

September 16, 2019

(Via Facsimile)
Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As you are aware, New York State has the most restrictive laws in the nation when it comes to voters changing their party registration in advance of a primary election. In 2016, New York's deadline for switching party registration was Oct. 9, 2015, a whopping 193 days before the primary. The result was to effectively disenfranchise thousands of voters. Therefore, the Chelsea Reform Democratic Club strongly supports current legislation, passed by both the Senate and the Assembly, which would extend the deadline for previously registered voters to change their party enrollment from October 11, 2019 to February 14, 2020. We are writing to ask you to publicly join us in that support and to sign this legislation into law as soon as you are able.

Earlier this year, the New York State Democratic Committee voted to make it easier for voters to change their party to enroll as Democrats and vote in next year's Democratic presidential primary. Unfortunately, the Board of Elections determined that legislation was required to make the change. In response, the Assembly and Senate immediately passed, respectively, A8228B and S6352A. These bills would allow previously registered voters to change their party enrollment up to February 14th of the same year of the primary. As such, the State Democratic Committee, Assembly, and Senate appear unified in their belief that this change is essential and cannot wait.

We are very pleased at the slate of voting reforms which you signed into law earlier this year expanding, among other things, early voting and same-day voter registration. Last week, your Communications Director reiterated your support of these reforms, saying "Governor Cuomo believes we should want as many voters to participate in the process as possible, and everything we have done since Democrats have taken full control in Albany has been to make it easier for people to vote, including enacting early voting."

We applaud and join with you in your commitment to strengthening democracy. Therefore, we respectfully request that you express your support for this legislation and sign it into law as soon as it is delivered to you.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Reform Democratic Club

Judy Richheimer

Judy Richheimer, President

cc: Hon. Michael Gianaris, State Senator
Hon. Brad Hoylman, State Senator
Hon. John Liu, State Senator
Hon. Dick Gottfried, Assembly Member
Hon. Corey Johnson, NYC Council Speaker



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