

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR RATH**

Re: Urging New York State to Allow for Public Input for Election Law Reforms

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature has voted for reform and changes to New York State's Election Law; and

WHEREAS, some of the changes will be effective immediately include requiring several polling sites to be open from ten to two days before Election Day to allow for early voting, pre-registration of 16- and 17-year-olds, matching federal and state election primary days, closing an LLC loophole in campaign finance regulations; and

WHEREAS, other changes to NYS Election Law including vote-by-mail and same-day voter registration would also amend the State Constitution, so these initiatives would also require voter referendums, and passage by the next State Legislature, scheduled to be seated in 2021; and

WHEREAS, some of these proposals are welcome, create cost savings, and should be done immediately, such as matching state and federal primary days, provided that the expenses are included in the New York State Budget as opposed to being paid for by the County's; and

WHEREAS, some proposals, like early voting, securing additional voting locations, printing and counting additional ballots, and meeting additional requirements come with additional costs, especially to local municipalities and counties, and should allow for an opportunity to have public input and discussion with those municipalities who have already budgeted for the 2019 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, early voting further complicates matters for traditional polling locations. Many of those locations are schools, municipal offices, places of worship, fire halls, and senior living facilities, making it difficult to operate as both a polling location and for their actual use. States around the country offer early voting procedures differently from one another and New York should examine those thoroughly before enacting our own early voting provisions; and

WHEREAS, still other proposals that expand access to voting, while positive for New York residents, should be coupled with increased security and protection against voter fraud, which could easily be accomplished through the use of voter identification requirements; and

WHEREAS, there is no reason why these laws need to be passed within two weeks of the beginning of the Legislature's 2019 session without public hearings and input from local governments across the state similar to what has been done with previous large scale policy discussions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body implores New York State allow for a period of public input and discussion with local municipalities relative to the cost and the transition related to the New York Election Law reform initiatives; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body urges the State Legislature include the costs for the new election reforms be included in the 2019 Budget; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo's Office, the Western New York delegation for the New York State Legislature and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for Resolution.