



**The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor**

**The Honorable Carl Heastie, Speaker, New York State Assembly**

*cc Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins, President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader, New York State Senate, Senator Zullnor Myrie, and Assembly Member Latrice Walker*

March 22, 2024

Dear Governor Hochul and and Speaker Heastie,

Strengthening New York's democracy and improving our elections is truly a collective, collaborative endeavor. Organizations like ours have been fighting to do both for years and made significant progress under your respective leadership. We hope that as the 2024 budget is finalized, it reflects a shared vision that empowers voters and equips local election administrators with the resources they need this year.

We wholeheartedly applaud the New York State Senate and Assembly for allocating \$10 million in Aid to Localities in their respective one-house budgets. Counties need maximal support to safely and securely administer a consequential series of elections this year. We hope to see the Governor match their investments in the final budget.

**The Senate's one-house budget goes further and includes critical funding allocations and enacting language for two Let New York Vote coalition priorities.** We were thrilled to see the Senate prioritize updating and modernizing New York's election infrastructure through the funding and creation of two important initiatives:

- The establishment of the Dr. John L. Flateau Voting and Elections Database and Academic Center co-located at the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY) with an appropriation of \$5 million. (S657A Myrie/no same as)
- Permitting New York to join ERIC, the Electronic Registration Information Center, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that will improve the quality of New York's unreliable voter rolls with an appropriation of \$200,000. (A7052C Sillitti/S6173B Skoufis)

We strongly urge the Assembly and the Governor to join the Senate in ensuring these priorities remain in the final budget. We look forward to working with both Houses and the Governor's

office as New York continues to deepen its investment in our elections and support election administration around the state.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Families for Justice

Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle

Bethlehem NY Indivisible

Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law

Brooklyn NAACP

Brooklyn Resisters

Brooklyn Voters Alliance

CCoHOPE Indivisible

Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College

Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)

Citizen Action of NY

Citizens' Response Network of Wayne County

Citizens Union

Common Cause New York

Downtown East for Progress

Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance

Downtown Nasty Women Social Group

Empire State Indivisible

Faith in New York

Generation Vote

Hudson Valley Strong Indivisible

Indivisible ColumbiaNY

Indivisible Cortland County

Indivisible Mohawk Valley

Indivisible New Rochelle

Indivisible Rochester

Indivisible Scarsdale

Indivisible Westchester

Indivisible YorktownNY

Larchmont/Mamaroneck Indivisible

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

League of Women Voters of New York State

League of Women Voters of the City of New York

Markers For Democracy

Mountain Top Progressives

New York Civic Engagement Table

New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU)

New York Democratic Lawyers Council

New York Immigration Coalition

NYPAN of the Southern Finger Lakes

NY21 South Indivisible Group

Olive Action Group

Progressive Schenectady

Public Citizen

SMART Legislation

Stand Up America

The Workers Circle

Village Independent Democrats

Vote Early New York

Westchester for Change

YMCA of Greater New York