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Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky  
Co-Executive Director

July 19, 2023

Elizabeth Fine  
Acting Counsel to the Governor  
State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224

RE: Assembly Bill 4282-B (Paulin) / Senate Bill 3505-B (Skoufis)  
Recommendation: VETO

Dear Ms. Fine

The above captioned bill will soon be before the Governor for consideration. We believe that the impact this bill will have on the voting process in New York State warrants its veto.

The legislation moves to consolidate many local elections held outside of New York City to even-numbered years. Currently, nearly all races on the local level are held on odd-numbered years.

The number of offices on the ballot in even number years will by design increase because of this bill. In many jurisdictions, the number of offices on the ballot could double. Attached is a sample ballot from Suffolk County, demonstrating the consequences of this bill in the 2022 General Election had this legislation taken effect. This presents challenges both for the voting technology currently in use and for the voting public.

In addition, voters will be faced with significantly more offices on each ballot. This will necessitate more time to vote, potentially increasing wait times at polling places. New York already faces significant challenges, particularly in Presidential elections, processing voters at the poll sites. Adding more offices to the ballot increases the time a voter needs at the poll site.

The sponsor of the bill justifies this as a cost saving measure for county boards of election. We fail to see how this would materialize. Local elections for various offices would still be run in odd-numbered years, albeit for fewer offices. But this still requires the opening of all polling places for both early and Election Day voting that are currently open in odd-numbered years, as well as the various testing of voting equipment prior to the election. Thus, the same costs county boards face running odd-numbered year elections today will continue under this legislation.

Increasing the size of the ballot also exacerbates diminishing interest in down-ballot offices which in this case will be the local offices. Elections experience a falloff in voter participation in

offices further down the ballot. Local offices will suffer that falloff in both interest and participation. While the alleged justification for the bill is to increase voter participation in local office elections, the consequence will likely be lower interest in and participation in the local office candidates.

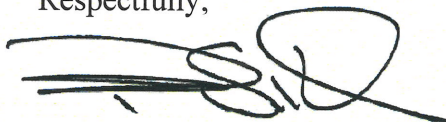
We believe this is an ill-advised effort that will diminish the attention paid to local office elections while not meaningfully increasing voter participation.

New York has taken several initiatives over the past few years designed to increase voter turnout, from early voting to increased access to absentee voting. To date, these have not seen the intended increase in voter participation. What truly drives voter participation are robust and competitive elections.

We already give New Yorkers various opportunities to vote. Local elections are run separately from national and state elections for very sound public policy reasons. We should not undercut these important distinctions.

We strongly recommend that the Governor veto this legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SK', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Peter S. Kosinski  
Co-Chair  
New York State Board of Elections

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AJC', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Anthony J. Casale  
Commissioner  
New York State Board of Elections

Office	Governor and LG (Vote for one)	Comptroller (Vote for one)	Attorney General (Vote for one)	United States Senator (Vote for one)	State Supreme Court Justice 10th Judicial District (Vote for up to eight )								Judge of Surrogate Court (Vote for one)	County Court Judge (Vote for one)			
Democratic A	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Kathy Hochul</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Thomas Di Napoli</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Letitia James</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Charles Schumer</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Timothy S. Driscoll</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Susan B. Heckman</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Vito M. DeStefano</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Christopher Modelewski</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Conrad D. Singer</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Danielle M. Peterson</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Eileen Daly Sapraine</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Elizabeth McDonough</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Theresa Whelan</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Paul Hensley</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>James Quinn</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Joseph Farneti</div></div>	
Republican B	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Lee Zeldin</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Paul Rodriguez</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Michael Henry</div></div>		<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Timothy S. Driscoll</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Susan B. Heckman</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Vito M. DeStefano</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Christopher Modelewski</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Conrad D. Singer</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Danielle M. Peterson</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Eileen Daly Sapraine</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Elizabeth McDonough</div></div>					
Conservative C	<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Lee Zeldin</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Paul Rodriguez</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Michael Henry</div></div>		<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Timothy S. Driscoll</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Susan B. Heckman</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Vito M. DeStefano</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Christopher Modelewski</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Conrad D. Singer</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Danielle M. Peterson</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Eileen Daly Sapraine</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Elizabeth McDonough</div></div>					
Working Families D	<div><div></div><div>Working Families</div><div>Kathy Hochul</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Working Families</div><div>Thomas Di Napoli</div></div>		<div><div></div><div>Working Families</div><div>Charles Schumer</div></div>													
Write-In	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	

Ballot Friendly SAMPLE for the General Election

County of NYSBOE District 10

November 2, 2021

Your Name, Commissioner

Your Name, Commissioner

See instructions on the other side

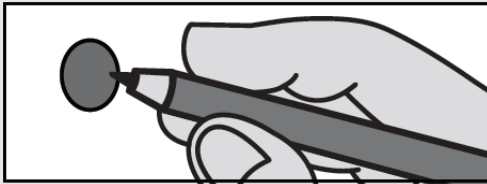
Remember to vote both sides



SAMPLE

**Instructions:**

1. Mark the oval to the left of the name of your choice.



2.To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot mark the oval to the left of 'write-in' and print the name clearly, staying within the box. Any mark or writing outside the spaces provided for voting may void the entire ballot.

3. The number of choices is listed for each contest. Do not mark the ballot for more candidates than allowed. If you do, your vote in that contest will not count. If you make a mistake, or want to change your vote, ask a poll worker for a new ballot.

**Instructions for Voting on Questions and Proposals**

To vote on a question or proposal, mark the oval of your choice. If you make a mistake, or want to change your vote, ask a poll worker for a new ballot.

**Remember to  
vote both sides**



Office	Family Court Judge (Vote for one)	County Clerk (Vote for one)	County Comptroller (Vote for one)	Representative in Congress (Vote for one)	State Senator (Vote for one)	Member of Assembly (Vote for one)	District Court Judge (Vote for one)		District Attorney (Vote for one)	Sheriff (Vote for one)	County Legisator (Vote for one)	Supervisor (Vote for one)	Town Clerk (Vote for one)	Councilman (Vote for one)
Democratic A	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Karen Kerr</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Du Wayne Gregory</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Jay H. Schneiderman</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Liuba Shirley</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Louis D'Amaro</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Christine Pellegrino</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Derrick J. Robinson</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>McDonagh</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Timothy Sini</div></div>			<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Wendy Hamberger</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Geraldine Compitello</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Democratic</div><div>Tony Martinez</div></div>
Republican B				<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Peter King</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Phillip Boyle</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Mike Li Petri</div></div>								<div><div></div><div>Republican</div><div>Athnony Manetta</div></div>
Conservative C				<div><div></div><div>Conservative</div><div>Peter King</div></div>										
Working Families D				<div><div></div><div>Working Families</div><div>Liuba Shirley</div></div>										
Write-In	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>Write-In</div></div>

Ballot Friendly SAMPLE for the General Election

County of NYSBOE District 10

November 2, 2021

Your Name, Commissioner

Your Name, Commissioner

See instructions on the other side

Remember to vote both sides

Proposal one, an amendment  
COUNTY PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE  
Amending the Apportionment and Redistricting Process

Yes ☐ No ☐

Proposal two, an amendment  
TOWN PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE  
Right to Clean Air, Clean Water, and a Healthful Environment

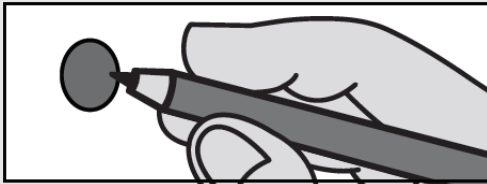
Yes ☐ No ☐

Proposal three, an amendment  
SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT OF 2014  
Eliminating Ten-Day-Advance Voter Registration Requirement

Yes ☐ No ☐

Instructions:

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