

SENATE, No. 1201

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN
District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Requires gender neutral elected office titles on ballots.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning gender neutral office titles on official ballots
2 and amending R.S.19:49-2.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. R.S.19:49-2 is amended to read as follows:

8 19:49-2. All office titles on any official ballot shall be gender
9 neutral. All official ballots shall be in black ink in type as large as
10 space will reasonably permit; provided, however, that any public
11 question which shall be placed on the ballot shall be in red and
12 above any public question to be voted upon by the voters of the
13 entire State there shall be, also in red, a description of the public
14 question, which description shall not exceed six words and shall be
15 in type as large as is practicable. Party nominations shall be
16 arranged on each voting machine, either in columns or horizontal
17 rows; the caption of the various ballots on the machines shall be so
18 placed on the machines as to indicate to the voter what device is to
19 be used or operated in order to vote for the candidates or candidate
20 of his or her choice. The providing of the official ballots, the order
21 of the precedence and arrangement of parties and of candidates, and
22 the instructions for the use of a device to be used or operated in
23 order to vote for candidates shall be as now required by law, except
24 that in those counties where voting machines are used, the county
25 clerk shall have the authority to determine the specifications for,
26 and the final arrangement of, the official ballots.

27 For the primary election for the general election in all counties
28 where voting machines are or shall be used, all candidates who shall
29 file a joint petition with the county clerk of their respective county
30 and who shall choose the same designation or slogan shall be drawn
31 for position on the ballot as a unit and shall have their names placed
32 on the same line of the voting machine; and provided further, that
33 all candidates for municipal or party office in municipalities in
34 counties where voting machines are or shall be used who shall file a
35 petition with the clerk of their municipality bearing the same
36 designation or slogan as that of the candidates filing a joint petition
37 with the county clerk as aforesaid, may request that his or her name
38 be placed on the same line of the voting machine with the
39 candidates who have filed a joint petition with the county clerk as
40 aforesaid by so notifying the county clerk of said county in writing
41 within two days after the last day for filing nominating petitions and
42 thereupon the county clerk shall forthwith notify the campaign
43 manager of such candidates filing a joint petition as aforesaid of
44 said request, and if the said campaign manager shall file his consent
45 in writing with the said county clerk within two days after the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 receipt of said notification from said county clerk, the clerk of said
2 county shall place the name of such candidate on the same line of
3 the voting machine on which appears the names of the candidates
4 who have filed the joint petition as aforesaid; provided, also, that
5 any candidate filing a petition with the Attorney General may
6 request that his or her name be placed on the same line of the voting
7 machine with the candidates who have filed a joint petition with the
8 county clerk as aforesaid by so notifying the county clerk of said
9 county in writing within two days after the last day for filing
10 nominating petitions, and thereupon the county clerk shall forthwith
11 notify the campaign manager of such candidates filing a joint
12 petition as aforesaid of said request, and if the said campaign
13 manager shall file his consent in writing with the said county clerk
14 within two days after the receipt of said notification from said
15 county clerk, the clerk of said county shall place the name of such
16 candidate on the same line of the voting machine on which appears
17 the names of the candidates who have filed the joint petition as
18 aforesaid.

19 (cf: P.L.2011, c.202, s.46)

20

21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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24 STATEMENT

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26 This bill requires gender neutral titles for elected offices on all
27 official ballots. Under current law, the county clerk has the
28 authority to determine the specifications for, and the final
29 arrangement of, the official ballots. In at least one county recently,
30 the county clerk authorized gender neutral office titles on the ballot.
31 This bill makes gender neutral titles a requirement on all official
32 ballots.