

MEMO OF OPPOSITION TO INT 34-2018
Before the New York City Council Governmental Operations Committee
October 19th, 2021

Common Cause New York strongly opposes 34-2018 as it will only serve to favor incumbents during an election cycle. There is simply no need for an elected official to send an official mass mailing 30 days before an election instead of the 90 as prescribed by current law.

New York City has one of the most expansive and generous public financing systems in the country. It was created to level the playing field for all New Yorkers who aspire to public service. Elected officials who wish to directly communicate with voters in this capacity can do so by sending a mail piece like every other candidate in a race.

This proposed reduction in the “blackout” period is particularly worrisome as the U.S. Postal Service experiences continual delivery delays and slow downs. A postal delay could result in voters receiving a taxpayer funded mailing mere days before the start of early voting.

The use of government resources and funds for a mass mailing right before an election invites misuse and thus erodes public trust in our institutions, while undercutting the original intent of the city’s public financing system.

For questions or comments, please contact:

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