

# FAIR ELECTIONS: MAKING ALBANY WORK FOR ALL NEW YORKERS



*A campaign for voting rights & comprehensive campaign finance reform as the first order of business in the 2019 New York Legislative Session*

New Yorkers deserve a responsive, accountable government. Voter turnout in New York is among the lowest in the nation, due in part to antiquated procedures for registration and voting that discourage participation. And our campaign finance system favors the wealthy over everyday, working New Yorkers. To tackle the crises we face in housing, living wage jobs, criminal justice, affordable health care, transportation, climate, fair taxes, and more, we must transform a campaign finance system that advantages the interests of the few over those of the many.

The shift in power in the New York State Senate—and a Governor and an Assembly prioritizing democratic reforms—presents an unprecedented opportunity to unrig the rules, strengthen our democracy, and incentivize elected officials to represent the values of the people of the state. **A broad coalition of individuals and groups across New York is coming together to ensure that an overhaul of New York's voting and campaign finance systems is the first order of business in the 2019 New York Legislature.** This Fair Elections reform package would:

- ✓ **Increase the power of small donations.** It is critical we implement a small donor matching system for state elections, including District Attorneys, like the successful programs in New York City and Connecticut. This gives everyday people the means to run for office and represent their communities relying on small donations instead of large checks. After the Supreme Court allowed unlimited, secret money to flow into our elections, small donor matching funds remains the most powerful way to combat the influence of big money. By matching small dollar donations 6-to-1, we can amplify the voices of women; of people of color; of the working and middle classes; and of any and all under-represented New Yorkers in the political process. Adequate enforcement as well as robust candidate support services would ensure the matching funds program runs smoothly.
- ✓ **Limit the influence of big money.** The very wealthy and corporations shouldn't be allowed to buy elections. We can put a check on their outsize influence by closing the "LLC loophole," which allows mega donors to funnel limitless amounts to candidates, and by reducing New York's unusually high contribution limits, among other improvements.
- ✓ **Make it easier, not harder, to vote.** Including but not limited to automatic voter registration, early voting, same day registration, online voter registration, no excuse absentee voting, new party enrollment deadlines, pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds, full voting access for people with disabilities, and codify into law New York's new policy to extend voting rights to all New Yorkers with past convictions.

***To join the coalition, your organization can sign on here: [bit.ly/FairElexNYSignUp](http://bit.ly/FairElexNYSignUp)***

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# FAIR ELECTIONS SUPPORTERS

32BJ SEIU, 50 West 93 Street Tenant Association, ACT18 Indivisible, Action Potluck, Advocates for Justice Chartered Attorneys, ALIGN, Alliance for Quality Education, American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee, The Arena, Association of Tenants of Lincoln Towers, Bend the Arc, The Black Institute, Brennan Center for Justice, Briarcliff - Ossining Indivisible, Bronx Progressives, Buffalo Democratic Socialists of America, Campaign for New York Health, Campaign Legal Center, Capital District Democratic Socialists of America, CCoHOPE Indivisible, Central Park Gardens Tenants Association, Chinese American Planning Council, Churches United For Fair Housing, Citizen Action New York, The Civics Center, Color of Change, Common Cause New York, Communities United for Police Reform Action Fund, Community Voices Heard, Concerned Citizens For Change, Cooper Square Committee, The Creative Resistance, Crown Heights Tenants Union, CWA District 1, Democracy Initiative, Democracy Matters, Demos, Downtown Women for Change, Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance, Empire State Indivisible, Empire State Progressives, End Citizens United, Equal Citizens, Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, Every Voice, Four Freedoms Democratic Club, The Gathering for Justice, Generation Citizen NY, Grassroots Action NY, Greater NYC for Change, Housing Works, Inc., Human Services Council, Humanists of Long Island, Indivisible Beekman, Indivisible CD19 NY, Indivisible Harlem, Indivisible Nation BK, Indivisible Scarsdale, Indivisible the Fight Is On, Indivisible We Stand Upper West Side, Indivisible Westchester, Jews for Racial & Economic Justice, Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS, Long Island Activists, Long Island Civic Engagement Table, Long Island Jobs with Justice, Long Island Network for Change, Long Island Progressive Coalition, Long Island Together, Lower Hudson Valley Progressive Action Network, Make the Road New York, MAYDAY America, Metropolitan Council on Housing, Metro New York Health Care for All, Mid Suffolk Chapter of the National Organization for Women, Move Forward Staten Island, MoveOn.org, MPower Change, Muslims For Progress, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), New York City Loft Tenants, New York Civic Engagement Table, New York Communities for Change, New York Immigration Coalition, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, New York Progressive Action Network, New York State Council of Churches, New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, No IDC NY, North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE), Northeast NY Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health, Northwest Bronx Indivisible, NY19Votes, NYCAIC's #HALTsolitary campaign, NYCD16 Indivisible, NYC Democratic Socialists of America, NYS Nurses Association (NYSNA), Our Revolution, Partnership for the Public Good, People For the American Way, The People's Empowerment Project/Democracy Coffee, People Power Patchogue, Persist8, Progressive Action of Lower Manhattan, Progressive East End Reformers (PEER), Progressive Power Inwood Heights, Progressive Schenectady, Progressive Turnout Project, Public Citizen, Putnam Progressives, Rally+Rise, Reinvent Albany, RepresentUs, Resist and Replace (Suffolk County), Riverside Edgecombe Neighborhood Association, Rockland United, RWDSU, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Small Planet Institute, Solidarity Committee/Capital District, St Nicks Alliance, Strong Economy For All Coalition, Suffolk Progressives, Sunrise NYC, Tenants and Neighbors, Tenants Political Action Committee, True Blue New York, Ulster People for Justice & Democracy, Union Vale Indivisible, Up2Us, Uptown Progressive Action, Washington County Progressives, We of Action New York, Westchester Citizen Therapists, Westchester for Change, and Working Families Party.

*(List updated December 12, 2018)*