

ELECTION PROTECTION

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

1-866-OUR-VOTE ■ www.866OurVote.org

November 3, 2012

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Governor Cuomo:

We have been heartbroken to watch the destruction Hurricane Sandy wrought on our state. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the people of New York.

The loss of power and displacement of citizens so close to Election Day has raised questions and concerns from New Yorkers and our members. The right to vote is fundamental and must be protected, especially during this state of emergency. We appreciate all of the efforts being made to open alternative polling locations and provide generators to the sites without power.

However, there are still uncertainties regarding mass transit operations, and the gas shortages have made transportation more difficult. New Yorkers are staying in shelters and with family and friends throughout the state. In these extraordinary circumstances we request a loosening of the affidavit ballot rules.

We, the undersigned, request an executive order allowing displaced New Yorkers who are unable to access their assigned polling station to be permitted to cast an affidavit ballot at polling places out of precinct and out of county. After Election Day, the eligibility of each voter and ballot can be determined. At a minimum, for each office and measure the voter is eligible to cast a vote, the ballot should be counted. We understand that this is a departure from normal procedures, but extraordinary circumstances call for bold action to ensure that every eligible New Yorker's right to vote is not taken away by a natural disaster.

As the election is Tuesday, November 6th, we respectfully request an immediate reply.

Sincerely,

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Common Cause/New York
League of Women Voters of New York
New York Public Interest Group (NYPIRG)
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
New York Immigration Coalition
Arab American Association of New York
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN)
Chhaya CDC

CAAAV
El Centro del Inmigrante
Hudson Valley Community Coalition
Indo-Caribbean Alliance, Inc.
Korean Americans for Political Advancement
La Fuente
MinKwon Center for Community Action
National Network for Arab American Communities
New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)
New York State Immigrant Action Fund
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Queens Community House
Russian American Voters Educational League (RAVEL)
Taking Our Seat
Westchester Hispanic Coalition
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund
La Fuente
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Long Island Civic Engagement Table
Latino Justice
Chinese Progressive Association
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD)
Rockland Immigration Coalition

cc: New York State Board of Elections
40 North Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12207-2729