Grass Roots Efforts for Election Reforms

Mary Thorpe
Director- NYPAN of the Southern Finger Lakes
Chemung County Democratic Committee
New York State Democratic Committee
Let NY Vote Coalition Partners

1199SEIU
2 Hours A Week
32BJ SEIU
ACLU Let People Vote: Williamsburg
ACLU People Power Upper West Side
ACT18 Indivisible
Action and Empathy
Action Potluck
Action Together Long Island ATL
African American Ministers in Action
Albany NAACP
America Will Be
Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association
Andrew Goodman Foundation
Andrew Goodman Foundation Binghamton University
Anti-Defamation League New York
Association of Legal Aid Attorneys
AVR NOW
Bay Shore - Babylon Womens Huddle
Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle
Black Lives Matter Brooklyn
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
Briarcliff - Ossining Indivisible
Bronx Progressives
Brooklyn NAACP
Brooklyn Rebels
Brooklyn Resists
Brooklyn Voters Alliance
Capital NY Resistance
Capital Region Indivisible
CCoHOPE Indivisible
CD17 Indivisible
Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College
Center for Popular Democracy
Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats
Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.
Choice for All
Christopher Rose Community Empowerment Campaign
Citizen Action NY
Citizen Action of Central NY (Utica)
Citizens Union
Civic Action Council
Code Blue NYS
Columbia SIPA Civic and Voter Engagement Coalition
Columbia University Roosevelt Institute
Common Cause/NY
Communications Workers of America, CWA District 1
Concerned Citizens For Change
The Creative Resistance
Croton on Hudson INDIVISIBLE
CWA Local 1180
Daily Kos
Data for Progress / AVR NOW
Democracy Matters
Demos
Democratic Action Network D.A.N.
Dominicans USA
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance
East Flatsbush Village Inc.
Empire State Indivisible
Empire State Progressives
Every Vote Counts @ Columbia University
Faith in New York
Faith in New York (Action)
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
The Gathering For Justice
Generation Citizen
Generation Vote
Gowanus Gathering for Action
Greater NYC for Change
Grassroots Action NY
Hearts Across Queens
Hispanic Federation
Indivisible 330
Indivisible Binghamton
Indivisible Brooklyn
Indivisible Chatham NY
Indivisible Millbrook Loyal Opposition
Indivisible New Rochelle
Indivisible: Rapid Response Blue
Indivisible: Rapid Response NYC
Indivisible: Rapid Response Red & Purple
Indivisible Rochester
Indivisible Scarsdale
Indivisible Upper East Side
Indivisible Village in Ditmas Park
Indivisible We Stand – Upper West Side
Indivisible Westchester
Indivisible Yorktown NY
Inspired by Common Cause
Interfaith Impact of NYS
Justice League NYC
Lab/Shul
Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State
League of Independent Theater
League of Women Voters
League of Women Voters of NYS
League of Women Voters of the City of NY
League of Women Voters NYC
League of Women Voters Saratoga County
The LGBT Community Center
Letter Carriers, NATL ASN, AFL-CIO
Local Progress NY
Long Island Civic Engagement Table
Long Island Progressive Coalition
More Let NY Vote Coalition Partners

NY Senate District 17 for Progress
NY4Democracy Coalition
NYC DSA
NYC Chapter of Women’s March
NYCD16-Indivisible
NYPAN - NY Progressive Action Network
NYPAN of the Southern Finger Lakes
Open Nassau
Orange County Get Out The Vote
Peace Action & Education
People Power
People Power Inwood Heights
People Power Patchogue
People Power Staten Island North Shore
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts
Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic
Progressive Action of Lower Manhattan
Public Citizen
Queens Huddle
RegisterNY
Reinvent Albany
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union
The Rights Factory
Rise and Resist
ROCitizen
Rock the Vote
Rockland Citizens Action Network
Rockland County Vocal Voters
runNYC
Rye City Democratic Committee

Saratoga Progressive Action
Saratoga Unites
Seeds of Democracy
SMART Elections
South Asian Fund for Education, Scholarship and Training
Stonewall Democratic Club of NYC
Strong Economy for All
Tally Up NY
Transit Workers Union
Transport Workers Union - TWU Local 100
United Auto Workers
UAW Local 2325
United Federation of Teachers
Ulster Activists
Ulster People for Justice & Democracy
United Neighborhood Houses
Upper West Side MoveOn/Indivisible Action Group
Uptown Progressive Action
Vote Captain
Vote Early NY
#VoteProChoice
Voter Registration Team of the Syracuse Solidarity Coalition
Voter Registration Westchester
Voter Rights Action
Voting Rights Forward
Westchester Citizen Therapists
White Plains Indivisible
William Lynch Jr. Democratic Club
Working Families Party
Young Invincibles
Youth Progressive Policy Group
Election Reforms Passed in 2019

- Pre-Registration of 16 & 17 Year Olds
- Funding for Early Voting Implementation
- Uniform Polling Hours
- Early Voting
- Online Voter Registration
- Shorter Party Enrollment Deadlines
- Electronic Poll Books
- No Excuse Absentee Voting
- Consolidated Primaries
- Registration Portability
- Same Day Registration
- Voter Friendly Ballots
ELECTION REFORMS PASSED IN 2019

- Early Voting
- Pre-Registration for 16 & 17-year olds
- Shorter Party Enrollment Deadlines
- Registration Portability
- Consolidated Primaries
- Voter Friendly Ballots
- Uniform Polling Hours*
- Funding for Early Voting Implementation*

* included in the budget

- Electronic Poll Books*
- Online Voter Registration*
- Same Day Registration**
- No Excuse Absentee Voting**

** require a Constitutional Amendment
Voting Package - Passed by Senate January 9, 2020

Automatic Voter Registration: S.6457B (Gianaris)

Requiring Designation of Polling Places at Colleges and Universities with \( \geq 300 \) students
S.4378 (Parker) Also requires campuses to have their own election districts.

Portable Early Voting Polling Places
S.6926 (May): Allows counties to have \( \geq 2 \) pop-up polling places for 3 days during early voting

Bars Using Public Schools as Early Voting Locations
S.6930 (Krueger): Also, BOE may designate buildings getting \( \geq \$1 \) million in state aid

More Notice about Elections
S.6805 (Myrie): Authorizes message signs on highways to display messages related to voting

Changes to Early Voting Site Requirements:
S.6754A (Breslin: One early voting site in biggest municipality near transportation
S.6922 (Kaplan): For Nassau and Suffolk Counties, raises cap on early voting sites from 7 to 10
S.6923 (Martinez) For cities or towns with populations \( >100,000 \) and \( <1 \) million,
S.6925 (Biaggi) Cities or towns 50,000-100,000, \( \geq 1 \) early voting site along a public transit route
New York has made huge strides in updating and overhauling our voting laws, but there is much more to do:

**VOTING RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE ON PAROLE S1931 & A4987**
The automatic restoration of voting rights for people on parole needs to be codified in law. It's already policy as an executive order, but the process is lengthy, confusing, and still disenfranchises thousands of voters released on parole each month. Restoration would make communities safer and lower recidivism.

**AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION S6457A & A8280A**
Automatic voter registration (AVR) is proven to improve voter participation. NY needs a model that is implemented at multiple government agencies and provides adequate safeguards to protect our most vulnerable populations. In June 2019, Leadership committed to passing AVR in the next legislative session, we must hold them to it!

**PARTY ENROLLMENT DEADLINE S2338 & A1423**
New York’s party enrollment deadline locks out countless voters during primaries. NY took the first step in 2019 by shortening the deadline to February 14th; we now have the second most restrictive deadline in the country. All registration deadlines should be the same — 25 days. ONE person, ONE vote, ONE registration deadline.

- Zellnor Myrie, Senate Elections Committee Chair

Require reporting of changes to election procedures to state Attorney General

Establish state laws protecting against voter suppression, racial gerrymandering and other forms of minority vote dilution by the state or local governments

Establish a state law against racial gerrymandering by counties and other local governments

Protect against minority vote dilution through at-large elections, which are used by many towns, villages, and school districts across the state

Note: Earlier this month, a federal judge determined the State Board of Elections is violating the Constitution and federal election law by designating certain registered voters as “inactive” and keeping those names out of its poll books during elections.

NY Daily News, Jan. 19, 2020
THE FIRST NY YOUTH VOTING RIGHTS AND ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM

1. Enact Automatic Voter Registration. (S6457A – PASSED SENATE)
2. Codify Rights Restoration of People on Parole.
3. Extend Time Off to Vote for Schools.
4. Lower the Voting Age to 16 for Local and State Elections.
5. Mandate On-Campus Poll Sites. (S4378 - PASSED SENATE)
7. Change New York's Closed Primaries System to Open Primaries.
9. Lower the Age Requirement for Poll Workers to 16.
10. Create Democracy Vouchers for High School Students in NYC.
Fair Elections for New York

Citizens for Responsibility & Ethics in Washington
Citizens Union
The Civics Center
Cleanup Carl
Clean Water Action
Coalition for Economic Justice
Color of Change
Common Cause New York
Communities United for Police Reform Action
Fund
Community Voices Heard
Concerned Citizens For Change
Cooper Square Committee
The Creative Resistance
CREDO Action
Criminal Justice Task Force, Roco/ACTS
Crown Heights Tenants Union
CWA District 1
CWA Local 1122
CWA Local 1133
CWA Local 1168
Daily Kos
Democracy 21
Democracy Initiative
Democracy Matters
Demos
Downtown Women for Change
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance
Empire State Indivisible
Empire State Progressives
End Citizens United
Equal Citizens
Erie County Green Party
Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
Every Voice
Food & Water Watch
Four Freedoms Democratic Club
Franciscan Action Network
Free Speech For People
Friends of the Earth
The Gathering for Justice
Generation Citizen NY
Grassroots Action NY
Greater NYC for Change
Greenpeace
Housing Works, Inc.
Human Services Council
Humanists of Long Island
Indivisible
Indivisible Beekman
Indivisible BlueBlast!
Indivisible Brooklyn
Indivisible CD16 NY
Indivisible CD19 NY
Indivisible Harlem
Indivisible Nation BK
Indivisible Scarsdale
Indivisible the Fight Is On
Indivisible We Stand Upper West Side
Indivisible Westchester
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
Justice Ministries Committee, Presbytery of New York City
Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS
Left Action
Let’s Visit Lee Zeldin
Local Democrats of New York
Long Island Activists
Long Island Civic Engagement Table
Long Island Jobs with Justice
Long Island Network for Change
Long Island Progressive Coalition

32BJ SEIU
350.org
50 West 93 Street Tenant Association
ACT18 Indivisible
Action Potluck
Action Together Rochester
Advocates for Justice Chartered Attorneys
African American Ministers in Action
ALIGN
Alliance for Quality Education
American Family Voices
American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee
Arab American Institute
Archer K Blood Center for Democracy
The Arena
Association of Tenants of Lincoln Towers
Ben & Jerry’s
Bend the Arc
The Black Institute
BlackLine
Black Lives Matter Hudson Valley
Brennan Center for Justice
Briarcliff – Ossining Indivisible
Bronx Progressives
Brooklyn Community Bail Fund
Buffalo Democratic Socialists of America
Campaign for America's Future
Campaign for New York Health
Campaign Legal Center
Capital District Democratic Socialists of America
CCoHOPE Indivisible
Center for Popular Democracy
Central Park Gardens Tenants Association
CGDCNY
Chinese American Planning Council
Churches United For Fair Housing
Citizen Action New York
Fair Elections for New York

32BJ SEIU
350.org
50 West 93 Street Tenant Association
ACT 18 Indivisible
Action Potluck
Action Together Rochester
Advocates for Justice Chartered Attorneys
African American Ministers in Action
ALIGN
Alliance for Quality Education
American Family Voices
American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee
Arab American Institute
Archer K Blood Center for Democracy
The Arena
Association of Tenants of Lincoln Towers
Ben & Jerry’s
Bend the Arc
The Black Institute
BlackLine
Black Lives Matter Hudson Valley
Brennan Center for Justice
Briarcliff – Ossining Indivisible
Bronx Progressives
Brooklyn Community Bail Fund
Buffalo Democratic Socialists of America
Campaign for America’s Future
Campaign for New York Health
Campaign Legal Center
Capital District Democratic Socialists of America
CCoHOPE Indivisible
Center for Popular Democracy
Central Park Gardens Tenants Association
CGDCNY
Chinese American Planning Council
Churches United For Fair Housing
Citizen Action New York
Citizens for Responsibility & Ethics in
Washington
Citizens Union
The Civics Center
Cleanup Carl
Clean Water Action
Coalition for Economic Justice
Color of Change
Common Cause New York
Communities United for Police Reform Action
Fund
Community Voices Heard
Concerned Citizens For Change
Cooper Square Committee
The Creative Resistance
CREDO Action
Criminal Justice Task Force, Roc/ACTS
Crown Heights Tenants Union
CWA District 1
CWA Local 1122
CWA Local 1133
CWA Local 1168
Daily Kos
Democracy 21
Democracy Initiative
Democracy Matters
Demos
Downtown Women for Change
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance
Empire State Indivisible
Empire State Progressives
End Citizens United
Equal Citizens
Erie County Green Party
Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island
Every Voice
Food & Water Watch
Four Freedoms Democratic Club
Franciscan Action Network
Free Speech For People
Friends of the Earth
The Gathering For Justice
Generation Citizen NY
Grassroots Action NY
Greater NYC for Change
Greenpeace
Housing Works, Inc.
Human Services Council
Humanists of Long Island
Indivisible
Indivisible Beekman
Indivisible BlueBlast!
Indivisible Brooklyn
Indivisible CD16 NY
Indivisible CD19 NY
Indivisible Harlem
Indivisible Nation BK
Indivisible Scarsdale
Indivisible the Fight Is On
Indivisible We Stand Upper West Side
Indivisible Westchester
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
Justice Ministries Committee, Presbytery of New York City
Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS
Left Action
Let’s Visit Lee Zeldin
Local Democrats of New York
Long Island Activists
Long Island Civic Engagement Table
Long Island Jobs with Justice
Long Island Network for Change
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Fossil Fuel Interests Endanger the Environment for Cash

What They Gave
Over the last decade, fossil fuel interests gave over $5.5 million to support candidates in New York State elections.

What they got
For the sake of padding their profits, fossil fuel interests have blocked legislation to address climate change and create renewable energy jobs while also delaying recycling programs and fracking regulation.

Billionaires' Tax Scam for Cash

What They Gave
Just seven billionaires gave over $30 million in New York state and federal campaign contributions this election cycle.

What they got
These billionaires benefitted when the narrow Republican majority in the New York Senate blocked efforts to make the wealthy pay their fair share, including by closing the carried interest loophole.
Proposed Fair Elections Legislation

Governor Cuomo’s FY 2020 New York State Executive Budget calls for campaign finance reform, including small donor public financing in Part B of the Governor’s Good Government and Ethics Reform Article VII legislation.

2019: Governor and Legislature created Public Campaign Financing Commission.

• Recommendations became law Jan 1 b/c Legislature didn’t act

• Commission established public financing but fell short:
  
  In limiting big money in state politics

  Attacked New York’s minor parties.

Next steps depend on outcome of lawsuits challenging the attack on minor parties
NEW YORKERS WANT TO KNOW THAT THEIR VOTE IS SECURE & WILL BE COUNTED ACCURATELY. THESE CHANGES ARE NECESSARY TO MAKE THAT A REALITY

LAWS IN THE PIPELINE

1) BAN “HYBRID” OR “ALL-IN-ONE” VOTING MACHINES A8597 (Paulin)/ S6733 (Myrie) (Highest Priority)

2) REQUIRE HAND-COUNTS FOR CLOSE RACES A8377 (Paulin)/ S1833 (Gianaris - passed Senate )

3) BAN PARTY CHAIRS FROM BEING ELECTION COMMISSIONERS A4815 (Galef)/ S3309 (Carlucci)
   Alternate A962 (Abinanti/no same as)

4) ANY COMMISSIONER CAN ESCALATE AN AUDIT A8448 (Paulin)/ S6735 (Myrie)

5) NEW VOTING MACHINES SELECTED BY NEW YORK - NOT VENDORS + LONGER REQUIRED MAINTENANCE GUARANTEES FOR VOTING MACHINES (10 YEARS) A8449 (Paulin)/ S6734 (Myrie)

6) ATTORNEYS MAY POLL WATCH IN ANY COUNTY OF THE STATE A4044 (Weprin)/ S4552 (Parker)

7) ELIGIBLE VOTERS WHO VOTE IN THE WRONG ELECTION DISTRICT WILL HAVE THEIR ELIGIBLE VOTES COUNTED S3195 (Myrie)/no same as

8) ALL RECOUNTS MUST BE BY HAND drafted and needs to be introduced
MORE CHANGES TO MAKE VOTING SECURE

9) REQUIRE HAND-MARKED PAPER BALLOTS & NON-TABULATING BALLOT-MARKING DEVICES IN THE POLLING PLACE

10) ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR A FULL-FACE BALLOT

11) BAN WEIGHTED ELECTIONS

12) REQUIRE INDEPENDENT RISK-LIMITING AUDITS OF ALL RACES

13) ALLOW ACCESS TO DIGITAL BALLOT IMAGES

14) DATA TRANSPARENCY - ELECTION RESULTS POSTED PROMPTLY BY CATEGORY & IN USER-FRIENDLY SPREAD-SHEETS | POLL TAPES MAY BE PHOTOGRAPHED BY THE PUBLIC AND MUST BE POSTED ONLINE BY ELECTION OFFICIALS | AUDIT LOGS FROM ALL VOTING MACHINES & TABULATORS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

15) PROCEDURAL TRANSPARENCY - RIGHT TO OBSERVE, PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEO TAPE BOARD OF ELECTION PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING MEETINGS, AUDITS AND RECOUNTS
New York State Democratic Committee

Some relevant resolutions that have/may influence state law:

Mar. 2019  Resolution to do away with fusion voting passed
Dec. 2019  Public Campaign Finance Committee essentially does away with 3rd parties

May 2019:  Voted to change party registration date from previous mid-October date to
25 days before election for unaffiliated voter and
60 days before election for affiliated voter
S6532 2019: 74 days before primary: Feb. 14

Oct 2019:  Resolution for ranked choice voting tabled until next meeting. Stand by...