



Due to an unusually high-turnout in school and general elections last year caused, in part, by easier access to absentee ballots, the number of signatures needed to run as a library Trustee and for other important library votes increased significantly this year; the number of signatures needed on a petition is often driven by the election turnout in the prior year.

As a result of Chapter 70, all votes for library purposes in 2021 will require ONLY 25 signatures. This applies to trustee candidate petitions in school district public libraries and petitions for municipal funding under Education Law 259(1)(b)(1) (also known as Chapter 414 votes).

Here are some frequently asked questions about the bill:

**Is 25 the signature requirement a cap? Can we collect more?**

For the pertinent elections, at least 25 signatures must be collected. Individuals wishing to collect more may do so.

**What libraries are affected by this new law?**

Chapter 70 applies to public and association libraries seeking access to a municipal ballot (otherwise known as Chapter 414 votes) and individuals interested in becoming a trustee of a school district public library. In these cases, only 25 signatures will be required on such a petition.

**How does this interact with EO 202.51?**

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20251-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>

The amendments provided within Executive Order 202.51 have sunset and are no longer in effect.

**My trustees are already out collecting signatures, does this change the number that they were told to collect?**

Yes. This law is applicable to all who are in the process of collecting or will collect signatures for elections under Education Law 260 or Chapter 414 this year.

**Does this law extend a voter's right to use an absentee ballot in one of these elections?**

No, but the extension for the pandemic-related use of an absentee ballot is currently in effect through March 28<sup>th</sup>. NYLA will continue to monitor whether this authority is further extended.