

March 27, 2025

Via Email

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Attorney General Letitia James
Office of the New York State Attorney General
The Capitol Albany NY 12224-0341

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader, New York State Senate
172 State Street,
The Capitol, Room 330
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker, New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building 932
Albany, NY 12248

Senator Kristen Gonzalez
Chair, Senate Elections Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 817
198 State St.
Albany, NY 12247

Assembly Member Latrice M. Walker
Chair, Assembly Committee on Election Law
Legislative Office Building, Room 715
198 State St.
Albany, NY 12247

Re: Federal Executive Order re Elections

Dear Governor Hochul, Attorney General James, Speaker Heastie, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Chairs of the Elections Committee:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our strong opposition to President Trump's recent Executive Order, misleadingly titled "*Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections.*" The Executive Order falsely claims that non-citizens are voting in federal elections and directs states to take sweeping and

unnecessary measures that threaten the rights of eligible voters and the integrity of our democracy.

This Executive Order is unconstitutional and rooted in disinformation. It seeks to weaponize overstated federal authority to intimidate voters, create confusion, and further restrict access to the ballot. There is no credible evidence of widespread non-citizen voting.

New York has made significant progress in recent years to modernize and strengthen our election system, expanding access while maintaining security. As New York voting rights advocates, we are proud of the work we've done in coalition to register, educate, and turn out voters across the state. We will not allow those hard-won gains to be rolled back by an illegal and politically motivated Executive Order.

We urge you to:

- Publicly reject this Executive Order and its unconstitutional premise;
- Continue to implement and expand pro-voter policies, including automatic and online voter registration, language access improvements, and protections for naturalized citizens and first-time voters;
- Join or initiate any litigation challenging this Executive Order and the federal overreach it represents;
- Expand the state's cybersecurity support to county boards of elections to compensate for decreased federal cyber security protections.

This Executive Order will disproportionately impact immigrant communities, naturalized citizens, and voters of color- many of whom already face systemic barriers to participation. We cannot allow misinformed claims to erode public trust in our election system or silence the voices of New Yorkers.

We thank you for your leadership and call on you to once again stand firmly on the side of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Susan Lerner, Executive Director
Common Cause/NY

L.Joy Williams, President
NAACP New York State Conference

Lurie Daniel Favors, Executive Director
Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College

Perry Grossman, Director, Voting Rights Project
New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU)

Candis Tall, Political Director
32BJ SEIU

Stuart Appelbaum, President
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU)

Joo Han, Interim Co-Executive Director
Asian American Federation

Wennie Chin, Senior Director of Community and Civic Engagement
New York Immigration Coalition

Carlyn Cowen, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)

Sharon Greenberger, President and CEO
YMCA of Greater New York

Juanita O. Lewis, Executive Director
Community Voices Heard

Alyssa Aguilera and Jeremy Saunders,
Co-Executive Directors, VOCAL-NY

Eddie Cuesta, Executive Director
Dominicanos USA

Robin Chappelle Golston, President and CEO
Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts

Karen Wharton, Democracy Coalition Coordinator
Citizen Action of New York

Soffiyah Elijah, Executive Director
Alliance of Families for Justice

Jarret Berg, Voting Rights Counsel
Vote Early New York

Ann Toback, CEO

The Workers Circle

Karla Bradley, Executive Director
New York Civic Engagement Table

Gabriella Corrales, Civic Engagement Coordinator
El Puente

Jan Combopiano, Executive Committee
Brooklyn Voters Alliance

Michael Kink, Executive Director
Strong Economy For All Coalition

George Albro, Co-Chair
New York Progressive Action Network

Alisha Kohn, Executive Director
The Prisoners' Brain Trust

Louisa Hackett, Director
Community Votes

Sierra Stoneman-Bell, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Literacy Assistance Center

Tyrell Ford, Executive Director
VOICE Buffalo

Myra Saul, Co-Organizer
Westchester for Change

Danielle Brecker, Co-lead Organizer
Empire State Indivisible

Indivisible Scarsdale

Indivisible Westchester

Margaret Bradbury, Co-Leader
Indivisible New Rochelle

Bob Stromberg
Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle

Laura Forman
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance

Katherine Alford, Co-Facilitator
Third Act NYC

Elizabeth Lee, Chair of Election Reform Committee
Ulster Activists (U-ACT)

Harmeet Kaur Kamboj, Senior State Policy Manager (NY)
The Sikh Coalition