

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: COMMON CAUSE NEW YORK

Common Cause New York has been leading the fight to make our democracy and government work for all New Yorkers. Our 100,000+ grassroots members and activists are tireless advocates for voting rights, ethics reform and fair redistricting from Buffalo to Bay Ridge. Our legislative priorities reflect our vision for a more equitable and vibrant democracy in New York.

EXPAND VOTING RIGHTS & INVEST IN OUR ELECTIONS

- **Allow New Yorkers to provide water and snacks to voters at poll sites or while in line to vote.** (S616 Myrie/A1346 Simon)
- **Ensure voters easily understand state ballot proposals as the language is frequently lengthy and confusing.** (S1381A Comrie/A1722A Zinerman)
- **Pilot same day registration during the last day of early voting.** (S2381 Myrie/A5007 Burgos)
- **Permanent expanded definition of “temporary illness” for absentee voting.** (A3291 Dinowitz)
- **Guarantees the use of voter verifiable paper ballots in elections.** (A5934A Cunningham/S6169A Cleare)
- **Ensure the timely implementation of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) and Online Voter Registration (OVR).** We fought hard to pass AVR and OVR and the New York State Board of Elections (NYSBOE) must move quickly to implement both tools that will facilitate voter registration.
- **New York is one of the few states that does not provide consistent nor significant state funding for election administration.** An annual dedicated budget line should be created to support local Boards of Elections efforts to smoothly hold elections.
- **Improve procedure for approving voting equipment.** Ensuring that machines read only the portion of ballots marked by voters and that cost and security can

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be considered in the certification process.

- **Uniform procedures for voting while in jail.** Citizens who are in jail have the right to vote, but are often prevented from voting because the local jurisdiction in control of the jail has no procedures in place.

PROTECT OUR DEMOCRACY

- **New York must move quickly to repeal our Article V Resolutions.** Article V resolutions are aged legislative resolutions calling for a federal constitutional convention. These old resolutions do not by their terms have any expiration date. Extremist entities seeking to call a constitutional convention to hobble the federal government argue that these old resolutions serve to New York as approving a constitutional convention bringing the total count close to the needed 34 states. (B477 Krueger/K137 Zebrowski)
- **Board of Elections reform.** Professionalizing and reducing partisanship in election administration is an essential component to improving our elections.
- **Reduce legislators outside income.** The State Legislature must enact a ban on income earned through certain professions and a cap of up to 15% on certain permissible outside income from select professions.

STRENGTHEN CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

- **Reduce the corrosiveness of money in politics and enhance public trust in our government by passing:**
 - **S2130 Krueger/A1391 Aubry:** would increase lobbyist disclosures
 - **S2362 Rivera:** which would increase employer disclosure requirements for campaign contributions
 - **S483A Myrie:** prohibit campaign contributions from individuals or organizations while bidding on state contracts