enrollment numbers, they shall include the numbers of voters who have affiliated with two independent bodies noted above.
- Upon request, lists of voters affiliated with two independent bodies noted above shall be provided in the same manner and for the same cost (if any), as enrollment lists for the State's recognized political parties.

Regarding the maintenance of OTHER information for groups which you may track locally or that did not place a statewide candidate at the last gubernatorial election, such voters affiliated with such groups should be transmitted to the State Board using the following enrollment code (OTH-OTH). Such voters should be treated in all instances in the same manner as voters with no enrollment.

In addition, it is possible that data entry errors could occur when entering voters associated with group having similar initial spellings in their names, such as is the case with the Liberal and Libertarian groups. It is the recommendation of the State Board that each County Board undertake a review of their voters having an affiliation of OTHER and compare the voter record to the application document submitted to ensure that a voter's preference is accurately reported.