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Government Transparency Initiative

The New York State Board of Elections has received and reviewed the Executive Chamber's Government Transparency Memo issued September 20, 2021. We have assessed our agency's processes surrounding the transparency of public information, including the nine steps highlighted in the memorandum.

The State Board of Elections has been on the forefront of making public information transparent for some time now and has implemented the majority of the steps outlined. Specifically, the State Board of Elections currently:

- Ensures the timely preparation of legally required reporting and continues to identify ways to make information available to the public;
- Requires staff to report pertinent information to the Project Sunlight database in accordance with the PIRA Act of 2011;
- Posts a subject matter list, proactively posts frequently requested election information, and tracks FOIL requests on a monthly list;
- Provides our campaign financial reporting data to Open Data NY on a scheduled basis;
- Does not charge for FOIL requests, including the voter registration data; and
- Adheres to record retention policies and transfers timely records to the State Archives.

The Board will enhance our processes to increase transparency by:

- Posting documents required for meetings open to the public at the same time the agenda is posted, to the extent practicable; and by
- Utilizing social media handles (Twitter) more regularly and on a pre-planned, routine schedule to ensure that upcoming election deadlines and events are more widely shared.

The Board is implementing language access and building accessibility into new initiatives such as the Online Voter Registration/Automatic Voter Registration Project and the Public Campaign Finance Software to adhere to the State's commitment to language access. The State Board of Election also maintains a fully accessible website to increase transparency and hires ASL interpreters for our Board meetings, when requested.