

Common Cause/NY's position on City Council Rules reform

Common Cause/NY supports effective legislative functioning at all levels of government, working for best practices and rules that encourage legislators to be effective advocates for creative solutions to the problems we all face as well as for their constituents.

We have long expressed concern that the centralization of power within the Speaker's office is detrimental to the democratic functioning of the New York City Council.

When a bill is held back and doesn't get to the floor, New Yorkers are prevented from

- Learning about the issue through the Council's floor debate
- Knowing their Council Member's official position on the bill

Too many important bills supported by a majority of Council Members never get voted on by the full Council.

The most recent manifestation of this problem is the way **the Paid Sick Time Bill has been blocked from coming to the floor for a vote – even though a majority of the Council are co-sponsors!**