

Four Freedoms Democratic Club
Resolution 2017-003

Whereas in 2016 New York State held no fewer than four Democratic primary elections for State, local, and federal office, *and*

Whereas New York is one of only twenty states that does not allow either early voting or the use of a mail-in ballot without an excuse, *and*

Whereas the complexity of the primary voting calendar and the lack of voting options in New York State tend to depress turnout and frustrate voters, and led to a record number of complaints reported in the 2016 Presidential primary, *and*

Whereas the current Republican administration in the federal government, Republican state governments across the country, and the United States Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 133 S. Ct. 2612 (2013), have invalidated or otherwise curtailed long-standing legal protections of the right to vote, and

Whereas State and local boards of elections spent an estimated \$50 million dollars hosting separate federal, state, and local primary elections in 2016,

Be it hereby resolved that the Four Freedoms Democratic Club:

1. Believes all efforts to maximize participation in elections and facilitate voting must be made to counteract the wave of disenfranchisement occurring across the country;
2. Supports the passage of the New York Votes Act (A05312) (the “Act”) in the New York State legislature, or of a similar bill that provides for more voting options and a consolidated voting calendar that is convenient for both voters and activists;
3. Promises to work with our elected representatives to see that the Act is passed during this legislative session; and
4. Will take all other appropriate measures to advocate for the Act, whether during the current or any future legislative session.