

## 2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: COMMON CAUSE NEW YORK

**Common Cause New York has been leading the fight to make our democracy and government work for all New Yorkers.** Our 100,000+ grassroots members and activists are tireless advocates for voting rights, ethics reform and fair redistricting from Buffalo to Bay Ridge. Our legislative priorities reflect our vision for a more equitable and vibrant democracy in New York.

### EXPAND VOTING RIGHTS & INVEST IN OUR ELECTIONS

- **Allow New Yorkers to provide water and snacks to voters at poll sites or while in line to vote.** (S616 Myrie/A1346 Simon)
- **Ensure voters easily understand state ballot proposals as the language is frequently lengthy and confusing.** (S1381A Comrie/A1722A Zinerman)
- **Pilot same day registration during the last day of early voting.** (S2381 Myrie/A5007 Burgos)
- **Permanent expanded definition of “temporary illness” for absentee voting.** (A3291 Dinowitz)
- **Guarantees the use of voter verifiable paper ballots in elections.** (A5934A Cunningham/S6169A Cleare)
- **Ensure the timely implementation of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) and Online Voter Registration (OVR).** We fought hard to pass AVR and OVR and the New York State Board of Elections (NYSBOE) must move quickly to implement both tools that will facilitate voter registration.
- **New York is one of the few states that does not provide consistent nor significant state funding for election administration.** An annual dedicated budget line should be created to support local Boards of Elections efforts to smoothly hold elections.
- **Improve procedure for approving voting equipment.** Ensuring that machines read only the portion of ballots marked by voters and that cost and security can

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be considered in the certification process.

- **Uniform procedures for voting while in jail.** Citizens who are in jail have the right to vote, but are often prevented from voting because the local jurisdiction in control of the jail has no procedures in place.

## PROTECT OUR DEMOCRACY

- **New York must move quickly to repeal our Article V Resolutions.** Article V resolutions are aged legislative resolutions calling for a federal constitutional convention. These old resolutions do not by their terms have any expiration date. Extremist entities seeking to call a constitutional convention to hobble the federal government argue that these old resolutions serve to New York as approving a constitutional convention bringing the total count close to the needed 34 states. (B477 Krueger/K137 Zebrowski)
- **Board of Elections reform.** Professionalizing and reducing partisanship in election administration is an essential component to improving our elections.
- **Reduce legislators outside income.** The State Legislature must enact a ban on income earned through certain professions and a cap of up to 15% on certain permissible outside income from select professions.

## STRENGTHEN CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

- **Reduce the corrosiveness of money in politics and enhance public trust in our government by passing:**
  - **S2130 Krueger/A1391 Aubry:** would increase lobbyist disclosures
  - **S2362 Rivera:** which would increase employer disclosure requirements for campaign contributions
  - **S483A Myrie:** prohibit campaign contributions from individuals or organizations while bidding on state contracts